

## M I N U T E S

### EIGHTEENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST ASSOCIATION

HELD IN E. LANSING, MICHIGAN, AT MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

The General Assembly was convened on Tuesday, June 26, 1979, at 9:40 A.M. by Moderator Sandra Mitchell Caron in the Michigan State University Auditorium in East Lansing, Michigan, immediately following a memorial service for the late President of the Unitarian Universalist Association, Dr. Paul N. Carnes, conducted by former UUA President the Rev. Dr. Robert Nelson West. The assembly adopted by a two-thirds vote Rule of Procedure for the conduct of the meeting.

Greetings were received in person from Roy Smith on behalf of the British General Assembly of Unitarian and Free Christian Churches and from the Rev. Diether Gehrman on behalf of the International Association for Religious Freedom. Greetings were also received from Kenneth L. Teegarden, General Minister and President of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) on behalf of that Church; those greetings were delivered by Mr. Jan McCrae on the occasion of the installation of O. Eugene Pickett as President of the Unitarian Universalist Association.

During the assembly a welcome and greetings were given by the Rev. Denise Tracy on behalf of The Unitarian Universalist Church of East Lansing, Michigan.

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 and the General Assembly Planning Committee and written reports from the Secretary and the Treasurer. The Assembly also received written and oral reports from the Financial Advisor, the Commission on Appraisal, and the Nominating Committee. The Chair of the Finance Committee gave an oral report from that committee and presented the 1979-80 and 1980-81 budgets. The Assembly received a written Board of Trustees report which included a report of actions taken on items of business adopted at the 1978 General Assembly and received a written report on UUA Equal Employment Opportunity. The Assembly received from the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee a written report and an oral report on the occasion of its 40th Anniversary. The Assembly also received written reports from the Unitarian Universalist Women's Federation, the Church of The Larger Fellowship, and Liberal Religious Youth. During the report from the Finance Committee Sherry Smith, President of The North Shore Unitarian Society of Plandome, New York, and Eleanor Vendig of that society were introduced, and they announced a decision by that society to make an endowment grant to the UUA of \$20 million dollars, in appreciation for the help from the Association in the establishment and growth of that society. The Moderator expressed the thanks of the Association to The North Shore Unitarian Society for the grant.

There was an installation service for the Rev. Dr. O. Eugene Pickett as fourth President of the Unitarian Universalist Association, during which Dr. Pickett presented an address and President's report.

#### PRESENTATION OF AWARDS

During the Assembly the following awards were presented:

AWARD FOR DISTINGUISHED SERVICE TO  
THE CAUSE OF LIBERAL RELIGION:

Frank B. Frederick, Esq.

PRESENTATION OF AWARDS CONTINUED

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

Sissela Bok for  
*Lying: Moral Choice in Public and  
Private Life*

HOLMES-WEATHERLY AWARD  
for achievement in outstanding  
social prophecy:

Roger Baldwin

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

The Rev. David R. Weissbard

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

Heather McDonald

UN Sung UU AWARD

John A. Gronner, of Underwood, Minnesota

BUSINESS RESOLUTIONS

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

AGING

WHEREAS, the 12th Annual General Assembly of the Unitarian Universalist Association meeting in Toronto, Canada in 1970 voted unanimously the re-establishment of the UUA Committee on Aging; and

WHEREAS, in the United States an increasing number of people reach the age of sixty-five every day (estimated at 1,400); that by the year 2000, one-quarter of the population will be sixty-five or over; and that the fastest-growing age group is between eighty and eighty-five; and

WHEREAS, few of our Unitarian Universalist churches and societies are aware of all the federal, state and local funds which are available with which Unitarian Universalists might help the elderly of their community who are unable to speak or act in their own behalf; and

WHEREAS, the Committee on Aging is placing emphasis on hospice, in which Unitarian Universalists can have a great role in new legislation and the activating of the hospice philosophy as a continent-wide movement; is working on Education for Life Changes, as well as on Death and Dying, and the inevitable question of "What shall we do with our parents?"; and

WHEREAS, its efforts and publications to date have received acclaim and wide support from other denominations, including local and national Jewish groups and mental health organizations; and

WHEREAS, the Committee on Aging believes, from its experience, that it cannot operate effectively without an executive secretary who is fully trained and knowledgeable in the field of aging;

BUSINESS RESOLUTIONS CONTINUED

AGING

BE IT RESOLVED: That the 1979 General Assembly of the Unitarian Universalist Association urges the Board of Trustees to recommit itself to continuing the Committee on Aging, including professional assistance when sufficient funds are available; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT: The Committee on Aging be charged to continue its ongoing program of education, information, and counseling support to member Unitarian Universalist Societies and continue to establish new models for dignified lifestyles which will help all of us retain and enhance our human potential and involvement as we age.

