

M I N U T E S

SEVENTEENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST ASSOCIATION

HELD IN BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS, AT BOSTON UNIVERSITY

The General Assembly was convened on Tuesday, June 20, 1978 at 9:10 a.m. by Moderator Sandra Mitchell Caron. The Assembly adopted by a two-thirds vote Rules of Procedure for the conduct of the meeting.

Greetings were received in person from Dr. Arpad Szabo on behalf of the Unitarian Church in Romania, the Rev. Brian L. Golland on behalf of the British General Assembly of Unitarian and Free Christian Churches, and the Rev. Diether Gehrman on behalf of the International Association for Religious Freedom.

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

The Assembly received oral reports from the Moderator, the General Assembly Planning Committee, and the Nominating Committee, and written reports from the Secretary and the Treasurer. The Assembly also received written and oral reports from the President, the Financial Advisor, and the Commission on Appraisal. The Chair of the Finance Committee gave an oral report from that committee and presented the 1978-1979 and 1979-1980 Budgets. The Assembly received a written Board of Trustees Report on action taken on items of business adopted at the 1977 General Assembly and a written report on UUA Equal Employment Opportunity. The Assembly also received reports from the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee, the Unitarian Universalist Women's Federation, and the Church of the Larger Fellowship. The Assembly received an oral report from the Committee to Implement the Report of the Special Committee on Education and Certification for Professional Religious Leadership. The Assembly received an oral report from the Presidential Campaign Study Committee noting the completion of work by that committee and the filing of its final report with the records of the Assembly.

There was a memorial for the late Dr. Sophia Lyon Fahs.

PRESENTATION OF AWARDS

During the Assembly the following awards were presented:

AWARD FOR DISTINGUISHED SERVICE TO
THE CAUSE OF LIBERAL RELIGION:

The Rev. Edwin Henry Wilson

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. Michael Walzer for
Just and Unjust Wars

HOLMES-WEATHERLY AWARD for achieve-
ment in outstanding social prophecy:

The Rev. Howard Matson

PRESENTATION OF AWARDS CONTINUED

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

The Rev. Robert L. Hill for "Gradual and Silent Encroachment"

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

Christine M. Wetzel

UN Sung UU AWARD

Stephanie Amann through service to CLF

BUSINESS RESOLUTIONS

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

SPECIAL NEEDS OF CENTER-CITY CHURCHES AND FELLOWSHIPS

WHEREAS, many of the churches and fellowships of the Unitarian Universalist Association are located in the central portions of our large cities; and

WHEREAS, a very sizeable percentage of the Unitarian Universalists belong to these inner-city churches and fellowships; and

WHEREAS, inner-city churches and fellowships share in common a great many special problems, hardships, opportunities, and advantages related to the mobility and volatility of city life; and

WHEREAS, the continued existence of many of our large cities is visibly and obviously endangered and their need for stable and vital churches and other social institutions is apparent; and

WHEREAS, the Unitarian Universalist Association in 1972 organized a conference of "Center-City Churches" which was held in Philadelphia and funded by a special grant; and

WHEREAS, the Unitarian Universalist Association did not provide effective follow-up for this conference; and

WHEREAS, without supportive denominational services, our city societies have not been able effectively to share expertise or to mount joint efforts;

BE IT RESOLVED: That the Unitarian Universalist Association's Department of Ministerial and Congregational Services is urged to serve the special needs of center-city societies; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That this program include (but not be limited to) the gathering and dissemination of information among city societies and assistance with the special needs of city societies in religious education, pastoral ministry, funding, social-action programs, community service, attracting and holding membership in a fluid population, establishing an identity in complex pluralistic society, and church-community relations; and

BUSINESS RESOLUTIONS CONTINUED

SPECIAL NEEDS OF CENTER-CITY CHURCHES AND FELLOWSHIPS CONTINUED

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That this program be given a high priority in the Department's efforts; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That the Unitarian Universalist Association urges suburban societies to enter into sharing arrangements with their sister city societies, both as a means of mutual enrichment and to foster the spirit of unity among our societies; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That the Board of Trustees of the Unitarian Universalist Association is urged to form a committee, with representation from the Board and from city-center societies of the Association, to monitor on a quarterly basis the efforts of the Department of Ministerial and Congregational Services on behalf of the center-city societies; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That the Board of Trustees of the Unitarian Universalist Association is urged to establish a procedure by which negotiations with the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee can be opened to determine what programs aimed at center-city problems can be developed between the two organizations.

