

MINUTES

SIXTEENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST ASSOCIATION

HELD IN ITHACA, NEW YORK AT CORNELL UNIVERSITY

The General Assembly was convened on Tuesday, June 21, 1977 at 9:40 a.m. by moderator *pro tem* Julie Underwood. The Assembly adopted by a two-thirds vote Rules of Procedure for the conduct of the meeting.

A welcome was extended to the Assembly on behalf of Cornell University by Dr. Dale R. Corson, its President. Special greetings were reported to the Assembly. Greetings were extended to and received personally by The Rev. Brian Gollard, General Secretary of the British General Assembly of the Unitarian and Free Christian Churches, The Rev. Diether Gehrman, General Secretary of the International Association for Religious Freedom. Greetings were also received in person from Dr. Arpad Szabo on behalf of Bishop Lajos Kovacs, members of the Representative Council, and 130 ministers of the Christian Church in Romania. Written greetings were received from President Bela Bartok and Bishop Dr. Joseph Ferencz on behalf of the Consistory of the Unitarian Church of Hungary.

Resolutions of greetings were authorized and the Secretary was directed to send such resolutions to the General Assembly of Unitarian and Free Christian Churches (Great Britain), the Unitarian Church in Romania, the Unitarian Church in Hungary, Sadharan Brahma Samaj (India), and the Czechoslovak Unitarian Association.

On the basis of a preliminary report of the Credentials Committee a quorum was declared present since the meeting was called to order.

During the Assembly Dr. Robert Wylder presided as moderator *pro tem* on Thursday, June 23, 1977, and Dr. Joseph L. Fisher, Moderator, presided on Saturday, June 25, 1977.

The Assembly received written reports from the Moderator, Secretary, Treasurer, and Nominating Committee. The Assembly also received written and oral reports from the President, Financial Advisor, and the Commission on Appraisal. The Chairperson of the Finance Committee gave an oral report from that committee and presented the 1977-1978 and 1978-1979 Budgets. The Assembly received a written Board of Trustees Report on Action Taken on Items of Business and Budget Votes Adopted at the 1976 General Assembly. The Assembly also received reports from Beacon Press, the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee, and the Unitarian Universalist Women's Federation. The Assembly received a written Report on UUA Equal Employment Opportunity and an oral report from the Presidential Campaign Study Committee.

PRESENTATION OF AWARDS

During the Assembly the following awards were presented:

AWARD FOR DISTINGUISHED SERVICE TO
THE CAUSE OF LIBERAL RELIGION:

The Rev. Dr. Clinton Lee Scott

FREDERIC G. MELCHER BOOK AWARD to
the author of the book that during the
preceding calendar year made the most
significant contribution to liberal
religion:

Dr. James Luther Adams for
On Being Human--Religiously

HOLMES-WEATHERLY AWARD for achievement
in outstanding social prophecy:

John L. Barker, founder and president
of the Legislative Committee of
Unitarian Universalists of Maryland
(Legicum)

CLARENCE F. SKINNER AWARD for the
best sermon of the year as an
expression of the social concerns
of Unitarian Universalism:

The Rev. Oren Peterson for
"Disarmament: *The Crucial Issue*"

ANGUS H. MACLEAN AWARD for outstanding
achievement in religious education:

The Rev. Eugene B. Navias

UU UNSUNG HERO AWARD:

The entire congregation of the
Unitarian Universalist Church of
Urbana, Illinois, for its work in
ministering to students through the
Channing-Murray Student Foundation

GENERAL RESOLUTIONS

Each of the following General Resolutions was passed by more than a two-thirds majority. The resolutions on Human Rights in El Salvador, Gay Human Rights, Amnesty, and Reconstruction in Vietnam were admitted for consideration and action under Bylaws Section 4.14(b).

EQUAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT

WHEREAS, an amendment to the United States Constitution to provide equal rights for women has been ratified by thirty five states; and

WHEREAS, there remain fifteen states which have not ratified the Equal Rights Amendment and three affirmative decisions by states are necessary by March 22, 1979 to complete the ratification process; and

WHEREAS, women have not achieved full equality under the law even though the principles of "liberty and justice for all" are basic to our nation; and

WHEREAS, a Constitutional amendment is a principle to which all other laws must conform and no Constitutional amendments, including the fourteenth, have consistently guaranteed women equal treatment under the law; and

GENERAL RESOLUTIONS CONTINUED
EQUAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT CONTINUED

WHEREAS, laws at both the state and federal level which guarantee equal rights to women can be easily revised and reversed;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: That the 1977 General Assembly of the Unitarian Universalist Association calls upon member societies to work for ratification and implementation of the Equal Rights Amendment. This action will include, as appropriate:

1. Communicating with state legislators and news media emphasizing your reasons for support of E.R.A.,
2. Promoting study and discussion of E.R.A. by individuals, groups, and publications,
3. Campaigning and voting for candidates for political office, especially state legislatures, who support E.R.A.
4. Raising monies and providing general support to organizations and candidates working for ratification and implementation of E.R.A.
5. Minimizing economic participation in non-ratified states.

CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

WHEREAS, abuse and neglect of children is a family and societal problem of national significance; and

WHEREAS, children are innocent and powerless victims of abuse and neglect; and

WHEREAS, Congress passed the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act of 1974, created a National Center on Child Abuse and Neglect and an Advisory Board and authorized the Center to make grants to states, public and private agencies for programs in child abuse and neglect;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: That the 1977 General Assembly of the Unitarian Universalist Association urges all persons to support the National Center of Child Abuse and Neglect and state and local programs in child abuse and neglect, specifically by:

1. Reporting incidences of child abuse and neglect.
2. Publicizing, funding, and utilizing programs in child abuse and neglect.
3. Initiating and supporting medical, social, psychological, psychiatric, legal and other services to abusing and neglecting families.
4. Promoting and supporting interagency coordination of services by courts, police, legal counsel, social rehabilitation agencies, medical screening facilities, foster family services and other agencies.

GENERAL RESOLUTIONS CONTINUED

ABORTION

WHEREAS, attempts are now being made to deny Medicaid funds for abortion and to enact Constitutional amendments that would limit abortions to life-endangering situations and thus remove this decision from the individual and her physician; and

WHEREAS, such legislation is an infringement of the principle of the separation of church and state as it tries to enact a position on private morality into public law; and

WHEREAS, such anti-abortion legislation would cause the revival of illegal abortion and result in the criminal exploitation of women who are without money or influence, forcing them to resort to unsafe procedures; and

WHEREAS, we affirm the right of each woman to make the decisions concerning her own body and future and we stress the responsibilities and long-term commitment involved in the choice of parenthood;

WHEREAS, the majority of the Supreme Court has ruled on June 20, 1977 that the states are not obligated to expend Medicaid funds for elective abortions, and has also ruled that public hospitals are not obligated to perform abortions;

WHEREAS, there is a strong national movement to have 2/3 of the state legislatures request Congress to convene a Constitutional convention for the purpose of proposing a Constitutional amendment to prohibit abortion;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: That the 1977 General Assembly of the Unitarian Universalist Association expresses its dismay and regret at the June 20, 1977 decision of the Supreme Court as seriously jeopardizing the right of legal abortion won in the Supreme Court decisions of January, 1973, opposes the denial of Medicaid funds for abortion and any Constitutional amendment prohibiting abortion and urges members of the societies of the Unitarian Universalist Association to write or wire their Senators and representatives in Congress and State legislatures to inform them of our position on these issues.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That the 1977 General Assembly positively affirms its respect for the responsibilities and joys of parenthood, and the member societies of the Unitarian Universalist Association are encouraged to develop workshops and other programs on parenthood and parenting.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That the 1977 General Assembly urges that Federal funds be invested in research to find more effective and safer methods of birth control.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That the 1977 General Assembly of the Unitarian Universalist Association goes on record as opposing the calling of a national Constitutional convention for the purpose of amending the Constitution to prohibit abortion.

GENERAL RESOLUTIONS CONTINUED

PROBLEM OF ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY

WHEREAS, we recognize the integrity of our environment, both physical and social, and our need to respect the interdependence of ecological spheres and social activities; and

WHEREAS, the continued pollution of our environment, the continued depletion of our natural resources, and the continued decay of our rural and urban societies, all increase with an insufficient public policy; and

WHEREAS, economic groups are using the issues of our "recession" to pressure government to lessen already weak environmental controls to stimulate the economy; and

WHEREAS, Government on all levels must help solve our long-term environmental problems;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: That the 1977 General Assembly of the Unitarian Universalist Association urges:

1. Government on all levels to continue to support the needs of a healthy environment as the fundamental prerequisite to a healthy society which can provide itself with a healthy balanced economy.
2. Unitarian Universalist congregations to establish and sustain environmental action committees, to monitor the effective implementation of public policy and to balance the lobbying power of large special interest groups by supporting organizations and individuals whose environmental records warrant such support.
3. Each of us as individuals to become responsible members of our ecological niche by making ourselves aware of the crises that threaten our survival as a species and to support environmental awareness by the examples of our lives and our stimulation of others both individually and within the groups to which we belong.