IN SUPPORT OF YOUTH PROGRAMS

WHEREAS, the Unitarian Universalist Bylaws state that our Association promotes "the full participation of persons in all of its and their activities and in the full range of human endeavor without regard to...age"; and

WHEREAS, our denomination profits from participation from young people to enliven and sustain our Unitarian Universalist ideals; and

WHEREAS, the 1978 General Assembly Business Resolution on Youth recognized "the crucial importance of youth programs" and "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" and "calls on members of individual churches and fellowships to promote greater involvement of young people in their societies and districts" and "calls on the Administration of the Association to work cooperatively with Liberal Religious Youth in developing energetic youth programs at the denominational level"; and

WHEREAS, the Continental Youth Adult Committee and Liberal Religious Youth, who are working to reach the goals of better youth programs and youth participation in our societies, need greater support from the UUA staff, Districts, professionals and lay people within our denomination;

BE IT RESOLVED: that the 1979 General Assembly of the Unitarian Universalist Association urges that efforts to better youth participation and programs be specifically supported by:

1. facilitating consultation, program development, resource sharing between youth and adults through Interdistrict Representatives, district Youth/Adult Committees, continental district Youth/Adult Committee conclaves, professional leaders and local society youth groups and youth programming;
2. the UUA Board of Trustees allocating youth program funds in the spirit of the March 1979 Majority Report of the Continental Youth Adult Committee - retaining the present LRY structure, and adding an at least half-time adult professional staff person; and
3. fostering of fellowship and a special sense of membership among youth and those of all ages in our denomination through intergenerational interaction and activities among all Unitarian Universalists.

BUSINESS RESOLUTIONS CONTINUED

FUNDING OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

WHEREAS, a need to grow is recognized by the Board of Trustees of the Unitarian Universalist Association; and

WHEREAS, Religious Education is essential for growth; and

WHEREAS, any Religious Education program needs continuing review and evaluation;

BE IT RESOLVED: That the 1979 General Assembly of the Unitarian Universalist Association urges the Trustees of the Association to recommit itself to staffing the Education Section of the UUA at least at the level of the 1978 Office; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That this Office be directed to promote and develop and evaluate new curricula and to evaluate and update existing curricula; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That there continue to be distribution of curricula and curriculum ideas through the denomination.

BATTERED WOMEN

WHEREAS, the battering of women in the home is a family and societal problem related to the violation of basic human rights in a significant way both nationally and globally; and

WHEREAS, the problem is compounded by the legal and social system's inability to protect victims of abuse adequately; and

WHEREAS, children internalize and perpetuate models of behavior observed and experienced in the home and in the larger society; and

WHEREAS, long standing religious and cultural myths and practices authenticate and sanction inequitable and oppressive male/female relationships such as male dominance and female submission;

BE IT RESOLVED: that the 1979 General Assembly of the Unitarian Universalist Association urges the Administration, member societies and individuals to:

1. help women learn of and use local assistance available;
2. support the creation of crisis resources such as hotlines, shelters and transition houses for battered women and their dependents;
3. promote improved civil and legal protection for victims;
4. work toward improved police and court methods of handling violence in the home and toward follow-up treatment services for offenders and victims; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: that this 1979 General Assembly asks all Unitarian Universalists to consider to what extent religious and cultural myths and practices set models for and influence inter-relationships within their own homes; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: that this Assembly requests professionals and staff members of the Unitarian Universalist Association to:

1. determine whether the physical abuse of women is related in any way to religious myths which promote male dominance in human relationships;
2. try to assess the potential impact of these myths on the sense of self-worth and dignity of men and women;
3. recognize the consequences of this impact in future statements, publications and educational materials; and

BUSINESS RESOLUTIONS CONTINUED  
BATTERED WOMEN

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this Assembly requests the President of the Unitarian Universalist Association to:

- 1) send copies of this resolution to appropriate political and religious organizations and individuals urging its promotion nationally and globally;
- 2) include denominational action on Resolve Three of this resolution in the annual report on Women and Religion.