UUA MEETINGS AND NON-ERA-RATIFIED STATES

WHEREAS, the 1977 General Assembly of the Unitarian Universalist Association adopted a General Resolution on the Equal Rights Amendment, which, in part, calls upon member societies to minimize economic participation in nonratified states; and

WHEREAS, the 1977 General Assembly affirmed the action of the Board of Trustees of the Unitarian Universalist Association to schedule the 1979 General Assembly in a state that has ratified the Equal Rights Amendment; and

WHEREAS, the Administrative Board of the Unitarian Universalist Women's Federation reaffirmed in June 1977 its resolve to meet only in states which have ratified the amendment; and

WHEREAS, the grassroots boycott by increasing numbers of church and citizen organizations has made significant impact on the economic well-being of nonratified states;

BE IT RESOLVED: That the 1978 General Assembly requests the Unitarian Universalist Association's Board of Trustees to schedule all future General Assemblies in ratified states; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That this General Assembly calls upon the UUA administrative officers and staff, leaders within districts and local societies, and the boards of related organizations to discourage the scheduling and the attending of multistate denominational meetings, seminars, conferences, and retreats in public facilities in nonratified states until the ERA becomes the law of the land; and

BUSINESS RESOLUTIONS CONTINUED

UUA MEETINGS AND NON-ERA-RATIFIED STATES CONTINUED

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That the General Assembly encourages those districts entirely composed of nonratified states to adopt creative methods for planning meetings which will increase the awareness of and support for the Equal Rights Amendment; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That this action be conveyed by the President of the Unitarian Universalist Association to the governors, state legislatures, chambers of commerce, convention bureaus, hotel and restaurant associations in those states which have not ratified the ERA, and to the press.

OBSERVANCE OF 25th ANNIVERSARY OF
BROWN VS. BOARD OF EDUCATION OF TOPEKA DECISION

WHEREAS, 1979 marks the 25th anniversary of the Brown vs. Board of Education of Topeka decision by the United States Supreme Court; and

WHEREAS, this ruling mandated the dismantling of segregated public schools; and

WHEREAS, the self-esteem and identity of all children were harmed by segregation; and

WHEREAS, this decision provided momentum for increased civil rights advocacy and legislation, opening equal opportunity to all of society; and

WHEREAS, Unitarian Universalists have traditionally been in favor of social justice, including desegregation of schools; and

WHEREAS, an extended period of deepening despair and disillusion has increasingly pervaded our society as witnessed by continuing efforts to deny the implementation of the above decision;

BE IT RESOLVED: That the 1978 General Assembly of the Unitarian Universalist Association requests that the Association, its churches and fellowships mark this anniversary year with special recognition and appropriate ceremonies; that the Planning Committee is requested to have a theme of the 1979 General Assembly relate directly to the renewal of social consciousness respecting harmonious, just and positive race relations; and that the Board of Trustees and the administration of the Unitarian Universalist Association is charged with the responsibility for implementing this resolution.

YOUTH

WHEREAS, young people not only constitute a significant proportion of the Unitarian Universalist Association at the present time, but also hold the promise of providing the mature men and women needed to maintain the Unitarian Universalist faith in the years ahead; and

WHEREAS, these young people are at a stage of their lives crucial to the development of their religious values and beliefs; and

BUSINESS RESOLUTIONS CONTINUED
YOUTH CONTINUED

WHEREAS, meaningful youth programs run with the help of adult resource people can be beneficial to all involved; and

WHEREAS, there is considerable uncertainty at the present time concerning the future of denominational programs designed to involve and benefit youth;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: That the 1978 General Assembly of the Unitarian Universalist Association recognizes the crucial importance of youth programs and the need for developing leadership skills and self-reliance through youth administration of these programs; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That the General Assembly:

1. Urges all Unitarian Universalists to become more knowledgeable about the nature of existing youth programs and to re-examine the various stereotypes about youth,
2. Calls on the members of individual churches and fellowships to promote greater involvement of young people in their societies and districts through youth adult committees and other forms of intergenerational activities and dialogue,
3. Calls on the Administration of the Unitarian Universalist Association to work cooperatively with Liberal Religious Youth in developing energetic youth programs at the denominational level, and
4. Urges that these programs be given a high priority in the formulation of UUA budgets in the immediate future so that they may receive funds sufficient to meet their legitimate needs and in fair proportion to the importance of young people to the denomination.

