

MINUTES

Twelfth General Assembly of Unitarian Universalist Association

Held at the Royal York Hotel, Toronto, Canada

The General Assembly was convened by the Moderator at 8:30 a.m. on May 30, 1973 and was finally adjourned at approximately 6:30 p.m. on June 2, 1973. The first business session was called to order on May 30 at 3:00 p.m. A preliminary report of the Credentials Committee was presented and the Moderator declared that a quorum was present.

The General Assembly heard reports of the President, Dr. Robert West; the Moderator, Dr. Joseph L. Fisher; the Secretary, Russell F. Benson; the Treasurer, Arthur G. Root; the Financial Advisor, Schroeder Boulton; the chairman of the Finance Committee, William N. Holway; the Vice President for Fund Raising, Dr. Philip R. Giles.* Joseph B. Samples, Jr., chairman of the Commission on Appraisal, presented its report. Greetings were brought by Roy Smith, Deputy Secretary of the British General Assembly and Diether Gehrman, Executive Secretary of the International Association for Religious Freedom. Dr. Gordon B. McKeeman, Vice President of the UUSC, also addressed the Assembly.

The Annual Award for Distinguished Service to the Cause of Liberal Religion was presented to Dr. James Luther Adams.

The Clarence R. Skinner Award for the best sermon as an expression of the social concerns of Unitarian Universalism was made to Reverend Richard Gilbert for his sermon on *Amnesty*.

The Holmes-Weatherly Award for achievement in outstanding social prophecy was made to Frank Manning for his work with the aging.

The Angus McLean Award for outstanding achievement in religious education was made to Mary Elizabeth Anastos.

The Frederic G. Melcher Book Award was made to Dorothy Day for her book, *On Pilgrimage: In the Sixties*.

ELECTION RESULTS

(Four year terms—exceptions noted)

President: Robert Nelson West.

Moderator: Joseph L. Fisher.

Financial Advisor: Robert P. Adelman.

Trustees-at-Large: Julie Underwood and Robert R. Walsh.

Commission on Appraisal: Joseph B. Samples, Jr. (2 yrs.), Carolyn C. Howlett, Richard A. Kellaway, Norma R. Poinsett, Harry B. Scholefield, Molly Monahan.

Planning Committee: Joan Masuck, Michael McKinley, Gwendolyn Thomas, Jean R. Wilkinson.

Nominating Committee: John O. Coleman, Mary R. Hill, Alice H. Kimball, Sallie M. Lepoff, Winifred L. Norman, Carl Schulstad.

Board of Review (8 year term): Constance Burgess and Winston Kennedy, lay members; Russell R. Bletzer and Leon C. Fay, ministerial members.

The General Assembly adopted Rules of Procedure which again called for the establishment of eight committees of the General Assembly known as Mini-Assemblies. The Mini-Assemblies considered most of the items on the final agenda and reports from the Mini-Assemblies were acted upon in the plenary sessions of the General Assembly.

The General Assembly took preliminary affirmative action on three bylaw changes in the Purposes of the Association all of which had been proposed in order to eliminate gender discrimination, and took final action to change other sections of the bylaws to eliminate gender discrimination. In the course of this process additional perfecting amendments in the bylaws were also made.

A proposal to establish biennial meetings of the General Assembly was defeated. The vote was 474 in the affirmative and 246 in the negative which was 6 votes less than the 2/3 vote required.

The Bylaws and Rules of the Association also were amended to set forth the duties of Assistant Treasurers and to make changes in the manner of calling Special General Assemblies and to change a number of procedures relating to tentative agenda, final agenda, and procedures at General Assemblies.

*Philip S. Hughes, chairman of the Beacon Press Board, reported for the Press.

Resolutions to put into operation the so-called total return concept (also sometimes referred to as the Ford Foundation plan) and recommending changes in the objectives of the Association's General Investment Fund were defeated.

