

## MINUTES

### TWENTY-FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST ASSOCIATION HELD IN BRUNSWICK, MAINE

The General Assembly was convened on Tuesday, June 22, 1982, at 9:10 a. m. by Moderator Sandra Mitchell Caron in Morrell Gymnasium of Bowdoin College, Brunswick, Maine.

At the beginning of all Plenary Sessions, "Emerson Speaks Today" was presented by the Rev. Andrew C. Kennedy of Muncie, Indiana.

The Assembly adopted by a two-thirds vote Rules of Procedure for the conduct of the meeting.

Greetings were received in person from Robert Wilhelm, Dean of Bowdoin College; The Honorable Samuel W. Collins, Majority Leader of the Maine State Senate on behalf of the State of Maine; Bill Rittmeyer, President of the Chamber of Commerce of Brunswick, Maine; Professor John Erdo, Deputy Bishop of the Unitarian Church of Roumania and Dean of the Protestant Theological Institute of Cluj-Napoca; Roy Smith, General Secretary of the General Assembly of Unitarian and Free Christian Churches of Great Britain; and Diether Gehrman, General Secretary of the International Association for Religious Freedom. Greetings were received in writing from Nikkyo Niwano, President of the International Association for Religious Freedom and from the Association of Congregational Christian Churches.

Mary Ann Lash, Director of Beacon Press, presented a copy of Moments, a book of Sister Corita Kent's artwork recently published by Beacon, to Moderator Caron and UUA President Eugene Pickett.

The Moderator read the list of new societies entered into membership in the Unitarian Universalist Association during the past year.

Jack Mendelsohn, Chair of the Committee on Urban Concerns and Ministry, introduced Margaret Young who then spoke briefly to the Assembly on the occasion of the announcement of the newly-established Whitney M. Young, Jr. Urban Ministry Fund.

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

The Assembly received written reports from the Secretary and Treasurer. Oral reports (as well as written, in some cases) were received from the President, the Moderator, the Financial Advisor, the Chair of the Finance Committee, the Chair of the Commission on Appraisal, the President of the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee, the President of the Unitarian Universalist Women's Federation, and the Liberal Religious Youth.

BUSINESS RESOLUTION

The following Business Resolution was passed by a vote of two-thirds or more:

## CHILD CARE

WHEREAS, in the spirit of inclusiveness without regard to age, family situation, or economic status; and

WHEREAS, in the spirit of encouraging growth through participation of young adults in our movement; and

WHEREAS, in the spirit of making ours an Association that provides religious opportunities for all our new members and friends of all ages;

BE IT RESOLVED: That the 1982 General Assembly of the Unitarian Universalist Association resolves that the Association shall at the daytime meetings, programs, and events of all its General Assemblies provide safe, secure, reasonably-priced, Unitarian Universalist-oriented programs of care, where pre-registration indicates participation, as appropriate to the age group, for children between birth and thirteen years of age; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That consideration be given, if desired, to housing families with children in such a way as to facilitate shared child-caring arrangements and that lists of reliable sitters be made available; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That this Assembly urges the same policy be adopted by all organizations within and associated or affiliated with it, and all events, etc., being supported by the Unitarian Universalist Association through staffing, funding, supplies, or other support operate under the same policy; it being understood that the requirements of this resolution do not extend to meetings of governing or advising boards or committees.

ACTION ON C-BYLAW AMENDMENTS

By a two-thirds or more vote the Assembly voted final approval to amend Bylaw Section C-3.7 in a manner intended to reaffirm the independent status of associate member organizations to read as follows:

*Section C-3.7 Associate Member Organizations*

The Board of Trustees may admit to associate membership in the Association any organization whose purposes and programs it finds to be auxiliary to and supportive of the principles of the Association and which pledges itself to support the Association. The Board of Trustees may terminate such associate membership upon a finding that the organization no longer meets the foregoing qualifications. An associate member organization shall be recognized as active during the fiscal year in which it becomes a member, and during each subsequent fiscal year if it has made a financial contribution to the Association during the immediately preceding fiscal year. The Association shall neither exercise control over nor assume responsibility for the programs, activities or finances of any associate member.