WORLD HUNGER AND GRAIN RESERVES

WHEREAS, millions of people may die in the next few years because of inadequate world grain reserves; and drought and other causes have rendered grain production unstable, which drives prices up and forces poorer countries out of the world grain market; and

WHEREAS, it has been demonstrated that when adequate world grain reserves are maintained, price fluctuations are minimized even in times of small harvests; and

WHEREAS, the United States, Canada and other large grain producers hold the key to stable world-wide food reserves that have been allowed to dwindle to a fraction of their former levels; and

WHEREAS, the United States, Canada and other large grain producers, through climatic and other circumstances, may themselves experience shortage;

GENERAL RESOLUTIONS CONTINUED
WORLD HUNGER AND GRAIN RESERVES CONTINUED

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: That the 1977 General Assembly of the Unitarian Universalist Association urges and calls upon member societies to urge the governments of the United States and Canada to establish national grain reserves and otherwise to demonstrate our willingness to participate in concert with other large grain-producing countries in a world food bank.

NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION

WHEREAS, our world lives under threat of nuclear holocaust; and

WHEREAS, nuclear proliferation increases the danger of nuclear holocaust; and

WHEREAS, SALT results are presently unsatisfactory; and

WHEREAS, United States military security is not jeopardized by the proposed independent initiatives;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: That the 1977 General Assembly of the Unitarian Universalist Association urges the United States government to undertake substantial independent initiatives for nuclear disarmament, to challenge the other nuclear powers to match these initiatives with equivalent action and to review their disarmament policies periodically for progress;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED; That the following principal independent initiatives be undertaken:

1. Publicly renounce "first use" of nuclear weapons.
2. Announce a moratorium on all nuclear tests and a willingness to sign Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty.
3. Reduce nuclear strategic and tactical weapons stockpiles.
4. Stop production of nuclear weapons and the hazardous materials from which they are made.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: To support the following policies designed to limit nuclear proliferation:

1. Restraints by supplier countries.
2. Security guidelines to deter theft and sabotage.
3. Multinational regional fuel cycle centers.
4. Adequate funding, political and psychological support to strengthen International Atomic Energy Agency.
5. Binational or international control of peaceful nuclear explosions.
6. "Nuclear free zones" to avoid acquisition or development of nuclear weapons.

GENERAL RESOLUTIONS CONTINUED

ENERGY

WHEREAS, the availability of adequate supplies of energy at a reasonable cost is essential to the welfare and future of all peoples of the world, both in developed and undeveloped countries; and

WHEREAS, current energy production is dependent upon finite resources; and

WHEREAS, unlimited growth is leading to the depletion of all natural resources, including possible sources of energy, at an unprecedented rate, the projected consequences of which will be disastrous for the world society; and

WHEREAS, all conventional processes of energy production and consumption have some environmental effects; and

WHEREAS, at present and projected use rates world supplies of petroleum and natural gas will be virtually depleted within 50 years;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: That the 1977 General Assembly of the Unitarian Universalist Association regards it as essential:

1. That balanced consideration be given to the development of all alternative sources of energy and that environmental and social effects, risks, and benefits of each source be investigated by careful research and technological assessments, and the results be fully considered;
2. That the use of oil and natural gas to generate electric energy be curtailed in order to conserve these fuels for other vital needs;
3. That a program of energy conservation and education is necessary; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That to aid attainment of a safer and less polluting energy economy, the member societies of the Unitarian Universalist Association are hereby urged to petition their respective governments to issue appropriate regulations and to join in promoting comprehensive programs to eliminate wasteful and extravagant uses of energy; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That all Unitarian Universalist societies are urged to take those actions possible within their own budget resources to realize energy conservation within their own buildings.

HUMAN RIGHTS IN EL SALVADOR

WHEREAS, in May of 1977, a Unitarian Universalist Service Committee investigation revealed evidence of gross violations of human rights by the government of El Salvador, including mass killings of civilians, widespread electoral fraud, arbitrary arrest and detention, religious persecution, torture and assassination; and

WHEREAS, the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee has worked for over three years to assist Salvadoreans to participate more fully in the decisions that affect their lives; and

GENERAL RESOLUTIONS CONTINUED
HUMAN RIGHTS IN EL SALVADOR CONTINUED

WHEREAS, the Unitarian Universalist Association has, in General Assembly resolutions in 1965 and 1972, supported United States endorsement of United Nations human rights covenants and their underlying principles; and

WHEREAS, the economic and political policies of the United States have frequently strengthened and perpetuated repressive governments throughout the developing world;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: That the 1977 General Assembly of the Unitarian Universalist Association join with the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee in petitioning the United States Executive and Legislative branches to:

1. Cease all military and economic assistance to El Salvador with the exception of aid which is clearly humanitarian in nature and beneficial to the poorest sectors of the population;
2. Add El Salvador to the State Department list of nations violating basic human rights; and
3. Instruct United States delegates to the United Nations and all international lending organizations to disapprove credit applications from El Salvador so long as human rights violations continue.

