

M I N U T E S

FOURTEENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST ASSOCIATION

HELD IN MINNEAPOLIS-ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA AT THE RADISSON HOTEL, MINNEAPOLIS

The General Assembly was convened by the Moderator on Wednesday, June 25, 1975 at 9:30 a.m. The Moderator declared that a quorum was present based on the preliminary report of the Credentials Committee. The Assembly adopted Rules of Procedure for the conduct of the meeting.

The General Assembly heard reports from the President, Financial Advisor, Chairperson of the Finance Committee, and the Chairperson of the General Assembly Planning Committee

PRESENTATION OF AWARDS

The following award presentations were made:

AWARD FOR DISTINGUISHED SERVICE TO THE CAUSE OF LIBERAL RELIGION	-	Dr. Henry Nelson Weiman (presented posthumously)
MELCHER BOOK AWARD	-	Eugene Genovese
HOLMES-WEATHERLY AWARD	-	National Organization for Women in Memory of Dr. Ann London Scott
CLARENCE F. SKINNER AWARD	-	The Rev. Neil R. Shadle, Assistant Professor, Meadville/Lombard  The Rev. Stephen Johnson, First Unitarian Church of Cleveland (Honorable Mention)
ANGUS H. MACLEAN AWARD	-	Roberta N. Nelson
UU UNSUNG HERO AWARD	-	Merry Drake, Joseph Priestley District; David Fry, Michigan-Ohio Valley District; The UU person (anonymous) who for the longest time has been in self-imposed exile because of the dictates of conscience concerning the US involvement in South East Asia.

### ELECTION RESULTS

Ballots cast: 919 (658 in person, 261 absentee). Four-year terms unless otherwise noted.

Trustee-at-Large: Edna Griffin

Trustee-at-Large from Canada: John May

Commission on Appraisal: Jean Starr Williams, Peter Spilman Raible,  
Margaret Ann Link and Mary W. Hart.

Planning Committee: Katherine Kubala, Carol Ann Taylor, Clark B. Olsen and  
Richard M. Woodman.

Nominating Committee: Barbara Briody, Frieda Dougherty, Caroline Fenderson,  
Richard Henry and W. Bradford Greeley.

Board of Review: Eight-year terms: Laypersons--Clarence M. Pierce and  
Ruth E. Bannon; Ministers--Webster Kitchell and Charles W. Eddis.

Four-year term to fill unexpired term: Dorothy Spoerl.

### RESOLUTIONS OF GREETINGS

It was moved, seconded and voted without dissent to adopt the following greetings and to authorize the Secretary to send them to the recipients:

TO:

*The Unitarian Church of Romania*

*The Unitarian Church of Hungary*

*The General Assembly of Unitarian and Free Christian Churches*

*Sadharan Brahma Samaj*

*In this year of the 150th anniversary of the founding of the American Unitarian Association the 1975 General Assembly of the Unitarian Universalist Association meeting in Minneapolis-St. Paul sends its warm greetings. May the bonds of fellowship between us remain strong and our common commitment to liberal religion and a world of peace be a source of strength and inspiration among us all.*

### BYLAW AMENDMENTS

There was a proposal to amend the bylaws by establishing a referendum procedure whereby "C" bylaw changes that receive a majority vote but not a two-thirds vote at the second step of the amendment process are afforded another chance to receive the necessary two-thirds vote in a referendum of member societies. The proposal was defeated by a vote of 223-359.

The General Assembly voted preliminary approval to amend Section C-3.6 of the Bylaws by striking the present Section C-3.6 and substituting therefore the following:

#### Section C-3.6 Active Membership.

*A member society shall be recognized as active during the fiscal year of the Association in which it becomes a member and during each subsequent fiscal year in which it established that during the immediately preceding fiscal year it:*

BYLAW AMENDMENTS CONTINUED

Section C-3.6 Active Membership Continued

- (a) conducted regular religious services;
- (b) held at least one business meeting of its members, elected its own officers and maintained adequate records of membership; and
- (c) made a financial contribution to the Association.