BYLAW AMENDMENTS

The Assembly voted preliminary approval to amend Article XI, Section C-11.1 of the Bylaws by the addition of the following immediately after the first sentence in that section: "Fellowship may be for the purposes of parish ministry, the ministry of religious education, or both, as determined by action of the Ministerial Fellowship Committee." Final adoption of this amendment requires action by the 1979 General Assembly.

By a two-thirds vote the Assembly voted to amend Article IV, Section 4.8(b) of the Bylaws by the addition of the words "or associate" following the word "full," so that the subsection now reads as follows:

Section 4.8(b) Minister Delegates and Religious Education Director Delegates.

Each active member society is also entitled to be represented at each General Assembly by the ordained minister or ministers in

BYLAW AMENDMENTS CONTINUED

BYLAW SECTION 4.8(b) AMENDMENT CONTINUED

full or associate ministerial fellowship with the Association settled in such society, and by any minister emeritus of such society in ministerial fellowship with the Association designated as such by a vote at a meeting of the member society not less than six months prior to the General Assembly, provided that such minister has been settled previously in such society, and by the director of religious education who is accredited by the Association and employed in such society.

A proposal to amend the Bylaws to permit members of the Ministerial Fellowship Board of Review to serve on the Nominating Committee was defeated.

By a two-thirds vote the Assembly voted to amend Article VI, Section 6.8(b) to read as follows:

Section 6.8(b) Trustees Representing Districts.

A vacancy created by the death, disqualification, resignation, or removal of a trustee representing a district or by the creation of a new district entitled to be represented by a trustee shall be governed by the bylaws of the district and Section 9.11 of these bylaws subject to the following limitations:

1. If fewer than two regular General Assemblies have met and adjourned since the General Assembly at which the trustee took office, the governing body of the district shall make an interim appointment until the position is filled within one year from the date the vacancy occurs by a special election;
2. If the vacancy occurs at any other point in the term, either the governing body of the district shall fill the vacancy for the remainder of the term or the district shall provide for an interim appointment by its governing body until the position is filled by a special election.

An invalid election does not create a vacancy for purposes of this section.

By a two-thirds vote the Assembly voted to amend Article IX, Section 9.11(b) to read as follows:

Section 9.11(b) Time of Election.

The election of a district trustee, except an election to fill a vacancy pursuant to Section 6.8(b), shall be held not less than 45 nor more than 300 days before the regular General Assembly following which such Trustee is to take office.

BYLAW AMENDMENTS CONTINUED

By a two-thirds vote the Assembly voted to amend Article IX, Section 9.9(c) to read as follows:

Section 9.9(c) Absentee Voting.

Those entitled to cast ballots in an election may cast their ballots by mail. An absentee ballot must be received by the Secretary not less than seven calendar days before the regular General Assembly at which the election is being held in order to be counted.

By a two-thirds vote the Assembly voted to amend Article VI, Section 6.5 to read as follows:

Section 6.5 Term.

Trustees shall take office at the close of the General Assembly at or prior to which they are elected and shall serve for terms of four years or until their successors are elected and qualified. No trustee may serve more than two successive full terms of four years each. However, a trustee may at any time become one of the elected officers of the Association and serve as long in that office as if such trustee had not previously been a trustee. No person who has served as elected officer for a full term shall thereafter be elected a trustee without an interim of four years.

By a two-thirds vote the Assembly voted to amend Article VII, Section 7.7 to read as follows:

Section 7.7 Finance Committee.

The Finance Committee shall consist of the Financial Advisor, the Treasurer, five trustees who shall not be members of the Investment Committee, and the Moderator without vote. The duties of the Finance Committee are set forth in Article X.

RULE AMENDMENTS

A proposal to amend Rule G-4.15.2 to exclude recommended procedures for implementation of General Resolutions with those resolutions was defeated.

