

M I N U T E S

TWENTY-FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST ASSOCIATION HELD IN ROCHESTER, NEW YORK

The General Assembly was convened on Tuesday, June 24, 1986, at 9:00 a.m. by Moderator Natalie Gulbrandsen in the University of Rochester Field House.

The Assembly adopted by a two-thirds vote Rules of Procedure for the conduct of the meeting, including an amendment to Rule 4 (below) and new Rule 11 that sets forth the procedure for filing Resolutions of Immediate Witness and the process for determining on the Assembly floor which resolutions are to be submitted for final approval.

RULE 4. PRESENTATION OF ITEMS. As each item of the Final Agenda is reached, the Planning Committee or the Commission on General Resolutions, as determined by the Moderator, shall report the recommendations of the small group discussion sessions and then shall at its discretion move the item as printed on the Agenda or move an amended item as recommended by one or more of the discussion sessions, the provisions of Rule 5 below notwithstanding. (Underlining equals addition.)

RULE 11. RESOLUTIONS OF IMMEDIATE WITNESS.

- a. The resolution must be in writing and contain the requisite delegate support specified in Bylaw Section 4.16(d) and must be filed with the Chair of the Commission on General Resolutions or in the Assembly Office by no later than 5:00 p.m. Wednesday, June 25, 1986.
- b. Each sponsor of a Resolution of Immediate Witness determined by the Commission on General Resolutions to be eligible to be considered for possible admission to the agenda pursuant to Bylaw Section 4.16(d) shall have not more than two minutes to speak in support of obtaining a preliminary vote supporting the admission of the resolution to the agenda.
- c. The sponsor shall move preliminary admission at the plenary session scheduled for the morning after the submission deadline and when called upon to do so by the Moderator.
- d. The motion to admit on a preliminary basis is not debatable and requires a two-thirds vote of support.
- e. If more than two resolutions receive a two-thirds vote supporting admission on a preliminary basis, a written ballot with the name of each such resolution listed thereon shall be prepared by the Planning Committee and distributed at the session that next precedes the last session of the Assembly to determine which two resolutions shall be admitted to the agenda for final action.
- f. If fewer than three resolutions receive a two-thirds vote supporting admission on a preliminary basis, each resolution that receives two thirds support shall be deemed admitted to the agenda for final action.

- g. Adoption of a Resolution of Immediate Witness shall not occur until the final plenary session of the Assembly and must be by two-thirds vote, as specified in Bylaw Section 4.16(e).

Greetings were received in person from Dennis O'Brien, President of the University of Rochester; Roger Yepsen, President of the Saint Lawrence District; Dr. Roy Smith, President of the International Association for Religious Freedom (IARF) and General Secretary of the General Assembly of Unitarian and Free Christian Churches.

Written greetings were received from Arie R. Brouwer, General Secretary of the National Council of Churches; the Most Reverend Edmond L. Browning, Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church; the Most Reverend James W. Malone, President of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops; and the Reverend Avery D. Post, President of the United Church of Christ.

President William F. Schulz introduced Wendy Lewin of Paradise Valley, Arizona, activist in the sanctuary movement.

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

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 the Treasurer. Oral reports (as well as written, in some cases) were received from the President, the Moderator, the Financial Advisor, the Chair of the Planning Committee, the Chair of the Nominating Committee, the Chair of the Commission on Appraisal, the Chair of the Commission on General Resolutions, the Director of the Unitarian Universalist Peace Network, the President of the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee, the President of the Unitarian Universalist Women's Federation, the Co-Executive Directors of the Unitarian Universalist United Nations Office, representatives of the Dana MacLean Greeley Foundation for Peace and Justice, the Chair of the Finance Committee, the President of European Unitarian Universalists, and the Chair of the Whitney M. Young, Jr. Memorial Fund.

The President presented the Annual Award for Distinguished Service to Unitarian Universalism to the Reverend Kenneth L. Patton.

ACTION ON BYLAW AMENDMENTS

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

By a two-thirds or more vote the Assembly voted to reduce the size of the Nominating Committee to nine by amending ByLaw Section 5.6 to read as follows:

Section 5.6 Nominating Committee

The Nominating Committee shall consist of eleven elected members until the close of the 1987 regular General Assembly and nine elected members thereafter. A member shall not during the term of office hold any other elective or salaried position in the Association, and shall not be eligible for re-election to the Nominating Committee until after an interim of four

years. The Nominating Committee shall submit nominations for certain elective positions of the Association, as provided in Article IX.

MINISTER EMERITA CATEGORY

By a two-thirds or more vote the Assembly voted to establish the category of "Minister Emerita" by amending ByLaw Section 4.8(b) to read as follows:

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

Each certified member society is also entitled to be represented at each General Assembly by the ordained minister or ministers in full or associate ministerial fellowship with the Association settled in such society, and by any minister emeritus or minister emerita 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.