UUA ACTION TO REDUCE INJUSTICES OF DISCRIMINATION

WHEREAS, in the *Bakke* case, the Supreme Court affirmed the use of color as one of the means of opening opportunities for professional, scholarly, and technical training to blacks and other historically disadvantaged groups; and

WHEREAS, relatively few blacks and other historically disadvantaged persons work in jobs with better than average career potential, and relatively few are enrolled in studies preparing for such careers;

BE IT RESOLVED: that the 1979 General Assembly requests the Unitarian Universalist Association Section on Social Responsibility to increase its efforts in affirmative action and consciousness-raising and to provide information on constitutional affirmative action programs and to stimulate local societies to reduce the injustices of discrimination by monitoring local situations and encouraging appropriate public and private affirmative action.

SUPPORTIVE SERVICES FOR SINGLE ADULTS AND THEIR FAMILIES

WHEREAS, the Unitarian Universalist Association has a long rich history of social outreach into communities, with innovative programs and solutions, and of supporting environments in which humans may best maximize and fulfill their potential; and

WHEREAS, in every community across the continent there are increasing numbers of adults and their families experiencing status change problems of singleness - whether by never marrying, by divorce, or by death of spouse; and

WHEREAS, this large single population is in urgent need of the services and support which a liberal church can best provide, that of a church-sponsored haven or center of acceptance and nurture; single and previously married adults are important supporters/contributors to their societies; and

WHEREAS, the creation and maintenance of supportive activities for single adults and their families is already a valuable concern of a number of societies in our denomination and some of which already have useful experience regarding appropriate programs for singles and can furnish guidance and models (such as "Discovery"-Rockville, Maryland; Solo Center in Seattle, and others) which might be shared; and

WHEREAS, there is need for insight, sharing and reconciliation between single and married adults within the community and the church which can best be accomplished within a Unitarian Universalist society setting; and

WHEREAS, the single person with his/her interests and talents can be a valuable member of the church/fellowship if encouraged to be a part of the church family; and

BUSINESS RESOLUTIONS CONTINUED  
SUPPORTIVE SERVICES FOR SINGLE ADULTS AND THEIR FAMILIES

WHEREAS, it is an appropriate and legitimate concern of Unitarian and Universalist societies and of this Assembly to raise the consciousness of *all* Unitarian Universalists and of our larger communities to the very real problems and needs of single adults and their families;

BE IT RESOLVED: that the 1979 General Assembly of the Unitarian Universalist Association recognizes that the provision of "supportive services" for single adults and their families is a legitimate concern of the member societies;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: that the Board of Trustees of the Unitarian Universalist Association is charged:

1. to encourage Districts, Clusters, Councils and Local Societies to support and promote the development of programs for singles' concerns;
2. to encourage the Unitarian Universalist Association to serve as a resource for singles' concerns, within the limits of the present staff, structure, and budget, through its Department of Ministerial and Congregational Services and the UU WORLD.

BYLAW AMENDMENTS

By a two-thirds vote the Assembly voted final adoption of an amendment to Article XI, Section C-11.1 of the Bylaws. Article XI, Section C-11.1 was amended by the additions 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."

By a two-thirds vote the Assembly voted to amend Article VII, Section 7.6 of the Bylaws to read as follows:

*Section 7.6 Ministerial Fellowship Committee.*

The Ministerial Fellowship Committee shall consist of eleven members as follows:

- (a) Four members who are not ministers, appointed by the Board;
- (b) Five members who are ministers in full and final fellowship with the Association, appointed by the Board;
- (c) One member appointed by the Unitarian Universalist Ministers Association;
- (d) One member appointed by the Liberal Religious Education Directors' Association.

Two members of the committee, and only two, shall be trustees. The committee shall have jurisdiction over ministerial fellowship with the Association as provided in Article XI hereof. The Board of Trustees shall designate a person who is not a member of the Committee to be its Executive Secretary and keep its records.

By a two-thirds vote the Assembly voted to amend Article XI, Section 11.3 of the Bylaws, by the addition of the following immediately after the last sentence in that section: "Three years as an accredited director of religious education may be considered as satisfying the time requirement for granting of final fellowship as minister of religious education."