Member societies must furnish the Association with a report of its activities showing compliance with subsection (a) and (b) above.

Compliance with subsection (c) above shall be determined by appropriate financial records of the Association.

A member society shall also be considered to be active for that part of any particular current fiscal year which precedes the deadline established by the Board of Trustees for submitting proof of compliance with subsection (a) and (b) above if during the next preceding fiscal year such a society made a financial contribution to the Association and filed the report required by this section during that year.

The Board of Trustees shall make rules to carry out the intent of this section and shall determine which member societies meet the requirements set forth herein for any fiscal year of the Association.

Final adoption of this amendment requires action by the 1976 General Assembly.

By adoption of the following resolution, the General Assembly voted to dissolve the Michigan-Ohio Valley District and to establish two new districts in place thereof:

*BE IT RESOLVED: That the Michigan-Ohio Valley District is dissolved forthwith; That there is established forthwith a new District to be known as the Michigan District, the geographical area of which shall be generally the same as the State of Michigan; That there is established forthwith a new District to be known as the Ohio Valley District, the geographical area of which shall be the same as the area of the previous Michigan-Ohio Valley District but excluding the geographical area of the State of Michigan.*

By the necessary two-thirds vote, Section 6.3 of Bylaws Article VI was amended to read as follows:

Section 6.3 Membership.

The Board of Trustees shall consist of:

- (a) The President, without vote, the Moderator and the Financial Advisor;
- (b) Four trustees elected at large, including a trustee at large from Canada;
- (c) One trustee representing each district, except that a single trustee shall represent each of the following combinations:
  - (1) The Mid-South and Florida Districts;
  - (2) The Prairie Star District and Western Canada Area;
  - (3) The Michigan and Ohio Valley Districts.

BYLAW AMENDMENTS CONTINUED

The Bylaws were amended by the necessary two-thirds vote by striking present Section 8.3(a) and inserting in place thereof a new Section 8.3(a) as set forth below, which limits the terms of Moderator and Financial Advisor to not more than two successive full terms and which provides that any partial term of more than two years of the President, Moderator, and Financial Advisor shall be deemed to be a full term for purposes of qualifying for reelection:

Section 8.3 Term of Office.

(a) *Elected Officers.* The elected officers shall be elected at a regular General Assembly in an odd numbered year and shall take office at the close of such General Assembly.

(i) *President.* The President shall serve for a term of four years and until his or her successor is elected and qualified. No President shall serve more than two successive full terms; and any partial term of more than two years served by reason of appointment and/or election to office pursuant to subsection 8.7(a) below shall be considered a full term for purposes of this subsection.

(ii) *Moderator and Financial Advisor.* The Moderator and Financial Advisor shall each serve for a term of four years and until his or her successor is elected and qualified. No Moderator or Financial Advisor shall serve more than two successive full terms; and any partial term of more than two years served by reason of appointment and/or election to office pursuant to subsection 8.7(a) below shall be considered a full term for purposes of this subsection.

There was a proposal to amend the Bylaws and Rules of the Association to provide for two kinds of General Assemblies: a business assembly to be held during each odd-numbered year and a program assembly dealing with religious, education or social matters to be held in each even-numbered year. The proposed amendment was defeated.

BUSINESS RESOLUTIONS

A resolution urging the UUA Board to discontinue immediately the funding of the Office of Gay Concerns was defeated, 277-402.

The General Assembly voted to adopt the following resolution:

*WHEREAS the 1973 and 1974 General Assemblies have voted to establish the Office of Gay Concerns as an integral part of the UUA to serve the needs of our churches and fellowships for education and help on gay concerns, and*

*WHEREAS the Office of Gay Concerns is funded from special grant funds outside the regular operating budget of the UUA, and*

*WHEREAS the Office staff has had less than one-half year to function and cannot be fairly evaluated in terms of articulating a program based on the approved model of the Office,*

BUSINESS RESOLUTIONS CONTINUED

BE IT RESOLVED that the 1975 General Assembly:

1. Commends the Board of Trustees for its action of October 12, 1974 in implementing the General Assembly's resolution to fund the Office of Gay Concerns, and
2. Endorses the action of the Board of Trustees in including continued funding for the Office of Gay Concerns in the grants section of the proposed UUA budget for 1975-76.