The above resolution was passed unanimously.

GAY HUMAN RIGHTS

WHEREAS, the bigotry and misinformation presented by the forces of the "Save Our Children" movement led by Anita Bryant encourage violations of the civil rights of gay people; and

WHEREAS, human rights are not an issue on which there should be a vote by which the majority can deny rights to a minority; and

WHEREAS, the false propaganda, using a religious basis for persecution strikes at the very foundation of the basic tenet of the Unitarian Universalist Association, to seek the truth and support the worth of all humans;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: That the General Assembly of the Unitarian Universalist Association calls on all Unitarian Universalists to use their efforts in stopping such biased persecution and intolerance for the gay minority.

AMNESTY

WHEREAS, the majority of the American people now know that United States intervention in the war in Vietnam was wrong, and was, in fact, a war undeclared by the Congress of the United States, and,

GENERAL RESOLUTIONS CONTINUED
AMNESTY CONTINUED

WHEREAS, President Carter has said that American involvement in the war was a mistake and has, in fact, granted a pardon to the draft resisters of that war; and

WHEREAS, these draft resisters were from predominantly white and middle-class environments with the social and economic means to avoid military service; and

WHEREAS, the Special Discharge Review Program approved by President Carter excludes fully one half the deserters and veterans who hold less than honorable discharges condemning them to a lifetime stigma for offenses which are purely military; and

WHEREAS, it may involve those who are eligible in a long, costly, and inequitable case-by-case review process,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: That the 1977 General Assembly of the Unitarian Universalist Association reaffirms its 1975 resolution for amnesty and its recent support of the National Appeal for Reconciliation which sought to heal the wounds of the war and asks the churches, fellowships, and individual Unitarian Universalists to urge the President to be sensitive to the human rights of Americans who are still victims of the cruel war and to:

1. Grant honorable discharges to all Vietnam era veterans who received less than honorable discharges, for military service from 1961-1975, when the war ended, together with all veterans benefits;
2. Grant honorable discharges for those service personnel in deserter status who left in the Vietnam era, together with all veterans benefits;
3. Clear the records of all civilians of any charges, convictions, or other disabilities for their non-violent acts of protest against the Vietnam war.

RECONSTRUCTION IN VIETNAM

WHEREAS, two full years have passed since the end of the war in Indochina without the offering of one dollar or one tool in U.S. reconstruction aid, and in addition the new President of the United States has explicitly stated that we "have no responsibility for reparations" (March 24, 1977), and the House of Representatives also has twice passed specific prohibitions against economic aid to Vietnam (May 5 and May 12, 1977) as has the Senate on June 15, 1977; and

WHEREAS, healing and recovery in the Indochinese countries continue to be severely retarded by the direct legacies of our policies: unexploded mines, a countryside cratered, salted, bulldozed, and poisoned by herbicides, substantial food shortages, vast unemployment, and a crippled economy; and

WHEREAS, the Vietnamese government has given multiple signs of its good faith and readiness to negotiate the outstanding issues of the war towards the goal of normalizing diplomatic relations;

GENERAL RESOLUTIONS CONTINUED
RECONSTRUCTION IN VIETNAM CONTINUED

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: That the General Assembly of the Unitarian Universalist Association reasserts its 1975 General Resolution on Reconstruction in Vietnam and urges churches, fellowships, and individual Unitarian Universalists to:

1. Entreat the Congress and the Carter administration, with the purpose of moving their "hearts and minds," to acknowledge the United States' responsibility for the destruction of three small agricultural countries and to act on our corresponding moral and legal responsibility to help heal those wounds;
2. Simultaneously urge an immediate lifting of the American diplomatic hostilities still in effect, i.e., the trade embargo, the ban on Vietnamese travel in the U.S., and frozen financial assets; and
3. Continue to raise support for private citizens' reconstruction aid (through the FRIENDSHIPMENT coalition) in order to provide some relief to the Vietnamese people and to stand as a cogent symbol to our government of its own unmet obligation.