The Assembly voted unanimously to amend Rule G-9.10.1 so that the last sentence of that rule now reads as follows: "These ballots shall be counted along with a recounting of the ballots cast for the tied candidates by absentee ballots, and the result of the foregoing procedures shall determine the election, unless there is still a tie, in which case the Moderator shall then cast a ballot to resolve it."

The Assembly voted to amend Rule G-9.12.2 to read as follows:

Rule G-9.12.2 Order of Names on Ballot.

On all ballots used in elections held by the Association the order of names shall be determined by the drawing of lots done by the

RULE AMENDMENTS CONTINUED

RULE G-9.12.2 AMENDMENT CONTINUED

Secretary and witnessed by two other persons. The Secretary shall certify the results of the drawing of lots, the certificate shall be attested by the witness, and the certificate shall be filed in the Secretary's office. This Rule shall be printed on all official ballots or on the instructions accompanying them.

GENERAL RESOLUTIONS

Each of the following General Resolutions was passed by a vote of two-thirds or more.

LEGALITY OF LIVING WILLS

WHEREAS, the heritage of religious freedom extends into the nature of life and destiny; and

WHEREAS, through advances in science and technology we anticipate longer lives; and

WHEREAS, persons can be kept alive by heroic means after expectations of useful mental and physical activity have gone; and

WHEREAS, it has become evident that a large proportion of Unitarian Universalists favor the right to decide the nature of their care during terminal illness; and

WHEREAS, individuals may, while they are enjoying viable lives, sign documents alluding to their wishes in regard to final care;

BE IT RESOLVED: That the 1978 General Assembly of the Unitarian Universalist Association affirms and defends the right of each person to sign a legally binding Living Will; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That the 1978 General Assembly of the Unitarian Universalist Association supports legislation throughout the several states in the United States which would affirm the legality of Living Wills and urges and calls upon its member societies to work toward the passage of such legislation.

ABORTION: RIGHT TO CHOOSE

WHEREAS, religious freedom under the Bill of Rights is a cherished American right; and

WHEREAS, right to choice on contraception and abortion are important aspects to the right of privacy, respect for human life and freedom of conscience of women and their families; and

WHEREAS, there is increasing religious and political pressure in the United States to deny the foregoing rights;

BE IT RESOLVED: That the 1978 General Assembly of the Unitarian Universalist Association once again affirms the 1973 decision of the Supreme Court of the United States on abortion and urges the Association

GENERAL RESOLUTIONS CONTINUED

ABORTION: RIGHT TO CHOOSE CONTINUED

and the member societies and individual members of member societies to continue and to intensify efforts to insure that every woman, whatever her financial means, shall have the right to choose to terminate a pregnancy legally and with all possible safeguards; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That the 1978 General Assembly of the Unitarian Universalist Association urges the Unitarian Universalist Association, districts, and individual Unitarian Universalist societies to continue and, where possible, increase their efforts to maintain right of choice on abortion, including increased cooperation with the Religious Coalition for Abortion Rights, the National Abortion Rights Action League, and other groups seeking maintenance of this right; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That the 1978 General Assembly of the Unitarian Universalist Association strongly opposes any denial or restriction of federal funds, or any Constitutional amendment, or the calling of a national Constitutional Convention to propose a Constitutional amendment, that would prohibit or restrict access to legal abortion.

END OF TOBACCO PRICE SUPPORT PROGRAM

WHEREAS, tobacco smoking is harmful to human health; and

WHEREAS, the world needs more food crops grown on the limited area of fertile land; and

WHEREAS, the United States Department of Agriculture spends many millions of dollars each year to support tobacco production; and

WHEREAS, such tax money should be used for more constructive purposes, not for the encouragement of farming practices that are ultimately detrimental to consumers;

BE IT RESOLVED: That the 1978 General Assembly of the Unitarian Universalist Association urges the United States Congress to terminate all price-support programs for tobacco, beginning with the 1980 crop of tobacco, and to establish a program funded over a four-year period by part of the money thus saved to assist small farmers to convert from tobacco to the production of other commodities.