By a two-thirds or more vote the Assembly voted final approval to amend Bylaw Section C-3.8 in a manner intended to reaffirm the independent status of affiliate member organizations to read as follows:

*Section C-3.8 Independent Affiliate Organizations*

The Board of Trustees may admit to affiliated status those independently constituted and operated organizations whose purpose and intentions it finds to be in sympathy with the principles of the Association, and may terminate such status upon finding that the organization no longer meets the foregoing qualifications or is not in compliance with the rules relating to such organizations. The status granted is that of Independent Affiliate. The Board of Trustees shall adopt rules governing the requirements for admission to and retention of affiliated status. The requirements shall include financial support of the Association by payment of an annual contribution. The Association shall neither exercise control over nor assume responsibility for the programs, activities, or finances of any Independent Affiliate.

ACTION ON BYLAW AMENDMENTS

A proposed Bylaw amendment designed to give separate trustees to the Mid-South and Florida Districts (which Districts currently share a District trustee on the UUA Board) was withdrawn by its makers in light of the consideration which the UUA Board will give in October, 1982, of the proposals of the Committee on District Representation and Distribution of Resources regarding new District trustee structures.

A proposed Bylaw amendment to eliminate the limitation on the terms of the Association's elected officers was defeated.

By a two-thirds or more vote the Assembly voted to reduce the size of the Executive Committee to five by amending Bylaw Section 7.5. to read as follows:

*Section 7.5. Executive Committee*

The Executive Committee shall consist of the Moderator, the First Vice Moderator, the Secretary, the Financial Advisor, and the Chair of the Finance Committee. The Executive Committee shall conduct the current and ordinary business of the Association between meetings of the Board of Trustees. If between meetings of the Board of Trustees matters arise which in the opinion of the Executive Committee are not current and ordinary business but in the best interests of the Association must nevertheless be acted upon, the Executive Committee may act thereon for the Board of Trustees but only if four or more members vote the action.

By a unanimous vote the Assembly voted to clarify the selection of Vice Moderators by amending Bylaw Section 8.12 to read as follows:

*Section 8.12 Vice Moderators*

The Vice Moderator or Moderators shall be elected from among the members of the Board of Trustees by its members. In the absence of the Moderator a Vice Moderator shall preside at meetings and perform the duties of the Moderator. A Vice Moderator shall perform such other duties as may be assigned by the Board. In the event that more than one Vice Moderator is elected, one of the Vice Moderators shall be designated First Vice Moderator.

ACTION ON RULE CHANGES

By a two-thirds or more vote the Assembly voted to establish Districts formally and prescribe a process for societies to change District membership by adding a new Rule G-12.2 to read as follows:

*Rule G-12.2 - Establishing Districts*

- a. The Districts shall be twenty-three in number and named Ballou Channing, Central Massachusetts, Central Midwest, Connecticut Valley, Florida, Joseph Priestley, Massachusetts Bay, Metropolitan New York, Michigan, Mountain Desert, Mid-South, Northeast, New Hampshire-Vermont, Ohio-Meadville, Ohio Valley, Pacific Central, Pacific Northwest, Pacific Southwest, Prairie Star, St. Lawrence, Southwest, Thomas Jefferson, Western Canada.
- b. Each District is composed of the societies that are listed as its members in the District List found in the most recently published Annual Directory;
- c. The boundaries of each District encompass the areas served by its member societies;
- d. Upon application to the Board of Trustees and after notice and an opportunity to be heard is afforded the affected Districts, a society may change its District membership with the approval of the Board of Trustees;
- e. The District Map published in the Annual Directory contains boundaries that are an approximation only of the boundary lines determined pursuant to subparagraph c above and are intended primarily as a guide for the newly admitted society in determining its membership.

Conforming Bylaw Amendment

By a unanimous vote the Assembly voted to conform Section 6.3(c) with new Rule G-12.2 by amending Section 6.3(c) to read as follows:

*Section 6.3(c)*

- (c) one trustee representing each district, except that a single trustee shall represent each of the following combinations:
- (1) The Mid-South and Florida Districts;
  - (2) The Prairie Star and Western Canada Districts;
  - (3) The Michigan and Ohio Valley Districts.