BYLAW AMENDMENTS CONTINUED

A proposal to amend Bylaw Section C-3.6(a) by specifying that a member society must conduct at least eight regular religious services per year in order to be recognized as active was defeated.

By a two-thirds vote the Assembly voted to amend Article IV, Section 4.11 of the Bylaws 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 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;
- (d) business resolutions and proposed amendments to rules submitted by the Commission on Appraisal; and
- (e) 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 (e) (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 (e), (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 may rewrite any resolution submitted which contains more than 300 words (including all introductory and qualifying clauses). 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 alternative 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 General Assembly.

Proposals to amend Bylaws Sections 4.12 and 14.2 to empower the Commission on Appraisal to place proposed business resolutions on the General Assembly Final Agenda and bylaw amendments on the General Assembly Agenda were defeated.

A proposal to amend Bylaw Section 9.9(c) to allow receipt of absentee ballots at the General Assembly site by noon three days before the polls open was defeated.

BYLAW AMENDMENTS CONTINUED

By a two-thirds vote the Assembly voted to amend Article XI, Section 11.10 to reduce by one-half the size of the Ministerial Fellowship Board of Review. Section 11.10 was amended to read as follows:

*Section 11.10. Ministerial Fellowship Board of Review.*

- (a) *Members.* the Ministerial Fellowship Board of Review shall consist of eight members as follows:
- (1) Four members who are ministers, each of whom at the time of election is in final ministerial fellowship with the Association and has held such fellowship continuously for the preceding seven years; and
  - (2) Four members who are not ministers, each of whom at the time of election is a member of an active member society and has been a member of one or more such societies for not less than ten years and has served not less than three years as an officer or a member of the governing bodies of one or more such societies.
- (b) *Election and Term.* One member of the Board of Review who is a minister and one who is not shall be elected at each regular General Assembly held in an odd-numbered year and shall serve for terms of eight years and until their successors are elected and qualified. A person shall continue to serve on a panel until the case is completed notwithstanding the election and qualification of a successor.
- (c) *Qualifications.* No member of the Board of Review shall during the term of office be a member of the Ministerial Fellowship Committee or hold any salaried position in the Association.
- (d) *Removal.* A member of the Board of Review may be removed without hearing by the vote of six other members.
- (e) *Vacancy.* A vacancy on the Board of Review may be filled by the Board of Trustees until the next regular General Assembly at which an election can be held. The vacancy shall then be filled for the balance of the unexpired term, if any.

The Assembly passed unanimously the following resolution to implement the above amendment:

VOTED: To delay the effective date of the full reduction of the number of members on the Ministerial Fellowship Board of Review to eight as required by the Amendment to Section 11.10(a), (b), and (d) until the end of the 1985 General Assembly by permitting those previously elected to the Board to complete their terms of office.

A proposal to amend Bylaw Section 6.3 to provide separate trustees for the Mid-South and Florida Districts was defeated.



## RULE AMENDMENT

By a two-thirds vote 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, of 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.

If there is more than one version of a general or business resolution on the tentative agenda, the subject of the resolution shall be considered a single item on the tentative agenda and the Parish Poll. All versions shall be listed consecutively within that item. An Aye vote by a Society for one or more versions shall be counted an Aye vote for inclusion of a resolution on the subject in the Final Agenda. If support for the subject matter of the resolution is sufficient to make it eligible for inclusion on the final agenda, the version that receives the highest number of votes by the participating societies shall be the one eligible for inclusion on the final agenda.

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.

## GENERAL RESOLUTIONS

Each of the following General Resolutions was passed by a vote of two-thirds or more. The resolutions on Peace and Disarmament and on Care of Young Children were on the Assembly agenda as Business Resolutions but were amended prior to passage to a form of General Resolution. The resolution on Capital Punishment was admitted for consideration and action under Bylaws Section 4.14(b).

## PEACE AND DISARMAMENT

WHEREAS, reversal of the arms race must be the overwhelming priority on the human agenda because escalating military power:

GENERAL RESOLUTIONS CONTINUED  
PEACE AND DISARMAMENT

1. Diverts crucial resources from human and environmental needs;
2. Contributes to runaway inflation and inhibits full employment;
3. Leads toward the certainty of planetary holocaust;

BE IT RESOLVED: that the 1979 General Assembly of the Unitarian Universalist Association urges that the Association appeal to all individuals and religious bodies to join in renouncing the arms race and any participation therein; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That the Assembly requests that the Unitarian Universalist Association continue and increase its cooperation with the World Conference on Religion and Peace to mobilize the peoples of the World for peace.