WORLD HUNGER

WHEREAS, half a billion of the world's four billion inhabitants suffer from malnutrition and another billion do not have a proper diet; and

WHEREAS, the developing nations of the world have not been able to increase their food production to a point where they can keep up with their needs for food; and

WHEREAS, the World Food Council estimates that the developing nations must increase their food production by at least 4.3 per cent a year if their food import costs are not to reach prohibitive levels by 1985; and

GENERAL RESOLUTIONS CONTINUED

WORLD HUNGER CONTINUED

WHEREAS, key questions regarding foreign aid include: How do the rich countries help the poor in poor countries? How do the developed nations get aid filtered down to the rural areas to help improve nutrition on the rural level?; and

WHEREAS, existing agricultural production in developing nations has often been exploited for profit rather than to satisfy the nutritional needs of the majority; and

WHEREAS, trained personnel could go out on the local level to help others develop their land agriculturally to enable them to become more efficient in food production;

BE IT RESOLVED: That the 1978 General Assembly of the Unitarian Universalist Association urges the governments of the United States and Canada through their appropriate agencies to work with the United Nations and other international organizations for the establishment of training facilities in developing nations which rely on importing food in order to feed their people. Such centers should emphasize the use of indigenous technicians and methodologies to work with small farmers to teach appropriate technologies which minimize the need for capital, energy or pesticides, all with the basic goal of producing food to satisfy their own national and regional nutritional needs.

DEVELOPMENT OF HOSPICES

WHEREAS, in the course of many illnesses when a person faces imminent death, a point is reached when medical science can offer no further treatment which can be expected to result in cure or remission of the disease, and the appropriate therapy becomes that which is designed to increase the comfort of that person by providing relief from the symptoms of the disease; and

WHEREAS, hospice is a concept of comprehensive team care for those who are terminally ill and their loved ones, combining the services of professionals and trained volunteers to provide care twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week, and continuing through the bereavement period; and

WHEREAS, there are at present over 130 groups throughout the United States and Canada that are working to develop humane, compassionate care programs which will cooperate closely with existing services to enable people to die where they choose;

BE IT RESOLVED: That the 1978 General Assembly of the Unitarian Universalist Association recognizes the importance of the addition of hospice care to the health care delivery systems in the United States and Canada; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That this Assembly urges Unitarian Universalists to give all possible aid and support to the development of hospice care in their communities.

GENERAL RESOLUTIONS CONTINUED

COMMUNITY-BASED CORRECTIONAL PROGRAMS

WHEREAS, community-based correctional programs (probation, parole, pretrial intervention, halfway houses, work release, etc.) are approximately six times less expensive than incarceration in prisons; and

WHEREAS, the rate of recidivism is very high for those let out of prison (80 percent of all felonies are committed by repeaters), and when offenders are placed in jobs, which is more likely under community-based programs, their rate of recidivism is two to three times less than that of the offenders who do not receive job assistance; and

WHEREAS, many experts, including correction officials, say that only 20 to 30 percent of present inmates represent a danger to society and need to be securely confined; and

WHEREAS, there are many examples of successful locally involved community-based programs (Saginaw Project, Michigan; California Probation Subsidy Programs; Sacramento and Stockton Community Treatment Project, etc.); and

WHEREAS, community-based programs with community involvement provide a more humane approach to the problem and facilitate the reintegration of the offender into society;

BE IT RESOLVED: That the 1978 General Assembly urges the Unitarian Universalist Association to support and encourage the use of community-based community-involved correctional programs as an alternative to incarceration in prison and urges that its member societies do the same; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That this Assembly urges that descriptions of potential and existing community-based projects be submitted to the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee where they will be available for review by member societies as a resource of alternatives to incarceration.

COMMISSION ON APPRAISAL 1977 REPORT

In connection with the 1977 Report of the Commission on Appraisal on the Representative Nature of the General Assembly, after discussion and amendment the Assembly passed the following motions:

1. Any active society which during any of these years reports no more than 100 voting members in its last certification to the Unitarian Universalist Association may upon request have the registration fee for its first lay delegate waived at the subsequent General Assembly. To begin with the budget year 1979-1980; Trial Period: General Assemblies 1980-1982.
2. A pilot project shall be created encouraging five clusters of two to four societies to pool resources to send one lay delegate from that cluster to the General Assembly. While the delegate would have only the vote of his/her particular society, he/she would consult with each of the other societies about the issues to come before the General Assembly and report back to each.