The following resolutions were adopted:

CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY AND UUA INVESTMENTS

Desiring to promote better corporate social policies and practices in areas such as equal employment opportunity for women and minorities, environmental protection, consumerism, foreign investment and military production; and

Knowing that other denominations participating ecumenically with the UUA have responded by developing a broad set of principles for action in this area; therefore, be it

RESOLVED that the UUA Department of Education and Social Concern be commended for their activity with the Interfaith Committee on Social Responsibility in Investments, which they are urged to continue and expand; and further

RESOLVED that the Investment Committee be urged to invest the endowment funds of the UUA in accordance with socially responsible criteria which should be developed in consultation with the Department of Education and Social Concern, the UUA Board, the Interfaith Committee on Social Responsibility in Investments, and others.

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY IN UUA EMPLOYMENT

RESOLVED that the Unitarian Universalist Association publish each year in a manner intended to achieve wide notice a report of its efforts to provide equal employment opportunity to women and racial minorities at all levels of its staff, said report to include a statistical summary similar in scope and content to that reported by Federal agencies and most U. S. corporations, and shall include goals it has set for the following three years.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Unitarian Universalist Association in its employment and promotion practices, continue to make every effort to provide equal employment opportunities, particularly in key decision-making positions.

CREATION OF AN OFFICE ON GAY AFFAIRS

WHEREAS it is among the purposes of the Unitarian Universalist Association to affirm, defend and promote the supreme worth of every human personality, and

WHEREAS the 1970 General Assembly passed a resolution urging all peoples immediately to bring to an end all discrimination against homosexuals, homosexuality, bisexuals and bisexuality, and

WHEREAS the Association since then has established no mechanism by which this resolution might be implemented within our churches, fellowships and denominationally related organizations, and

WHEREAS second class status keeps all oppressed minorities disabled and robs everyone of their potential contributions,

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: That the 1973 General Assembly urges the Board of Trustees of the UUA to create at the denominational headquarters an Office on Gay Affairs. The Office shall be staffed by Gay people and it shall have the full benefit of the experience, talent and status of the UUA in developing sources of funding outside the denominational budget. Should such sources be unavailable, the UUA will not be further responsible for funding the Office.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That the functions of the Office be a resource to the denomination at all levels in all matters pertaining to Gay people and the Gay community. The Office shall initially make a 30-day study of the immediate needs of Gay Unitarian Universalists and ways of developing an outreach into the Gay community. Results of the study shall be distributed to all churches, fellowships and denominationally related bodies with recommendations for implementation.

CAMPUS SITES FOR GENERAL ASSEMBLIES

BE IT RESOLVED THAT

The 1973 General Assembly of the Unitarian Universalist Association urges the Board of Trustees to select future sites for General Assemblies on college campuses or at other non-hotel conference sites. (Carried 285 to 234)

RESOLUTION ON NOMINATING PROCEDURES AND ELECTIONEERING FOR UUA OFFICES

The 1973 General Assembly requests the Board of Trustees and the Commission on Appraisal to investigate possible deficiencies and abuses in the nominating procedures for UUA offices and in electioneering for such offices, including (but not limited to) the following topics: the possible need for a better definition of the functions and independence of the Nominating Committee; procedures for nominations by petition; slate-making by various parties; expenditures by candidates and their supporters for campaign literature and personal appearances; methods of distribution of such literature; and any other possible undue influences on the nominating, electing, and balloting process.