Conforming Rules Change

By a unanimous vote the Assembly voted to conform Rule 6.4.1 with new Rule G-12.2 by amending Rule 6.4.1 to read as follows:

*Section 6.4 Election of Trustees**Rule 6.4.1 Division of Districts for Election Purposes*

The Trustees representing districts are divided into the following two groups:

GROUP A

St. Lawrence  
 Pacific Southwest  
 Northeast  
 Connecticut Valley  
 Central Massachusetts  
 Mid-South and Florida  
 Pacific Northwest  
 Ohio Meadville  
 Mountain Desert  
 Southwest

GROUP B

Michigan and Ohio Valley  
 Thomas Jefferson  
 Prairie Star and Western Canada  
 Pacific Central  
 Massachusetts Bay  
 N. H. - Vermont  
 Joseph Priestley  
 Metropolitan New York  
 Central Midwest  
 Ballou Channing

ACTION ON GENERAL RESOLUTIONS

Each of the following General Resolutions, except where otherwise stated, was passed by a vote of two-thirds or more:

PUBLIC EDUCATION, RELIGIOUS LIBERTY, AND THE SEPARATION OF CHURCH AND STATE

WHEREAS, the constitutional principles of religious liberty, and the separation of church and state that safeguard liberty, and the ideal of a pluralistic society are under increasing attack in the Congress of the United States, in state legislatures, and in some sectors of the communications media by a combination of sectarian and special interests;

BE IT RESOLVED: That the 1982 General Assembly of the Unitarian Universalist Association reaffirms its support for these principles and urges the Board of Trustees and President of the Association, member societies, and Unitarian Universalists in the United States to:

- 1.) Defend the democratic, pluralistic public school, opposing all forms of direct and indirect public aid to support sectarian private schools, such as tuition tax credits or vouchers;
- 2.) Uphold religious neutrality in public education, oppose all government mandated or sponsored prayers, devotional observances, and religious indoctrination in public schools; and oppose efforts to compromise the integrity of public school teaching by the introduction of sectarian religious doctrines, such as "scientific creationism," and by exclusion of educational material on sectarian grounds;
- 3.) Uphold the principle of judicial review, and oppose all efforts to deny the federal courts jurisdiction over school prayer, abortion rights, or other church-state disputes;
- 4.) Uphold the principle enunciated by the United States Supreme Court that all levels of government must remain respectfully neutral with regard to all religions;
- 5.) Uphold the constitutional privacy right of every woman, acknowledged by the Supreme Court in 1973 Roe vs. Wade and other rulings, to plan the number and spacing of her children and to terminate a problem pregnancy in collaboration with her physician, opposing all efforts through legislation or constitutional amendment to restrict that right or to impose by law a "theology of fetal personhood;" and
- 6.) Support all efforts to preserve and strengthen church-state separation.

## NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT

WHEREAS, as religious people committed to reverence for life, we are deeply concerned by the threat to all life which is posed by the continuing acceleration of the nuclear arms race;

BE IT RESOLVED: That the 1982 General Assembly of the Unitarian Universalist Association urges the Office of Social Responsibility and the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee to assign high priority to the development of education and action programs and materials for the advocacy of peace and nuclear arms control and to disseminate such programs and materials as widely and effectively as possible throughout the denomination; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That this Assembly urges its member societies, the Unitarian Universalist United Nations Office, the Association's Office of Social Responsibility, and the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee to expand their efforts with other religious, peace and civil groups and with liberal religious organizations in other countries through the International Association for Religious Freedom and the International Association of Liberal Religious Women in actively conducting educational programs to promote awareness of the devastation of nuclear wars; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That this Assembly urges all Unitarian Universalists to support active participation by the United States and Canadian governments in all feasible avenues of negotiations, including the United Nations Special Session on Disarmament, with the objective of reaching a full moratorium on the testing, manufacture and deployment of new nuclear weapons, to be followed by meaningful control and reduction of all nuclear weapons; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That support is also extended to efforts to secure:

- 1.) United Nations General Assembly endorsement of a U.S. - U.S.S.R. bilateral nuclear weapons freeze as the first step of world wide, general, balanced disarmament;
- 2.) A U.N. sponsored world wide educational program on the dangers and prevention of nuclear wars;
- 3.) A U.N. sponsored world-referendum on the bilateral freeze as the first step toward general, balanced disarmament.

## PERSONAL RELIGIOUS FREEDOM

WHEREAS, the central issues for religion include the beginning, duration, nature and meaning of life, the extent to which individuals can be in control of their own lives and bodies, and the moral and ethical responsibility of individuals to the lives and bodies of others; and

WHEREAS, the 1982 General Assembly of the Unitarian Universalist Association reaffirms our heritage of personal religious freedom of belief and acknowledges as one of its tenets the right and responsibility of persons of all ages to decide and act upon these religious issues according to their own conscience and faith, without government interference or invasion of privacy;

BE IT RESOLVED: That the 1982 General Assembly of the Unitarian Universalist Association calls upon Unitarian Universalists and all individuals and groups, both religious and secular, of like mind to oppose attempts for legislative and policy changes that would limit the free exercise of this, our religious heritage; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That this Assembly calls upon the governments of the United States and Canada to oppose all attempts to legislate such limitations.