BUSINESS RESOLUTIONS

Each of the following Business Resolutions was passed by the Assembly. The resolution on ERA Emergency Action was admitted for consideration and action under Bylaws Section 4.14(b) and was passed by a two-thirds vote.

CONCERNS OF SMALL AND/OR ISOLATED SOCIETIES

WHEREAS, it is desirable that Unitarian Universalism grow and develop in all geographical areas;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: That the 1977 General Assembly of the Unitarian Universalist Association urges the Board of Trustees and Administration of the Unitarian Universalist Association to develop processes by which small and/or isolated Unitarian Universalist societies may be better represented and participate more fully in the decision-making processes of General Assemblies.

WOMEN AND RELIGION

WHEREAS, a principle of the Unitarian Universalist Association is to "affirm, defend, and promote the supreme worth and dignity of every human personality, and the use of the democratic method in human relationships"; and

WHEREAS, great strides have been taken to affirm this principle within our denomination; and

WHEREAS, some models of human relationships arising from religious myths, historical materials, and other teachings still create and perpetuate attitudes that cause women everywhere to be overlooked and undervalued; and

BUSINESS RESOLUTIONS CONTINUED
WOMEN AND RELIGION CONTINUED

WHEREAS, children, youth and adults internalize and act on these cultural models, thereby tending to limit their sense of self-worth and dignity;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: That the 1977 General Assembly of the Unitarian Universalist Association calls upon all Unitarian Universalists to examine carefully their own religious beliefs and the extent to which these beliefs influence sex-role stereotypes within their own families; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That the General Assembly urges the Board of Trustees of the Unitarian Universalist Association to encourage the Unitarian Universalist Association administrative officers and staff, the religious leaders within societies, the Unitarian Universalist theological schools, the directors of related organizations, and the planners of seminars and conferences, to make every effort to: (a) put traditional assumptions and language in perspective, and (b) avoid sexist assumptions and language in the future.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That the General Assembly urges the President of the Unitarian Universalist Association to send copies of this resolution to other denominations examining sexism inherent in religious literature and institutions and to the International Association of Liberal Religious Women and the IARF; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That the General Assembly requests the Unitarian Universalist Association (a) to join with those who are encouraging others in the society to examine the relationship between religious and cultural attitudes toward women, and (b) to send a representative and resource materials to associations appropriate to furthering the above goals; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That the General Assembly requests the President of the UUA to report annually on progress in implementing this resolution.

The above resolution was passed unanimously.

PERSONS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

WHEREAS, there are millions of persons in the United States and Canada who are blind, deaf, physically or mentally disabled, or otherwise with special needs; and

WHEREAS, these people suffer from discrimination and segregation in education, employment, transportation, and freedom of access because of architectural barriers in public and private buildings; and

WHEREAS, both Judeo-Christian and Humanist traditions in Unitarian Universalism express concern about and sympathy with disadvantaged minorities;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: That the 1977 General Assembly of the Unitarian Universalist Association urges the inclusion of the category "persons with special needs" in the 1964 National Civil Rights Law so that the handicapped may better function as free and equal members of society, and requests the Canadian Unitarian Council to communicate any similar concerns it may have to the appropriate level of government in Canada; and

BUSINESS RESOLUTIONS CONTINUED
PERSONS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS CONTINUED

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That all societies and organizations in the Unitarian Universalist Association are encouraged to study and implement methods of integrating persons with special needs into both our own and the larger society, starting with the year 1977.

WHEREAS, the Commission on Appraisal has studied the representative nature of the General Assembly; and

WHEREAS, we ourselves wholeheartedly wish to put into practice in our meetings what we have urged upon others regarding full inclusion with dignity of handicapped persons and the elderly; and

WHEREAS, one of the main purposes of General Assemblies is to afford Unitarian Universalists the opportunity to gather together to reaffirm our solidarity and to deepen our spirit; and

WHEREAS, communications, fellowship and full participation can be difficult for the elderly, the handicapped and others with special needs where housing is dispersed;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: That the 1977 General Assembly instructs the Planning Committee to consider the following criteria when securing facilities for future General Assemblies:

ease of registration,
adequate access for the handicapped, the
elderly and others with special needs,
efficiency of meal service,
ease of communication, and
adequate space for large and small meetings.