A proposed resolution dealing with the implementation of General Resolutions was adopted, as amended, as follows:

WHEREAS, The General Resolutions passed by the General Assemblies of the Unitarian Universalist Association are important parts of the social action program of the UUA;

WHEREAS, the effectiveness of those General Resolutions depends upon the extent of their implementation;

BE IT RESOLVED: That the General Assembly of the Unitarian Universalist Association directs the Planning Committee to instruct those submitting General Resolutions to submit an outline of recommended programs for implementation by individuals, churches, and fellowships along with, but not necessarily a part of, the Resolution. The Planning Committee shall submit these outlines of recommended programs for implementation for those Resolutions approved by the General Assembly to the UU WORLD for publication.

The General Assembly voted to table a proposal to amend Rule G-10.1.4 which would have provided for a referendum to member societies of action by General Assemblies with respect to budgets.

In accordance with Bylaws Section 4.14(b) the following Business Resolution was admitted for consideration and action by two-thirds vote and as amended was passed by two-thirds vote by the General Assembly.

BE IT RESOLVED that the 1975 General Assembly of the Unitarian Universalist Association abhors the violence presently taking place at the Pine Ridge Reservation aggravated by the neglect of the U.S. Federal Government in dealing with the fundamental issue of self-determination of Native Americans; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that the UUA and its member churches and fellowships be urged to sponsor ongoing educational programs about the plight of Native Americans; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that we urge each individual Unitarian Universalist to promote social justice for all Native Americans through contact with his or her political representatives at all levels of government.

OTHER BUSINESS

Under the item in the final agenda calling for action on reports of the officers and committees the following resolution urging amendment of the Grants Section of the budget was adopted by a vote of 261-231:

*WHEREAS the work of the UU Migrant Ministry has been the subject of many favorable resolutions at the General Assemblies for at least 10 years, and*

*WHEREAS this is the critical year for the work of the UU Migrant Ministry, and*

*WHEREAS the fund for Racial Justice from which monies for this work have been allocated in the past has not been placed in a position to be funded this year,*

*BE IT RESOLVED: That the UUA Board be urged to include in the Grants Section of the 1975-76 UUA Budget an item of \$14,500 for the UU Migrant Ministry. This item is requested to be included as the final item in the Group 1 division of the Grants Section, below the item "District Programs"; it is further requested that there be a reduction of the item "Sharing in Growth Program" by \$4,500 and a reduction of the item "Publicity and Television/Radio" by \$10,000.*

In connection with the Secretary's report, it was voted that the said report be accepted subject to the following resolution:

*With the approach of the election campaign for the UUA Presidency, and in view of spiraling campaign costs expected to be the problem of every candidate, and with a wish to minimize and to equalize such costs during an era when denominational financial support is a perennial issue,*

*BE IT RESOLVED: That the General Assembly of the Unitarian Universalist Association recommends to the Board of Trustees that it establish a special committee to study campaign procedures and funding of candidates running for the Presidency of the UUA and that such committee make recommendations to the 1976 General Assembly of regulations or guidelines for the Presidential campaign designed to achieve optimum equity and economy for all candidates.*

The General Assembly voted to accept the other reports received from the officers of the Association.