This resolution was passed on a counted vote of 481 aye, 361 no, and 22 abstentions.

#### THE NEW ABOLITIONISM

WHEREAS, the 1982 General Assembly of the Unitarian Universalist Association reaffirms resolutions on nuclear arms and human needs previously considered and adopted by the Association's General Assemblies; and

WHEREAS, the 1981 global arms budget totalled \$550 billion, about \$100 billion of which was spent on nuclear arms; and

WHEREAS, the United States now possesses more than 31,000 tactical and strategic nuclear weapons and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics more than 20,000 of the same; and

WHEREAS, the result of this continuing build-up is that the United States has enough bombs to overkill the Russian population 40 times and the U.S.S.R. has enough bombs to overkill the American population 20 times (one intercontinental bomber is now capable of dropping a payload equal to the total destructive power of all bombs used by all combatants in World War II, including the bombs dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki; one Trident submarine, of 27 planned, is capable of destroying 192 major cities); and

WHEREAS, among further results of this build-up are serious negative effects upon social well-being, psychological and spiritual health of nations and peoples, and serious depletions of economic well-being, such as decreasing benefits to the aged, blind, and disabled, and reduced public benefits to poor people at a time of increasing cost of living;

BE IT RESOLVED: That the 1982 General Assembly of the Unitarian Universalist Association urges each member church and fellowship and every Unitarian Universalist to join with other religious and political groups within their own communities to "massively and unequivocally oppose the obscenity which is called the nuclear arms race;" and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That this Assembly urges all Unitarian Universalists to recognize and support solemnly and with hope the great new historical movement known as The New Abolitionism, "a worldwide moral and religious movement which says 'No' to the nuclear arms race and nuclear war as the old Abolitionism launched a crusade to say 'no' to slavery. The New Abolitionism against slavery...can be a winning crusade" because it must; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That in the spirit of The New Abolitionism, this Assembly affirms continuing support of the campaign for a mutual freeze of the nuclear armories of both the United States and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics; that it urges the proposal of George F. Kennan for a 50 percent reduction of the nuclear stockpiles of both the United States and the U.S.S.R. be seriously negotiated; and that it endorses the resolution adopted by the 1981 United Nations General Assembly that "the use of nuclear weapons would be a violation of the Charter of the United Nations and a crime against humanity."

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That this Assembly congratulates all religious bodies that have already taken a stand in the spirit of The New Abolitionism and urges all such bodies that have not taken such a stand to do so.

UNITED STATES POLICY IN RELATION TO THE ISRAELI-PALESTINIAN-ARAB CONFLICT

WHEREAS, historic steps to end the warfare between Israel and Egypt were taken with the signing of the Camp David peace accords; and

WHEREAS, the goal of United States policy, as it approaches the remaining central issues in the Middle East, should be to encourage, in the spirit of Camp David, a comprehensive peace settlement of the Israeli-Palestinian-Arab conflict; and

WHEREAS, a comprehensive settlement must be based on the commitment of all parties to respect the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the others and to co-exist in peace and justice with their neighbors;

BE IT RESOLVED: That the 1982 General Assembly of the Unitarian Universalist Association urges the United States government to adopt the following guiding policies in its efforts to help achieve a comprehensive settlement and to normalize United States relations with all of the Middle East's peoples:

- a) faithful support for the legitimacy, independence, and security of Israel;
- b) recognition of a Palestinian right of self-determination, including a right to establish a state;
- c) condemnation of all acts of terror, disproportionate reprisal, and attacks on civilian populations;
- d) continued opposition to the creation and maintenance of Israeli settlements in the occupied territories and continued commitment to the United Nations Resolution 242 under which Israel should withdraw from lands conquered in 1967 and under which its right to security within its 1967 borders should be assured;
- e) urgent efforts to end the Middle East arms race.

"TOWARD WORLD COMMUNITY"

BE IT RESOLVED: That the 1982 General Assembly of the Unitarian Universalist Association supports the Dialogue of World Religions Affirmation of the International Association for Religious Freedom by affirming:

"Like tide and time, religion is a natural force.

We acknowledge religion as reality greater than individual life.

In response to that reality, we will join rallies or marches that witness to peace and social justice.

We will contribute to the creation of a network of retreats and training centers in which individuals may be both participants and observers in learning another religious tradition.