FOSTERING INTELLECTUAL INDEPENDENCE AND SCIENTIFIC THINKING

WHEREAS, currently there are efforts being made to insert the creation story of Genesis into public school science textbooks; and

WHEREAS, such action would be in direct contradiction with the concept of separation of church and state;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: That the 1977 General Assembly of the Unitarian Universalist Association goes on record as opposing such efforts;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That individual societies are urged to immediately provide petitions on the subject to be signed by members and sent to their legislators; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That this Resolution be forwarded to the text book selection committee of each state department of education by the Department of Ministerial and Congregational Services.

BUSINESS RESOLUTIONS CONTINUED

DISARMAMENT

WHEREAS, the political method of reliance upon the power to hurt, kill, and destroy has led humankind far down the dead-end road to total human extinction;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: That the 1977 General Assembly of the Unitarian Universalist Association affirms as the only hope for human survival the religious method of taking risk instead of threatening harm and, therefore, calls upon the United States to lead the world toward safety by its own unconditional nuclear disarmament, and calls upon the rest of the nations to follow that lead; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That the 1977 General Assembly appeals to all other religious bodies to join in calling for such nuclear disarmament, and urges the Board of Trustees and the Administration of the Unitarian Universalist Association to press such appeal to as many other churches and religious bodies as possible and to conduct a continuing educational campaign within and outside the Unitarian Universalist Association for such disarmament.

ERA EMERGENCY ACTION

WHEREAS, since March 4, 1977, several states, including Florida, Illinois, Georgia, and Arizona, have considered and not passed the Equal Rights Amendment; and

WHEREAS, the Unitarian Universalist Women's Federation Board reaffirmed at the June, 1977 meeting their resolve to meet only in those states which have ratified the Equal Rights Amendment and to urge the Unitarian Universalist Association to do likewise; and

WHEREAS, other national, church and citizen organizations have similarly resolved not to meet in non-ratified states;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT: The 1977 General Assembly affirms the action of the Board of Trustees of the Unitarian Universalist Association to schedule the 1979 General Assembly in a state which has ratified the Equal Rights Amendment.

BYLAW AMENDMENTS AND RULES CHANGES

By a two-thirds vote the Assembly voted final adoption of an amendment to Article II, Section C-2.3 of the Bylaws by inserting the word "age," after the word "sex,".

By a two-thirds vote the Assembly voted final adoption of an amendment to Article II, Section C-2.3 of the Bylaws by inserting after the word "sex," the words "affectional or sexual orientation,".

BYLAW AMENDMENTS AND RULES CHANGES CONTINUED

By a two-thirds vote the Assembly voted to amend Bylaws Section 4.11 to read as follows:

Section 4.11. Tentative Agenda for Regular General Assemblies.

The General Assembly Planning Committee shall prepare a tentative agenda for each regular General Assembly which shall include:

- (a) reports and other matters required by these Bylaws to be submitted to the General Assembly;
- (b) proposed amendments to these Bylaws which are submitted as prescribed in Article XIV;
- (c) resolutions, including proposed amendments to rules, referred by the preceding General Assembly; and
- (d) resolutions, including proposed amendments to rules, submitted by:
 1. the Board of Trustees; or
 2. not less than fifteen active member societies by action of their governing boards or their congregations;
 3. a District by official action at a duly called District meeting at which a quorum is present;
 4. a petition signed by not less than 250 members of active member societies with no more than 10 members of any one member society counted as part of the 250;
 5. a regular General Assembly pursuant to Section 4.14(c), or otherwise.

Resolutions submitted under (d) (2), (3) and (4) must be received by the Planning Committee by February 1 whenever the regular General Assembly opens in June. If the regular General Assembly opens in a month other than June, the resolutions submitted under (d) (2), (3), and (4) must be received not later than 110 days before the date set for the opening of that General Assembly. The Planning Committee shall include on the tentative agenda all resolutions so submitted. It may submit alternative versions in addition to the original ones submitted if in its judgment such alternatives clarify the resolutions and may make such changes in the resolutions as are necessary to make each conform to a standard format. It may also submit one or more alternate versions for the purpose of combining two or more resolutions.

The tentative agenda shall be mailed to each member society, associate member organization, trustee, and life member by February 21 if the General Assembly opens in June; otherwise, not less than 90 days before the opening of the General Assembly.

BYLAW AMENDMENTS AND RULES CHANGES CONTINUED

By a two-thirds vote the Assembly voted to amend Bylaws Section 14.2 to read as follows:

Section 14.2. Submission of Proposed Amendment.