COMMISSION ON APPRAISAL 1977 REPORT CONTINUED
2nd MOTION CONTINUED

The registration fee for these five delegates might be waived upon request. Participating societies would be encouraged to enter into a four-year compact so that more than one of the societies would have the opportunity for one of its members to represent the cluster at a General Assembly. To begin with the budget year 1979-1980; General Assemblies 1980-1982.

A motion to augment the Travel Equalization Fund to set a goal of making possible reimbursement of each Assembly delegate for two-thirds of travel costs above the first \$100 spent was defeated.

ACTION ON REPORTS

In connection with the report of the President, the Assembly passed the following motion:

That this General Assembly affirms its conviction and requests that the Administration enter negotiations with the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Topeka, with BAWA, BAC, and any other Unitarian Universalist organizations interested, to develop a meaningful conference program and ceremony to be held in Topeka, Kansas on and around May 17, 1979.

In connection with the report of the Moderator and the matter of Beacon Press referred to in that report, it was moved that the General Assembly express its preference for one of four options regarding the Press: (1) a commercial sale of the Press with substantial up-front cash; or (2) transfer to a denominationally controlled body without any current cash consideration; or (3) keep the Press within the institutional framework of the UUA at the current level of operation; or (4) keep the Press within the institutional framework of the UUA at a reduced level in accord with the UUA Board of Trustees' motion passed at its meeting on June 18, 1978. The Assembly resolved itself into a Committee of the Whole to consider the subject of that motion. William Donovan chaired the meeting of the Committee of the Whole. The Assembly returned to Plenary Session, and the Chair of the Committee of the Whole rose and reported that the Committee had completed consideration of the options regarding Beacon Press and had expressed its clear preference for the fourth option. The Assembly thereupon passed the following motion:

That this Assembly expresses its preference that Beacon Press be kept within the institutional framework of the UUA at a reduced level in accord with the UUA Board of Trustees' motion passed at its meeting on June 18, 1978.

In connection with the Finance Committee Report of the 1979-1980 Budget, the Assembly passed the following motion:

Whereas a majority of delegates present at the budget hearing concurred with the recommendation to add \$2,025.00 to line item for Commission on Appraisal for 1979-1980, and

ACTION ON REPORTS CONTINUED

MOTION REGARDING FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT CONTINUED

Whereas the delegates agreed to do so without taking funds from other line items,

Therefore be it resolved that the 1979-1980 Budget be amended to change the amount for the Commission on Appraisal from \$13,500.00 to \$15,525.00, thereby increasing the projected deficit to \$156,197.00.

ITEMS FOR 1979 GENERAL ASSEMBLY TENTATIVE AGENDA

In accordance with Bylaw Section 4.14(c), the Assembly voted to refer the following resolutions to the General Assembly Planning Committee for inclusion on the 1979 General Assembly Tentative Agenda:

INFANT NUTRITION IN DEVELOPING NATIONS

WHEREAS, the commercial promotion of the use of infant formulas as a substitute for breast feeding has been shown to have a damaging effect upon human lives in developing nations where breast feeding has been customary; and

WHEREAS, studies have shown three times the infant mortality rate for children using infant formula as compared with breast-fed babies; and

WHEREAS, proper nutrition in infancy is critical to brain and other physical development; and

WHEREAS, we expect international corporations to demonstrate responsibility in their marketing procedures to developing nations; and

WHEREAS, we encourage companies to promote sound nutritional guidelines;

BE IT RESOLVED: That the 1979 General Assembly of the Unitarian Universalist Association condemns the practice of promoting infant formulas as a substitute for breast feeding in developing nations;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That the General Assembly urges members of UUA societies to join in boycotting the products of the Nestle Corporation, Bristol-Meyers, American Home Products, Abbott Laboratories, Borden and Carnation and all their subsidiaries.