As spiritual discipline, we will give up at least one meal each month and will give the money saved to some cause of human need.

We recognize the importance of raising the consciousness of government officials who violate human rights. We will petition those officials by postcard and other appropriate means.

We will support the 1982 United Nations Special Session on Disarmament."

This resolution was passed on a counted vote of 379 aye, 239 no, and 29 abstentions.



ACTION ON PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The President was asked about his ongoing commitment to the development of new worship resources and he assured the delegates that this was a high priority of his Administration's. A feasibility study is underway to determine the costs of publishing a new hymnal. The Assembly then unanimously

VOTED: To express the appreciation of the General Assembly to the Commission on Common Worship for its outstanding work.

The Assembly also voted by more than two-thirds the following resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED THAT: The delegates to the 1982 General Assembly urge closer formal ties between the Cambridge Forum UU Network and the UUA so that adequate ways can be found to make audio and video tapes of General Assembly events for local society use; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That local societies with video recording equipment be urged to bring their equipment to the 1983 General Assembly to help facilitate the recording of as many programs as possible.

COLLATERAL AND PERFECTING AMENDMENTS

There were no further collateral or perfecting amendments.

LATE-ADMITTED GENERAL RESOLUTIONS

A general resolution entitled "Current Massacre in Lebanon" which the Moderator ruled could come before the Assembly under Section 4.14(b) of the Bylaws failed on a counted vote of 283 aye, 286 no, and 20 abstentions, to receive the necessary two-thirds vote required to admit it for consideration.

The following General Resolution was admitted for consideration and action under Bylaws Section 4.14(b) and passed by a vote of two-thirds or more:

LAW OF THE SEA TREATY

WHEREAS, the oceans of the world cover 70% of its surface; and

WHEREAS, there is no international oceanic policy; the United States has no such policy and recent incidents have shown the extreme dangers of competing national oceanic interests; and

WHEREAS, the Law of the Sea Treaty is an international United Nations treaty, drafted by 151 nations, affirming that the resources of the sea belong to all people and embodying negotiated arrangements for sharing and controlling these resources; and

WHEREAS, after United States bipartisan support and leadership under four successive Presidential administrations, the United States cast one of only four negative votes on April 30, 1982, against the Law of the Sea Treaty; and

WHEREAS, continued United States political and financial support and technological participation are vital to the Treaty's stature, to effective implementation of its provisions, and to its success; and

WHEREAS, the present negative position of the United States can and should be reversed before final treaty signing in December, 1982;

BE IT RESOLVED: That the 1982 General Assembly of the Unitarian Universalist Association:

- 1.) Affirms that the Law of the Sea Treaty is unparalleled as a practical opportunity for the world to move toward becoming truly a world community;
- 2.) Urges the Unitarian Universalist United Nations Office to continue to encourage creation of a comprehensive oceanic policy for the United States and Canada based on the Law of the Sea, and to work for signature of the Treaty by the United States;
- 3.) Urges the Association's Office of Social Responsibility and the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee to develop education and action programs and materials for understanding every aspect of the global sea's influence on humankind's physical and social environment and for understanding the Law of the Sea Treaty;
- 4.) Urges Association societies, fellowships, and individuals to formulate immediate action plans and to work closely with other groups for support of the Law of the Sea Treaty;
- 5.) Urges the Board of Trustees, officers, and staff of the Association to provide leadership and assistance to the denomination in these efforts.

#### CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE REPORT

The final report of the Credentials Committee was as follows:

Accredited and attending the 21st General Assembly of the Unitarian Universalist Association were 987 lay delegates, 316 ministerial delegates, 9 delegate directors of religious education, no life members, 6 associate members' delegates, 23 members of the Board of Trustees (not included as registered delegates from congregations) and 12 Church of the Larger Fellowship delegates for a total of 1353 delegates representing 447 churches and fellowships, 46 states and the District of Columbia, and 6 Canadian provinces.

#### OTHER BUSINESS

The following votes were passed unanimously:

- VOTED: That the delegates of the 1982 General Assembly of the Unitarian Universalist Association express formally their gratitude to the Administration and student staff of Bowdoin College for their cheerful, courteous, and efficient service to the General Assembly.
- VOTED: That the delegates of the 1982 General Assembly of the Unitarian Universalist Association express their appreciation to the Moderator, Sandra Mitchell Caron, for her outstanding conduct of the Assembly.

The Assembly then voted to adjourn *sine die*.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/William F. Schulz,  
Recording Secretary