GENERAL RESOLUTIONS

Each of the following General Resolutions were passed by more than a two-thirds majority, including the Resolution on Reconstruction in Vietnam which was admitted for consideration and action by two-thirds vote in accordance with Bylaws Section 4.14(b):

FOR THE RIGHT TO ABORTION

*WHEREAS, every female should be accorded the right to decide whether or not she should bear a child,*

*WHEREAS, contraceptive methods are not perfect and do not absolutely protect against pregnancy, and*

*WHEREAS, abortion can be a relatively simple and safe way to terminate a pregnancy,*

GENERAL RESOLUTIONS CONTINUED

FOR THE RIGHT TO ABORTION CONTINUED

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the delegates at the 1975 General Assembly of the Unitarian Universalist Association reaffirm the right of any female of any age or marital or economic status to have an abortion at her own request upon medical/ social consultation of her own choosing; and urge all Unitarian Universalists in the United States to resist through their elected representatives the efforts now under way by some members of the Congress of the United States and State legislatures to curtail that right by means of constitutional amendment or other means.

And be it further resolved that we urge all Unitarian Universalists and all Unitarian Universalist societies in Canada through the Canadian Unitarian Council to continue to strive for making these rights available in Canada.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the General Assembly deploras the legal persecution by the Canadian authorities of Dr. Henry Morgenthaler for his courageous fight for the abortion rights of Canadian women and his willingness to assist them in exercising those rights. We deplore particularly the attack by the Crown prosecutor on the jury system, which has twice acquitted Dr. Morgenthaler; the mistreatment of Dr. Morgenthaler in prison after his second acquittal; the shocking ruling of the Canadian Courts that an Appellate Court can declare a defendant guilty after he has been acquitted by a jury; and the announced intention of the Crown prosecutor to carry on ten more prosecutions of Dr. Morgenthaler for past abortions.

The General Assembly commends the Canadian Unitarian Council for its support of Dr. Morgenthaler and requests the CUC to convey the concern of the General Assembly to the Prime Minister of Canada and the Prime Minister of Quebec, and to request the Prime Minister of Canada to procure for Dr. Morgenthaler a royal pardon.

POPULATION AND THE QUALITY OF LIFE

WHEREAS, the rapidly increasing human population of the world has caused grave problems in the supply of food and raw materials and threatens the quality of life in developed and developing nations alike, and

WHEREAS, the Unitarian States as the fourth most populous nation on earth, the greatest consumer of its goods and raw materials, and the richest by almost any measure of wealth is in a position to set an example for change for others to follow,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the delegates at the 1975 General Assembly of the Unitarian Universalist Association urge the government of the United States,

- 1) To establish and implement humane and equitable immigration, resources, and population policies and programs which will soon stabilize population in the United States,
- 2) To encourage the conservation and development of food and natural resources and to discourage waste and to encourage the development of alternate energy supplies,
- 3) To cooperate with other nations of the world directly and through the United Nations in greatly increased programs to bring about world-wide population stabilization and socio-economic development,

all with the goal of attaining for all people on earth a reasonable quality of life, including adequate food, housing, medical care, and education.

GENERAL RESOLUTIONS CONTINUED

POPULATION AND THE QUALITY OF LIFE CONTINUED

Be it further resolved that we urge the members of the UUA and the U.S. public through voluntary agencies to support the above policies.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Canadian Unitarian Council be requested to represent the same concerns to the government of Canada and to its own membership.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE

WHEREAS, the most effective and just basis for social change starts with empowerment of those people who suffer most grievously;

WHEREAS, instrumental control over the material and spiritual elements of life promotes autonomy and the opportunity for self-fulfillment;

WHEREAS, every life is indeed infinite in dignity and promise, and

WHEREAS, the current prosecution, court, and penal practices frequently translate political, social, and economic problems into personal psychiatric problems, thus justifying increased control and repression,

BE IT RESOLVED: That the 1975 General Assembly of the UUA urges and supports the continuing involvement in specific action projects by member churches and fellowships which include, but are not limited to:

- 1) seeking a coordinated community-based system of alternatives to incarceration, especially at the pre-trial stage, to increase the possibility that initial contact with the law will not result in arrest, trial, or conviction;
- 2) monitoring on-going and planned social service programs and facilities to insure the equitable distribution of resources between women and men offenders;
- 3) seeking to abolish institutional consideration of homosexual behavior or orientation as evidence of criminality or illness;
- 4) promoting the adoption of legislation to prohibit employment and housing discrimination against parolees, probationers, or former prisoners unless a logical and substantial relationship between the crime of conviction and the specific duties of a job are proved by the employer;
- 5) promoting the establishment of minimum wages for work done by employed prisoners where employment is determined by facts indicating that the prisoner is regularly performing the type of work that non-prisoners perform in the institution and that his or her work is of consequential economic benefit to the institution;
- 6) seeking the elimination of all therapeutic or experimental practices which are coercive in nature or which physically violate incarcerated persons (included in this category would be psycho-surgery, most drug experimentation, aversion conditioning, pentothal interviews, electroshock, and behavior modification programs which employ the denial of basic prisoners' rights);

GENERAL RESOLUTIONS CONTINUED

CRIMINAL JUSTICE CONTINUED

7) seeking the restructuring of therapy programs whereby prisoners can contract voluntarily with independent, private therapists for services and professional monitoring of existing research facilities and programs in prisons and jails with respect to minimum national standards for experimentation with human subjects and sound psychiatric methodology.

AMNESTY

WHEREAS: President Ford's program of conditional clemency and earned re-entry for draft evaders and deserters of the Indo-China War has failed in a large majority of cases to aid those it was purported to help and has failed to meet the moral issue of reuniting our people without moralistic recrimination,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the 1975 General Assembly of the Unitarian Universalist Association re-affirm its 1973 Resolution on amnesty and urge the Congress of the United States:

- 1) to enact a universalist and unconditional amnesty for all military resisters (deserters and draft evaders) in exile, in prison, or underground or who, in opposition to the Indo-China War, have been arrested and/or convicted or are in civilian or military prisons;
- 2) to clear the records of those arrested or in prison and those being sought for prosecution because of failure to serve in/or opposition to the Indo-China War;
- 3) to give all persons discharged under the conditions of amnesty outlined in paragraph (1) an honorable discharge.

RECONSTRUCTION IN VIETNAM

WHEREAS: The war and the collapse of the government in South Vietnam have left that part of the nation with every second person a refugee and every fifth child an orphan, and

WHEREAS: the million refugees of this March and April were unable to harvest spring crops, and starvation is currently widespread, and

WHEREAS: the American people have a moral responsibility to help the Vietnamese people rebuild their war-ravaged country,

BE IT RESOLVED THAT: the General Assembly of the Unitarian Universalist Association urges churches, fellowships, and individual UU's to:

- 1) request their government officials to lift the trade and relief embargo against Viet Nam; and
- 2) become active immediately in relief projects such as:
  - a. S.O.S. Vietnam, 122 W. Franklin St., Minneapolis, MN 55404;
  - b. Medical Aid for Indochina, 65A Winthrop St., Cambridge, MA 02138;
  - c. American Friends Service Committee (Vietnam Relief), 160 N. 15th St., Philadelphia, PA 19102;

GENERAL RESOLUTIONS CONTINUED

RECONSTRUCTION IN VIETNAM CONTINUED

- d. Committee for Reconstruction of Vietnamese Buddhist Church  
(through our UU Tay Loc Committee), 2391 Eudora, Denver, CO 80207,  
and
- 3) give high priority on their Social Concerns agendas to the "lessons of Viet Nam."

GREETINGS TO UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST SYNOD

The General Assembly unanimously voted the following:

*MOVED: That the 1975 General Assembly of the Unitarian Universalist Association meeting concurrently in Minneapolis/St. Paul with the 10th General Synod of the United Church of Christ extends its warmest greetings to the 10 General Synod. May our religious communities, which share common origins, continue to work together to deepen religious life and to apply our religious convictions in social witness together.*

The final report of the Credentials Committee was as follows: accredited and attends were 602 lay delegates, 188 ministerial delegates, 17 directors of religious education, no life members, 10 associate members, 18 members of the Board of Trustees (not counting Trustees who registered as delegates from their congregations), and 5 CLF members, for a total of 840 delegates representing 325 churches and fellowships in 46 states and five provinces..

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Robert E. Senghas  
Recording Secretary