AMNESTY

WHEREAS, hundreds of thousands of Americans have unjustly suffered a loss of civil rights, liberty and jobs because they have been in opposition to the Indochina War or to the racism and oppression of the American military and draft systems and

WHEREAS, according to Canadian Department of Immigration statistics there are tens of thousands of anti-war exiles in Canada alone while, however, the majority of war resisters are inside the U. S., where an estimated 200,000 live underground, thousands behind bars, many with court records, and over 500,000 veterans suffer from less than honorable discharges issued during the Indochina War era and

WHEREAS, any amnesty that separates for different treatment pre-and post-induction resisters (draft resisters and those who resisted or separated themselves from the military) fails to recognize that class and race factors more than anything else resulted in these distinctions and that such an amnesty would essentially discriminate against working-class and a disproportionate number of non-white resisters, those who have already been forced to bear the heaviest burdens of the war,

BE IT RESOLVED: that the 1973 General Assembly of the Unitarian Universalist Association urges that the Congress of the United States enact a universal and unconditional amnesty (with no alternate service or other punitive measures, and to avoid unworkable, unjust case-by-case judgments) for:

1. All military resisters including so-called "deserters," and draft resisters in exile or underground in the U. S.;
2. All people who, because of their opposition to the Indochina War, have been arrested, have been or are now in civilian and military prisons, or for this reason are now being sought for prosecution—this includes a clearing of their records;
3. The more than half-million Vietnam era veterans who have been discharged from the military with less than honorable discharges who will suffer from permanent loss of civil rights, and discrimination in employment without an amnesty. The classification of military discharges as honorable or otherwise should be eliminated retroactively into one single category of discharge.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: that the UUA 1973 General Assembly urges member societies of the Association to give specific attention to the issues involved in, and the means toward achieving a universal, unconditional amnesty by initiating discussion within each society, guided by materials to be developed by the Department of Education and Social Concern, and by members of these societies individually and collectively communicating, educating and organizing on this issue to the limits of their energies, time and commitment until such a time as a universal and unconditional amnesty is effected for all of those who have been, are being, or would be punished for their resistance.

By supporting complete amnesty, we do not mean to imply lack of recognition of the hardships, heartaches and sufferings of all other citizens who were affected by U. S. military involvement in Southeast Asia.

SENIOR CITIZEN'S CHARTER

WHEREAS, today's society appears to worship youth and neglect the talents and problems of its elderly citizens

BE IT RESOLVED: that the 1973 General Assembly of the Unitarian Universalist Association reaffirms the Senior Citizen's Charter set forth at the White House Conference on Aging:

1. The right to be useful.
2. The right to obtain employment based on merit.
3. The right to freedom from want in old age.
4. The right to a fair share of the community's recreational, educational, and medical resources.
5. The right to obtain decent housing.
6. The right to the moral and financial support of one's family consistent with the best interests of the family.
7. The right to live independently as one chooses.
8. The right to live and die with dignity.
9. The right of access to all knowledge as available on how to improve the later years of life.

The General Assembly urges societies of the Unitarian Universalist Association and individual members of those societies to support legislation and initiate programs at all levels to assure these rights.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That the General Assembly strongly urge that the Board of Trustees re-establish the Committee on Aging to be charged with the specific responsibility of recommending an ongoing program of education, information, and counseling supports to the member societies of the UUA, and

to encourage the establishment of new models for dignified life styles in advanced years which retain and enhance a human reserve of valuable resources which are shamefully squandered in our present callous lack of concern.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That with the consent of the Office for Development and Fund Raising the committee on Aging will be responsible for the financing of the first year's expense of operation.

LOBBYING AND LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEES

WHEREAS, the Unitarian Universalist Association was recently a target for a repressive act by the United States federal government in the form of the invasion of the privacy of the Association and its members through the attempted seizure of the bank records of the Unitarian Universalist Association as part of the United States government's effort to harrass the Association for the publication of the *Pentagon Papers*, and

WHEREAS, the branch of the United States federal government most capable of protecting the constitutional liberties of the citizens and institutions of the United States is the Congress,

BE IT RESOLVED; that the 1973 General Assembly of the Unitarian Universalist Association urges that the societies of the Unitarian Universalist Association in the United States, through its Department of Education and Social Concern and its Joint Washington Office, undertake an active program of education and lobbying for the repeal of repressive laws such as the provisions of the Bank Secrecy Act which permit agents of government to probe into the private financial affairs of United States citizens,

GENERAL RESOLUTIONS

POPULATION STABILIZATION

BE IT RESOLVED: that the 1973 General Assembly of the Unitarian Universalist Association endorses the principle of population stabilization for the United States and Canada, urges the passage of legislation at all appropriate levels to bring about as soon as possible through non-coercive means a stabilization for the United States and Canada, urges the introduction and continuing support of population education and education in parental responsibility in the public schools throughout the United States and Canada and urges all societies and individuals in the Unitarian Universalist Association to support in their own areas legislation for population stabilization by non-coercive means, for population education, and for education in parental responsibility.