CARE OF YOUNG CHILDREN

WHEREAS, according to the Report of the Status of Children published in 1977 by the Office of Human Development of the U.S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare, there are 6.5 million children under the age of six with single working parents; and

WHEREAS, between 1963 and 1976 the number of married mothers of children under the age of three joining the work force increased dramatically; and

WHEREAS, this denomination has maintained a commitment to the rights and welfare of children;

BE IT RESOLVED: that the 1979 General Assembly of the Unitarian Universalist Association reaffirms its commitment to the creation, support, and improvement of child care systems which are affordable to all people, to supporting the family unit, and to be beneficial to the intellectual physical and emotional development of the children; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That the General Assembly strongly commits itself to the development of concern and involvement on the part of all segments of our society - old, young, male and female - for the nurturing of our children.

A NATIONAL HEALTH PLAN

WHEREAS, the present system of health care in the United States (which costs approximately \$180 billion per year) is often uneven in quality, in availability of professional services, and in geographical distribution; and

WHEREAS, the present system is unjustly expensive for many who cannot afford the charges for the service of hospitals, nursing homes, doctors, and other segments of the health care system; and

WHEREAS, there is need for a planned and integrated national health system to ensure the quality and the availability and accessibility of health services for all the people of the United States and that this system includes preventive medicine and emphasis on positive health care and individual fitness programs;

GENERAL RESOLUTIONS CONTINUED

A NATIONAL HEALTH PLAN

BE IT RESOLVED: that the 1979 General Assembly of the Unitarian Universalist Association calls upon the President and Congress to establish a comprehensive health care plan to provide full medical service for all; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That the 1979 General Assembly of the Unitarian Universalist Association urges adoption of an insurance system that will be economically equitable for all sections of the population and that will be capable of sustaining the health system at a high level of quality; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That the 1979 General Assembly of the Unitarian Universalist Association urges as an essential element of any plan that there be containment of health costs, especially control of hospital, clinic and physician costs, so that the economic burden imposed by rapidly rising health costs may be brought under control and kept from undermining the economic feasibility of a national health system.

INFANT FORMULA

WHEREAS, world health authorities have documented the disastrous effect the wide-spread marketing of infant formula has had upon the nutrition and well-being of millions of babies in less developed nations; and

WHEREAS, the distribution of these products to uneducated mothers by medical and paramedical personnel implies the superiority of formula over breast milk, leading to the abandonment of breast feeding on a massive scale; and

WHEREAS, poor mothers living in unhygienic conditions frequently mix the formula in weak solution with polluted water, adding the risk of disease to the problems of malnutrition; and

WHEREAS, many mothers under the influence of aggressive infant formula marketing programs have needlessly invested large portions of their meager family budgets in order to purchase the product, further weakening the family economically; and

WHEREAS, most national and multi-national companies producing and marketing infant formula have resisted attempts to require that they alter their marketing methods to eliminate these hazards:

BE IT RESOLVED: That the 1979 General Assembly of the Unitarian Universalist Association calls upon local societies and individual members to express their concern for the effects of infant formula marketing methods within developing nations by

1. communicating these concerns to formula-producing companies
2. participation in selective boycotts;
3. supporting stockholder resolutions calling for responsible marketing practices; and
4. seeking Congressional action to control the international marketing practices of U.S.-based formula-producing corporations.

NUCLEAR WEAPONS

WHEREAS, continued nuclear proliferation increases the danger of accidental nuclear warfare; and

GENERAL RESOLUTIONS CONTINUED  
NUCLEAR WEAPONS

WHEREAS, the stockpiling of nuclear weapons increases the probability of the extinction of ALL life on earth in the event of nuclear war;

BE IT RESOLVED: That the 1979 General Assembly of the Unitarian Universalist Association urges the Board of Trustees and Administration of the Unitarian Universalist Association to seek out and cooperate with persons, groups, or associations working together to proscribe the manufacture, stockpiling, and threat of use of nuclear weapons; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That the 1979 General Assembly of the Unitarian Universalist Association urges the United States to ratify the SALT II agreement, without amendments which might jeopardize the Treaty and the ongoing SALT process; and further calls upon Unitarian Universalists to urge their senators to support SALT II as a small but significant step toward nuclear arms limitation; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That the General Assembly urges support of a United States moratorium on further production of nuclear weapons.