Proposed amendments to these Bylaws may be submitted only by:

- (a) the Board of Trustees;
- (b) the General Assembly Planning Committee; or
- (c) not less than fifteen active member societies by action of their governing boards or their congregations; such proposed amendments to bylaws must be received by the Planning Committee on February 1 whenever the regular General Assembly opens in June; otherwise, not less than 110 days before the General Assembly;
- (d) a District by official action at a duly called District meeting at which a quorum is present, such proposed amendment to be received by the Planning Committee on February 1 whenever the regular General Assembly opens in June; otherwise, not less than 110 days before the next General Assembly.

The Assembly voted to amend Rule 3.6.1 to insert in the last sentence of that rule between the word "Mass.," and the word "on" the following words: "on February 1 whenever the regular General Assembly opens in June, otherwise,".

The Assembly voted to amend Rule G-4.15.1 to read as follows:

Rule G-4.15.1. Notice to Member Societies and Districts.

The General Assembly Planning Committee shall, by November 1 whenever in that fiscal year the General Assembly opens in June, otherwise not less than two hundred and ten days before each regular General Assembly, notify each active member society and District of the dates for submitting items for the tentative and final agenda, the procedure to be followed, and the forms to be used.

By a two-thirds vote the Assembly voted to amend Bylaws Section 4.12 to read as follows:

Section 4.12. Final Agenda for Regular General Assemblies.

The Planning Committee shall prepare a final agenda for each General Assembly which shall include:

- (a) all reports and other matters required by these Bylaws to be submitted to the General Assembly and all proposed amendments to bylaws appearing on the tentative agenda;
- (b) those resolutions on the tentative agenda, including alternate versions, which meet the requirements of Rule G-4.15.3;

BYLAW AMENDMENTS AND RULES CHANGES CONTINUED
BYLAW SECTION 4.12 AMENDMENT CONTINUED

- (c) resolutions or other items submitted by the Board of Trustees; and
- (d) additional proposed amendments to bylaws submitted by the Planning Committee or the Board of Trustees.

The Planning Committee shall mail the final agenda to each member society, associate member organization, trustee, and life member not less than 30 days before the General Assembly.

The Assembly voted to amend Rule G-4.15.3 to read as follows:

Rule G-4.15.3. Parish Poll.

The Planning Committee shall at the time of mailing the tentative agenda request each active member society to report by April 10, if the General Assembly opens in June, or not less than 50 days before the General Assembly if the General Assembly occurs at any other time, on a form provided by the Planning Committee whether it recommends or does not recommend for action by the General Assembly the business and general resolutions appearing on the tentative agenda, including the alternative versions, if any, submitted by the Planning Committee. The recommendation with respect to each proposed resolution must be certified by the minister, clerk or president of that society as being within the procedures of that society. Only a business or general resolution which a majority of the societies voting on the resolution recommends for action shall be eligible to be included on the final agenda from the Parish Poll. From those resolutions eligible from the Parish Poll the Planning Committee shall include on the final agenda not more than the eight business resolutions and the six general resolutions receiving the highest number of "recommended for action" votes on the Parish Poll, together with a report of the vote by which each resolution on the tentative agenda was or was not "recommended for action." The Planning Committee may also include on the final agenda alternate versions of resolutions which are germane to those selected through the Parish Poll.

By a two-thirds vote the Assembly voted to amend Bylaws Section 4.14 to read as follows:

Section 4.14. Items Admitted to General Assembly Agenda.

Except for non-substantive items related to greetings and similar matters,

- (a) No item not on the agenda for a Special General Assembly shall be admitted to the agenda of that Assembly;
- (b) At a regular General Assembly, upon petition of fifty delegates from ten member societies business or general resolutions may be admitted to the agenda by a two-thirds vote. The motion to admit such a resolution is not debatable and may be made only after all other items on the final agenda have been acted upon. Before any such resolution can be admitted to the agenda, the Moderator must rule that it could not reasonably have been submitted to the Planning Committee by the February 1 or other deadline that applied to the submission of resolutions for inclusion on the tentative agenda. Final action on any such resolution must be taken by a two-thirds vote;

BYLAW AMENDMENTS AND RULES CHANGES CONTINUED
BYLAW SECTION 4.14 AMENDMENT CONTINUED

- (c) After all resolutions admitted to the agenda of a regular General Assembly pursuant to paragraph (b) above have been acted upon, twenty-five delegates from a minimum of five member societies may move to admit by majority vote a general or business resolution to the agenda for the sole purpose of obtaining a vote from the Assembly as to whether or not the resolution should be referred to the Planning Committee for inclusion on the tentative agenda of the next regular General Assembly. The motion to admit is not debatable. Referral to the Planning Committee will occur if a majority vote is obtained. Amendments to such resolutions (including amendments to substitute) may be adopted before referral;
- (d) Resolutions submitted pursuant to paragraphs (b) and (c) must be in writing and filed with the Chairperson of the Planning Committee or his or her designee or at a place designated by the Planning Committee by the deadline established by the Planning Committee at the opening session of the Assembly. The Planning Committee shall have the power to submit alternate versions of any such resolutions and to make each conform to a standard format. Subject to the provisions of paragraphs (b) and (c), the Planning Committee may specify and limit the manner in which such resolutions are presented to, debated, and acted upon by the General Assembly.