RECONSTRUCTION IN VIETNAM

WHEREAS, four years after the war's end the still unhealed wounds and war-caused economic distress in Vietnam and Laos are now aggravated by severe rice shortages, causing general hunger which is increasingly driving individuals to attempt to flee their homelands; and

WHEREAS, the United States religious community and some American farmers have acted through the National Council of Churches to partly relieve that hunger by shipping 10,000 tons of surplus U.S. wheat to Vietnam (according to a *New York Times*/CBS poll of July, 1977, 66 per cent of the American public was willing to provide food and medical aid to Vietnam and Laos); and

ITEMS FOR 1979 GENERAL ASSEMBLY TENTATIVE AGENDA CONTINUED
RECONSTRUCTION IN VIETNAM CONTINUED

WHEREAS, the United States Government has not only continued to refuse any form of postwar aid to Vietnam, but still officially lists it as an "enemy" (the Grand Jury indictment of Vietnamese national David Truong, long respected for his work for peace and reconciliation, and the expulsion of Vietnam's Ambassador to the United Nations are other examples of ongoing hostility);

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: That in view of our government's determined movement away from reconciliation the 1979 General Assembly of the Unitarian Universalist Association reaffirms its 1977 General Resolution on reconstruction in Vietnam and urges all social action committees and individual Unitarian Universalists to:

1. Send a communication to President Carter and their own representative and senator urging them to acknowledge and act on U.S. responsibility for the continuing war-caused suffering in Vietnam and Laos and specifically to:
 - A. Support the State Department's recent tentative decision in favor of a first small rice shipment to Laos;
 - B. Support the removal of all existing prohibitions against both direct and indirect aid to Vietnam and Laos;
 - C. Remove Vietnam from the United States' official "enemy" list, thus lifting the trade embargo and travel bans and permitting normalized diplomatic and commercial relations.
2. Protest our Executive branch's use of illegal surveillance and the CIA "frame-up" technique used to indict for espionage David Truong (who now faces a possible life sentence) and ask that he be given a suspended sentence.

AMNESTY

WHEREAS, April 30 marked the fourth anniversary of the end of the war in Indochina and President Carter has said that American involvement in the war was a mistake; and

WHEREAS, President Carter, after pardoning 14,000 of the largely white and middle-class draft resisters, established a six-month Special Discharge Review Program on April 4, 1977 for only a portion (largely working class, often non-white) of the deserters and 792,000 veterans with less-than-honorable discharges; and

WHEREAS, Congress passed legislation to deny veterans' benefits to many of those participating in the program; and

WHEREAS, President Carter signed the legislation into law, despite the fact that it denied benefits to one-half of those who had been upgraded by his own program; and

ITEMS FOR 1979 GENERAL ASSEMBLY TENTATIVE AGENDA CONTINUED
AMNESTY CONTINUED

WHEREAS, The Department of Defense has announced (but not publicized) a new discharge review program which does not adhere to the law (and against which the National Military Discharge Review Project of the American Civil Liberties Union is filing suit);

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: That the 1979 General Assembly of the Unitarian Universalist Association asks the churches, fellowships, and individual Unitarian Universalists to urge:

1. The President (through letters to Frank Raines of the White House Coordinating Committee on the Status of Vietnam-Era Veterans) to insist that the Department of Defense:
 - A. Establish standards that are fair and uniform for all branches of the military;
 - B. Assign attorneys to veterans who are unable to afford private counsel;
 - C. Streamline the process, thus avoiding years of case-by-case review;
 - D. Publicize the program nationally, including clear procedures veterans can follow in applying for discharge review.
2. The newly organized Vietnam-era veterans in Congress through Representative Bonior to bring congressional pressure to bear on the Department of Defense for fair, prompt, deserved discharge review through means cited above.

Such response reaffirms the General Assembly resolution for amnesty adopted in 1977 for veterans, deserters, and civilians and informs our government that Unitarian Universalists do not tolerate its punishment of those victimized by the war.

OTHER BUSINESS

The final Report of the Credentials Committee was as follows:

Accredited and attending were 911 lay delegates, 233 ministerial delegates, 24 directors of religious education, no life members, 9 associate members' delegates, 23 members of the Board of Trustees (not included as registered delegates from congregations) and 11 CLF delegates, for a total of 1,211 delegates representing 421 churches and fellowships, 45 states, the District of Columbia, 6 provinces, and Mexico.

The 1978 General Assembly then voted to adjourn *sine die*.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/Robert E. Senghas
Recording Secretary