(Passed by 2/3 vote with some abstentions)

REDUCING THE DEFENSE BUDGET, REORDERING NATIONAL PRIORITIES

WHEREAS, President Carter has proposed a federal budget which calls for significant increases in military expenditures, while at the same time calling for major cuts in expenditures for human and social services; and

WHEREAS, this shift in federal priorities is likely to have disastrous effects on the nation's well-being by increasing inflation, by contributing to unemployment and a decline in the country's economic output and by channeling the nation's precious human and material resources into wasteful and destructive enterprises;

BE IT RESOLVED: That the 1979 General Assembly of the Unitarian Universalist Association urges its members, churches and societies actively and persistently to work for a change in federal spending priorities; that such efforts include, but not be limited to:

1. Establishment of workshops, seminars, and forums to bring to public attention the disastrous consequences of ever-increasing defense spending;
2. Organization of petition drives, letter-writing campaigns, etc., to the appropriate officials in the U.S. Congress and the Administration;
3. Where appropriate, direct non-violent political action; and
4. Our call upon the citizens of all nations to work for a similar reordering of their national priorities.

SOLAR HEATING

WHEREAS, solar space and hot water heating is practical and cost effective; and

WHEREAS, government research, development, promotional efforts and tax credits have stressed complex and expensive active systems and underemphasized more reliable, cost effective passive and simple active systems;

BE IT RESOLVED: That the 1979 General Assembly of the Unitarian Universalist Association calls upon the U.S. Department of Energy to shift its emphasis from complex active to passive and simple active solar heating systems; and upon the U.S. Internal Revenue Service to amend tax subsidy guidelines that discriminate against passive solar construction; and

GENERAL RESOLUTIONS CONTINUED

SOLAR HEATING

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That this Assembly urges Unitarian Universalists to communicate their feelings on this subject to the appropriate government agencies.

SHARING IN THE NEW CALL TO PEACEMAKING

WHEREAS, a basic principle of the Unitarian Universalist Association is to "implement the vision of one world by striving for a world community founded on ideals of brotherhood, justice, and peace;" and

WHEREAS, delegates of the historic peace churches - Friends, Mennonites, and Brethren - gathered last October for a *New Call to Peacemaking Conference* and issued a statement of findings;

BE IT RESOLVED; That the 1979 General Assembly of the Unitarian Universalist Association expresses its admiration and gratitude to those who participated in this peacemaking effort, and especially supports the following calls to peacemaking:

I. Strengthening our Local Base by:

- A. Urging a comprehensive program of peace education in our congregations.
- B. Encouraging local groups to engage in ecumenical and public dialogue on peace issues and promoting the peace witness in their communities.
- C. Urging the development of support groups within congregations for those individuals who are working at peace issues (such as war tax resistance, simple lifestyles, and nonviolent action).
- D. Recommending the development of mediation/reconciliation teams who can assist in conflict resolution in families, congregations, the community and beyond.

II. Developing a Peacemaking Lifestyle in:

A. Personal Relationships:

The Assembly encourages creative love and respect for the integrity of each person, starting with the members of our families, and urges the speaking of truth in love, and the confronting of personal and structural wrongs, and the demonstration of forgiving love, and the use of cooperation rather than competition.

B. Economic Decisions:

The Assembly urges these specific responses:

1. Examine our personal and corporate stewardship of money.
2. Conserve natural resources.
3. Reduce our level of consumption.
4. Become more discerning in financial decisions either by taking direct action to influence investments in banks and institutions or by withdrawing investments in banks and institutions which serve militarism, economic exploitation or unjust governments, and investing rather in life-enhancing enterprises.

III. Confronting Militarism and the Arms Race

A. The Assembly urges Unitarian Universalists and member societies to:

1. Support the United Nations initiatives for disarmament, the United States-Soviet Strategic Arms Limitations Talks, and the use of national debate on these talks.