The Assembly voted to renumber Rule G-4.15.4 to become Rule G-4.7.1 and to amend that rule to read as follows:

Rule G-4.7.1. Recording the Vote on Resolutions.

The vote on resolutions shall be recorded as having been adopted:

- (a) unanimously; or
- (b) by a vote of two-thirds or more; or
- (c) by a specified vote for or against.

When any resolution is reported by the Association, the recorded vote on each resolution shall be included.

The Assembly voted to strike Rule G-4.15.5, *Referral of General Resolutions*, in its entirety.

The Assembly took no action on a proposed Bylaw change on the nature and character of General Resolutions.

The Assembly voted to add to the Rules of the Association a new Rule G-4.14, to read as follows:

BYLAW AMENDMENTS AND RULES CHANGES CONTINUED
NEW RULE G-4.14 CONTINUED

Rule G-4.14. Late-admitted Items.

The Planning Committee, Secretary or Moderator shall announce to the General Assembly at least twenty-four hours before the business meeting at which they are to be considered any resolutions presented to the General Assembly which are not on the final agenda and which qualify for consideration under Article IV, Section 4.14 (b) of the Bylaws; and some time shall be scheduled when the sponsor(s) of the resolution(s) can discuss the resolution with those interested.

By a two-thirds vote the Assembly voted to amend Rule G-14.2.1 to read as follows:

Rule G-14.2.1. Form of Submission.

A proposed amendment to the Bylaws submitted by member societies or a District must include:

- (a) the article and section which it is proposed to amend or repeal;
- (b) a concise summary of the principal arguments on which the proponents rely; and
- (c) other articles or sections affected by the proposed amendment and suggested text of any necessary conforming amendments.

ACTION ON REPORTS

In connection with the report of the Commission on Appraisal, the Assembly passed the following motion:

That the three recommendations in the report of the Commission on Appraisal be considered by the UUA Board in response to the business resolution passed earlier on Concerns of Small and/or Isolated Societies, and that those recommendations be considered at next year's General Assembly with ample time for discussion provided.

In connection with the report of the Presidential Campaign Study Committee, the Assembly passed the following motion:

To continue the present Presidential Campaign Study Committee for one year to permit it to receive the financial reports and comments from the candidates, to compile a final report for historical purposes, and to file same with the General Assembly records.

OTHER BUSINESS

The final report of the Credentials Committee was as follows:

Accredited and attending were 946 lay delegates, 236 ministerial delegates, 28 directors of religious education, no life members, 8 associate members' delegates, 24 members of the Board of Trustees (not counted as registered delegates from congregations) and 11 CLF delegates, for a total of 1253 delegates representing 409 churches and fellowships, 45 states, 5 provinces and 2 foreign countries.

The 1977 General Assembly then voted to adjourn *sine die*.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/Robert E. Senghas
Recording Secretary

1977 ELECTION RESULTS

The UUA Secretary, Russell Benson, reported the following election results (four-year terms unless otherwise noted):

PRESIDENT: Paul N. Carnes

MODERATOR: Sandra Mitchell Caron

FINANCIAL ADVISOR: Robert P. Adelman

TRUSTEES-AT-LARGE: Frank E. Robertson
Robert R. Walsh

COMMISSION ON APPRAISAL: Milton Holmen
Jeannette E. Hopkins
Stephanie H.G. Lawson
Norma R. Poinsett
John B. Wolf
Dorothy Tilden Spoerl (two-year term)

G.A. PLANNING COMMITTEE: Gail Hamaker
Corinne LeBovit
Harry A. Thor
Jean R. Wilkinson

NOMINATING COMMITTEE: Constance H. Burgess
William J. Gardiner
Clarise Jefferson
Joy Ogden
Eve J. Robinson
C.L. (Larry) Wheeler

BOARD OF REVIEW: (eight-year term) - MINISTERS: Richard F. Boeke
Richard A. Kellaway

LAY : Rosemary Morris Burns
Frank E. Coburn