ABOLITION OF CORPORAL PUNISHMENT ("DAVID COPPERFIELD")

BE IT RESOLVED that the 1973 General Assembly of the Unitarian Universalist Association opposes the corporal punishment of children in schools, juvenile detention facilities, and other public institutions where children are cared for or educated and urges that members of UUA societies work actively through school boards, legislatures, and courts to help arouse public opinion to bring an end to the practice.

PRESIDENTIAL VETO OF SOCIAL SERVICE PROGRAMS

WHEREAS, many of the humanitarian programs initiated in the public interest in the United States over the last decade and more are in danger of curtailment or termination because of executive impoundment of funds voted by elected representatives of the people, and

churches, and voluntary associations without even the formality of a subpoena; establish legislative committees to press for legislation protecting constitutional freedoms; and work with other groups toward the same ends.

The changes in the Bylaws and Rules which were made have been integrated into the Bylaws and Rules in their final form and printed in the 1974 Directory of the Association. The text therein set forth is by this reference made a part of these Minutes.

The meeting then considered and took action on the General Resolutions appearing in the Final Agenda. The text of these General Resolutions together with the text of an additional General Resolution admitted for consideration and action as permitted under the Bylaws appear in the 1974 Directory of the Association in the form adopted and by this reference, these resolutions are incorporated in and made a part of these Minutes. All the said General Resolutions were adopted by more than a two-thirds majority vote.

The final report of the Credentials Committee was as follows: 971 delegates (699 lay and 213 ministerial), 16 Directors of Religious Education, 9 Associate Members, 25 Board of Trustees members and 9 Church of the Larger Fellowship, representing 343 churches and fellowships, 40 States, 8 Provinces and 1 foreign country.

Respectfully submitted,

F. Jane Hopkins, *Recording Secretary*

WHEREAS, the loss of the programs would jeopardize the possibility for a higher quality of life for many citizens of the United States,

BE IT RESOLVED: that the 1973 General Assembly of the Unitarian Universalist Association deplors the impoundment of appropriated funds and urges that the President and/or the Congress of the United States act to restore impounded funds for programs for public health, environmental protection, day care centers, housing, urban development, community action, emergency employment assistance, research, education, libraries and all welfare services.

INDIAN AFFAIRS

BE IT RESOLVED: that the 1973 General Assembly of the Unitarian Universalist Association urges the members of societies of the Unitarian Universalist Association to undertake and/or support programs and actions which will eliminate injustices to Indians, Eskimos, Aleuts, and other indigenous peoples of the United States and Canada and which will assure them of full opportunity to pursue their own goals and to participate in decisions affecting their own welfare and culture.

RIGHTS OF REPORTERS AND HISTORIANS

WHEREAS, fewer than twenty states in the United States have enacted "shielding" legislation and there is no federal legislation of this kind at all in the United States, and

WHEREAS, the courts, including the U. S. Supreme Court, have denied reporters and historians the right to refuse to disclose sources of information, and

WHEREAS, recently some persons have been jailed for refusal to disclose sources of information.

IT RESOLVED: that the 1973 General Assembly of the Unitarian Universalist Association urges that state and federal legislation be enacted in the United States to protect reporters, historians, medical doctors, and clergy from prosecution for declining to disclose the sources of their information received in confidence.