GENERAL RESOLUTIONS CONTINUED  
SHARING IN THE NEW CALL TO PEACEMAKING

2. Call upon our government to take these initial steps towards disarmament (thus challenging other governments to do the same):
    - a. Reduce military spending by 10% in the coming year.
    - b. Stop further testing, development, and production of nuclear weapons.
    - c. Halt arms transfers to other countries.
  - B. Conversion to a Peace Economy:  
The Assembly asks Unitarian Universalists to support:
    1. Research and action toward economic conversion to non-military production, with assistance for those who are temporarily unemployed during the process.
    2. Transfer of tax monies from the military budget to programs meeting human needs.
  - C. War Tax Resistance:  
The Assembly challenges ourselves and our congregations to uphold war tax resisters with spiritual, emotional, legal, and material support.
  - D. World Peace Fund:  
In keeping with our past support of alternative service provisions for conscientious objectors to the draft, the Assembly urges support for congressional enactment of a World Peace Tax Fund as an alternative to compulsory financial support of war and preparation for war.
  - E. Conscription and Military Recruitment:  
In view of possible reinstatement of military conscription and in light of expanding ROTC programs, the Assembly calls upon Unitarian Universalist members and societies to:
    1. Oppose renewal of draft registration and induction.
    2. Provide educational and counseling opportunities for draft-eligible youth in our communities.
    3. Encourage peace registration of our conscientious objectors.
    4. Encourage peace career programs to counterbalance recruitment into military-sponsored "career" preparation programs.
    5. Urge action to eliminate ROTC programs in high schools and colleges.
- IV. Witnessing to Peace by:
- A. Continuing the New Call to Peacemaking  
The Assembly urges activities which may include periodic conferences, facilitating the publication of peace materials, promotion and coordination of peace caravans, and the establishment of a peace institute and a National Peace Academy. The Assembly recommends the establishment of a peacemaking fund to provide support for these efforts.
  - B. Sharing the New Call  
The Assembly urges new efforts to share with peoples of all denominations and ecumenical bodies the challenges to thought and actions which have emerged in the *New Call to Peacemaking Conference*.
  - C. Meeting with President Carter  
The Assembly urges that the elected officers and Board of Trustees of the Association join other denominations and send a delegation to meet with President Carter to:
    1. Commend and support the President in his concern for peace and human rights.
    2. Dialogue with President Carter about the implications of religious beliefs on issues of peace and justice.
    3. Lay before the President our concerns about military spending, nuclear weapons, arms sales, and related matters.

GENERAL RESOLUTIONS CONTINUED

CAPITAL PUNISHMENT

WHEREAS, General Assemblies of the Unitarian Universalist Association have opposed capital punishment by Resolutions in 1961, 1966 and 1974; and

WHEREAS, the aforementioned Resolutions have urged complete abolition of capital punishment as inconsistent with respect for human life; for its retributive, discriminatory, and non-deterrent character; and opposed its restoration or continuance in any form; and

WHEREAS, the State of Florida has declared its intent to proceed with the executions of those under capital sentence in Florida prisons, numbering more than one hundred, and having begun with the execution of John Spenkelink on May 25, 1979; and

WHEREAS, the Florida example may become precedent for a new wave of capital punishment in numerous other states;

BE IT RESOLVED: That the 1979 General Assembly of the Unitarian Universalist Association urges the Governor of the State of Florida to commute all existing death sentences; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That the General Assembly urges Governors of all other states similarly to commute death sentences and to prevent the restoration or continuance of capital punishment in any form.

ACTION ON REPORTS

In connection with the report of the Finance Committee and budget presentation, a motion was made and seconded that the delegates of the 1979 General Assembly urge the UUA Board of Trustees to raise the 1979-80 budget for the Commission on Appraisal by \$4,000 and that the contingencies item be reduced by that amount. After discussion the motion as defeated by a vote of 176-244.

In connection with the report of the Financial Advisor the Assembly passed the following motion:

WHEREAS, at the 1978 General Assembly, it was voted that the Unitarian Universalist Association would retain Beacon Press as a department of the Association, and

WHEREAS, the Press is maintaining its integrity in publishing books which challenge, educate, stimulate and otherwise meet the needs of the Denomination as well as being our voice to the outside world, and

WHEREAS, Beacon Press may end this year at least at break even point.

BE IT RESOLVED: that the 1979 General Assembly of the Unitarian Universalist Association commends the administration and Board of Trustees of the UUA and the management of Beacon Press in carrying out the reorganization; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: that the 1979 General Assembly reiterates its support of the action taken by the 1978 General Assembly in voting to retain the Press; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: that the 1979 General Assembly encourages the Board of Trustees to maintain the Beacon Press as a priority item in the budget of the Association.