SAFER ALTERNATIVES TO THE TRANS-ALASKA PIPE LINE

WHEREAS, there are strong indications that the proposed Trans-Alaska Oil Pipeline would endanger the existence of much Arctic wildlife, including the migratory caribou upon which many of the inhabitants rely for food, and

WHEREAS, there are also strong indications that the resulting tanker traffic along the western coast of North America would endanger the salmon and other forms of sea life upon which a large and valuable food-fishing industry now depends, and

WHEREAS, several alternative means of transporting oil and gas from the shores of the Arctic Ocean to localities where it is needed have been proposed,

BE IT RESOLVED: that the 1973 General Assembly of the Unitarian Universalist Association urges the governments of the United States and Canada to adopt and enforce regulations governing the transportation of this oil and gas which will assure that the risks of damage to the environment will be reduced to as low a level as is at all practicable.

VIETNAM SETTLEMENT

WHEREAS, the United States has been responsible for death, destruction and defoliation in Southeast Asia,

BE IT RESOLVED: that the 1973 General Assembly of the Unitarian Universalist Association

1. Condemns the continued bombing of Cambodia and Laos, and supports the Congressional cut-off of all funds for military activity on, over, or from off the shores of Cambodia, Laos, and North and South Vietnam, and urges
2. That all remaining U. S. military personnel and military advisors be immediately brought home from Southeast Asia,
3. That the United States contribute adequate funds to appropriate United Nations agencies for the rehabilitation and restoration of North and South Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia,
4. That United States citizenship be granted to all children fathered by American personnel in Southeast Asia if the mothers and children so desire,
5. That American immigration and adoptive procedures be simplified so as to encourage adoption of such children by American families,
6. That a constitutional amendment be enacted clarifying the prerogatives of the Congress's war-making powers in such a way as to prevent future wars of aggression by Presidential fiat, and
7. That, pending the amendment to the Constitution, the Congress pass one of the bills now under consideration in the House and Senate to limit the President's power to conduct warfare.

REAFFIRMATION OF SUPPORT FOR CHURCH-STATE SEPARATION

BE IT RESOLVED: that the 1973 General Assembly of the Unitarian Universalist Association reaffirms its support of the principle of separation of church and state in the United States and urges Unitarian Universalist societies to:

1. Oppose all direct or indirect federal, state, or local tax aid to church-related schools on all levels, such proscribed aids to include transportation; lending or granting of books, equipment, services, service of teachers; "purchase of educational services" plans; operation of public school classes or services in sectarian school buildings; shared time or dual enrollment plans; tuition vouchers or grants; tax credits or rebates;
2. Uphold religious neutrality in public education, opposing all mandated prayers, devotional observances, and religious indoctrination in public schools;
3. Oppose the sending of dipolomatic, quasi-diplomatic, or personal Presidential envoys to any church;
4. Oppose the exemption from federal, state, and local taxation of income from church-owned unrelated businesses and securities, and urge that local government be allowed to charge churches for services actually enjoyed by these institutions; and
5. Support the efforts or organizations working to preserve and strengthen separation of church and state in the United States through litigation, legislation, and education.

BOYCOTT OF SAFEWAY AND A & P STORES

WHEREAS, the 1972 General Assembly of the Unitarian Universalist Association adopted a resolution asking member churches, fellowships, and constituencies to refrain from purchasing, serving, and eating iceberg (head) lettuce unless it is clearly marked with the Black Eagle label of the United Farm Workers Union, and

WHEREAS, the Safeway and A & P chains set the pace of selling non-farm worker union iceberg lettuce in the retail industry,

BE IT RESOLVED: that the 1973 General Assembly of the Unitarian Universalist Association urges the member societies and the members of societies of the Unitarian Universalist Association and all others of good will to refrain from patronizing Safeway and A & P stores until all iceberg (head) lettuce sold in those stores is produced by growers under contract with the United Farm Workers Union and is marked with the Black Eagle label.

DISARMAMENT

Appalled that the administration in Washington, instead of taking advantage of such opportunities as partial withdrawal from Vietnam, and possible arms reduction by SALT and the UN Conference of the Committee on Disarmament, has increased the Defense Department budget by \$4 billion and is planning ever more destructive weapons and means of delivery.

The 1973 General Assembly urges the Congress of the United States to reduce the arms budget request by \$10 billion, and

We further urge that the governments of the United States and Canada support:

- (1) a comprehensive test ban agreement,
- (2) the abolition of chemical weapons,
- (3) The convening of a World Conference on Disarmament under the auspices of the United Nations.

RELATIONS WITH THE UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS, THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA, AND CUBA

WHEREAS, improved cultural and economic relations with China and Cuba may decrease tension and lead to diplomatic recognition of those countries by the government of the United States.

BE IT RESOLVED: that the 1973 General Assembly of the Unitarian Universalist Association expresses its support of the United States government's recent friendly initiatives toward the People's Republic of China and further expresses support of all United States government initiatives toward the U.S.S.R., the People's Republic of China, and Cuba which will reduce the risks of aggression, expand cultural exchanges, broaden commercial intercourse, and lessen ideological tensions.

NAPALM AND OTHER INCENDIARY WEAPONS

WHEREAS, napalm and other incendiary weapons have been used during and since World War II, and

WHEREAS, we recognize the desirability of general and complete disarmament and the urgent need to abolish war, and

WHEREAS, we welcome the recent report of the Secretary General of the United Nations on napalm and other incendiary weapons, a report which asserts that "napalm may be one of the most lethal weapons in existence today" and that these weapons are "already the subject of widespread revulsion and anxiety," and

WHEREAS, United Nations consultant-experts have concluded that it is necessary to develop "measures for the prohibition of the use, production, and stockpiling of napalm and other incendiary weapons,"

BE IT RESOLVED: that the 1973 General Assembly of the Unitarian Universalist Association condemns the use of napalm and other incendiary weapons by the government of the United States and urges the governments of all nations to adopt policies which would lead the United Nations General Assembly to adopt a United Nations Declaration Against the Use of Napalm and Other Incendiary Weapons and request the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament or the International Committee of the Red Cross to work out further legal instruments prohibiting the production, development, and stockpiling of this class of weapons.

DRUGS

WHEREAS, heroin and other drug addictions have become a modern plague in which every victim becomes a source of contagion, and

WHEREAS, heroin addiction is spreading rapidly today, especially among the younger generation and the poor; and

WHEREAS, the effort to control heroin addiction by outlawry and strict law enforcement has not reduced heroin addiction, but, by making it extremely profitable, has increased it many times; and

WHEREAS, this has led to a disastrous breakdown and corruption of our entire law enforcement and judicial process and to a vast increase in street violence and crime, jeopardizing the future existence of our metropolitan cities themselves;

BE IT RESOLVED: that the 1973 General Assembly of the Unitarian Universalist Association urges the governments of the United States and Canada

1. To give first priority to stopping the traffic in heroin and other addictive drugs at the source, rather than emphasizing the prosecution of drug users;
2. to give priority to research into the underlying causes and possible cure of addiction to heroin and other addictive drugs in common use,
3. to place a major emphasis upon eliminating the social conditions like poverty, unemployment, and racial discrimination which may feed addiction,
4. to establish in every metropolitan area government-owned and operated clinics where addicts may register and receive free voluntary treatment with a wide range of services aimed at eliminating the addiction, including counseling, therapy, therapeutic communities, referral services, methadone maintenance, or where necessary, heroin maintenance, all under medical supervision, and
5. to mount appropriate international efforts to restrict the flow of addictive drugs at their source.

ABORTION

WHEREAS, there are well organized efforts of letter writing, petitions, and a Washington Office for lobbying to amend the U. S. Constitution to overturn the U. S. Supreme Court decision on abortion,

BE IT RESOLVED THAT we support the U. S. Supreme Court ruling on abortion and its implementation.