## ACTION ON REPORTS CONTINUED

In connection with the report of the Commission on Appraisal a motion was made and seconded that the delegates to the 1979 General Assembly urge the UUA Board to commit the Association to a major extension effort funded for three years at \$150,000 per year in addition to the present fund allocation for the Extension Office of the Department of Ministerial and Congregational Services. After discussion the Assembly voted to substitute the following motion, which was then passed by more than a two-thirds majority:

The delegates to the 1979 General Assembly commit themselves to a major effort in extension; further, we urge the Board of Trustees of the UUA to commit funds in addition to the present fund allocation for the Extension Office to this effort for a period of five years; and we urge the member societies and individuals of the UUA to augment their contributions to the Annual Program Fund to insure our denomination the financial resources for growth.

### ITEM FOR 1980 GENERAL ASSEMBLY TENTATIVE AGENDA

In accordance with Bylaw Section 4.14(c) the Assembly voted to refer the following resolution to the General Assembly Planning Committee for inclusion on the 1980 General Assembly Tentative Agenda:

#### INDIAN TREATY RIGHTS

WHEREAS, recognizing that decisions rendered by the courts have increasingly recognized the rights of Indian tribal governments to exercise jurisdictional powers; and

WHEREAS, recognizing the current climate of antitreaty rights sentiment among certain groups;

BE IT RESOLVED: That the 1980 General Assembly of the Unitarian Universalist Association reaffirms its support of the rights of all North American Indian tribes to maintain their lands, resources, governments and religions, and their inherent right to exist both politically and culturally as a people; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That the 1980 General Assembly of the Unitarian Universalist Association calls upon member societies in the United States and Canada to affirm and support the Indian treaties and also the rights of tribes to the jurisdiction over their lands, reserved for their exclusive use; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That the 1980 General Assembly of the Unitarian Universalist Association urges its members to participate in and support all endeavors to effect reconciliation, understanding and cooperation between Indians and non-Indians.

#### OTHER BUSINESS

The Assembly passed the following motion by acclamation:

WHEREAS, by her ready availability and attentive listening to all Unitarian Universalists (almost all of whose names she seems effortlessly to know and to remember) she gives us dignity and dignifies herself; and

WHEREAS, the emotional ups and downs our denomination has experienced this past year would have taxed beyond capacity any person of less joyous and shared



OTHER BUSINESS CONTINUED

energy, with appearances all over the continent fitted into a schedule which was already heavily committed; and

WHEREAS, by her profound belief in the value and beauty of individual differences, manifested in actively facilitating it, she has encouraged (if not actually demanded) frank sharing of views among us, and then sought solutions which encompassed our diversity without mocking it;

BE IT RESOLVED, that the 1979 General Assembly of the Unitarian Universalist Association expresses to its Moderator, our Sandy, its appreciation and delight for her leadership, her increasing of our sense of community, her devotion to open process, and for being herself.

ELECTION RESULTS

The Secretary of the Association, Lori Pederson, reported the following election results (four-year terms unless otherwise noted):

Trustee-at-Large: Gwendolyn A. Thomas  
Trustee-at-Large from Bert Christensen  
Canada :

General Assembly Planning Committee:

Douglas Morgan Strong  
Carol A. Taylor  
Richard A. Woodman  
Robert C. Wylder

Commission on Appraisal:

David N. Bortin  
Margaret A. Link  
Harry Nachman  
Dalmas A. Taylor  
Dorothy T. Spoerl (two-year term)

Nominating Committee:

Wayne B. Arnason  
Richard S. Gilbert  
Jill Hott  
R. John May  
Robertta Nelson

CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE REPORT

The final report of the Credentials Committee was as follows:

Accredited and attending were 776 lay delegates, 221 ministerial delegates, 26 delegate directors of religious education, no life members, 11 associate members' delegates, 25 members of the Board of Trustees (not included as

OTHER BUSINESS CONTINUED

registered delegates from congregations), and 12 CLF delegates, for a total of 1,071 delegates representing 410 churches and fellowships, 48 states, the District of Columbia, and five provinces.

The 1979 General Assembly then voted to adjourn *sine die*.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/Robert E. Senghas  
Recording Secretary