PERFECTING AMENDMENT

By a two-thirds or more vote the Assembly voted to perfect Section 4.8(c) by amending it as follows:

Section 4.8(c) Associate Member Delegates

Each certified associate member organization is entitled to be represented at each General Assembly by two delegates who are members of a certified member society.

ACTION ON BUSINESS RESOLUTIONS

A proposed Business Resolution on distribution of resources to districts was defeated.

ACTION ON RESOLUTIONS OF IMMEDIATE WITNESS

The following Resolutions of Immediate Witness were passed by votes of two-thirds or more:

MAINTAINING THE SALT II AND ABM TREATIES

WHEREAS, the 1986 General Assembly of the Unitarian Universalist Association is:

1. SHOCKED by President Reagan's announcement on May 27, 1986 that the United States would no longer be bound by the provisions of the second Strategic Arms Limitation Treaty (SALT II);
2. FEARFUL that the opponents of the 1972 Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty within the Reagan Administration will succeed in their efforts to abandon that treaty in order to pursue the Strategic Defense Initiative (Star Wars) program;

3. AWARE that existing agreements have provided a valuable framework and meaningful limitations on some of the most threatening nuclear weapons systems and that in their absence the nuclear arms race would rapidly escalate;
4. GRATEFUL to preceding General Assemblies that in accordance with our religious principles have;
 - a. supported the goal of total universal disarmament under controls ('61);
 - b. endorsed the ratification of the SALT II treaty ('79);
 - c. opposed development of Anti-Ballistic defense systems ('69);
 - d. called for a Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty ('61 ff.);
 - e. urged independent initiatives that would renounce the "first use" of nuclear weapons and supported a moratorium on all nuclear testing ('77);
 - f. called for a bilateral nuclear weapons freeze ('81 ff.);
 - g. encouraged a ban on deployment, development and research of anti-satellite weapons ('84);
 - h. supported a prohibition on putting weapons in space ('84);

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: That the 1986 General Assembly:

1. Urges the President of the United States to continue to comply with the 1979 Strategic Arms Limitation Treaty and the 1972 Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty;
2. Calls upon Unitarian Universalists in the United States to immediately share this resolution with their Senators and Congresspersons and to ask for their support of binding legislation that would prohibit the United States from exceeding the limits of the 1979 SALT II agreement or the provisions of the 1972 ABM Treaty;
3. Calls upon Unitarian Universalists in Canada to contact their Members of Parliament and the Prime Minister of Canada to ask that the government of the United States to assure compliance with the SALT II Treaty and the ABM Treaty;
4. Encourages societies and/or individual members to support and participate in the peace and nuclear disarmament programs and actions of the Unitarian Universalist Peace Network and its sponsoring organizations.

OPPOSING A.I.D.S. DISCRIMINATION - 1986

BECAUSE, the member congregations of the Unitarian Universalist Association covenant to affirm the inherent worth and dignity of every person, and to promote justice, equity and compassion in human relations; and

BECAUSE, we are members of the interdependent web of existence and therefore responsible for one another and for the society in which we live; and

WHEREAS, on Friday, June 20, 1986, the US Department of Justice, Office of Legal Counsel, concluded that an employer's fear of the spread of A.I.D.S., whether reasonable or not, constitutes grounds for dismissal; and

WHEREAS, this opinion is clearly contrary to the spirit of Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the September 1985 ruling of the US Court of Appeals for the 11th Circuit; and

WHEREAS, the Center for Disease Control and other experts and researchers working with A.I.D.S. have repeatedly and emphatically stated that the HTLV-III/LAV/HIV virus cannot be transmitted by casual contact; and

WHEREAS, there have been no documented cases of A.I.D.S. transmitted to co-workers, health care workers, family or friends in routine contact with persons with A.I.D.S. or persons tested positive for the HTLV-III/LAV/HIV antibodies; and

WHEREAS, the Justice Department opinion is a gross violation of civil rights and could apply to as many as two million Americans who currently would test positive for the HTLV-III/LAV/HIV/ antibodies;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: That the 1986 General Assembly of the Unitarian Universalist Association opposes discrimination based on A.I.D.S., the fear of A.I.D.S., or the presence of the HTLV-III/LAV/HIV antibodies; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That a copy of this resolution be sent immediately to the President of the United States, the US Attorney General, and all members of Congress; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That UUA Canadian societies study the parallels in Canada, and take action in a manner consonant with the intent of this resolution; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That the UUA, its member societies and affiliate organizations be urged to promote programs which provide education about the cause of A.I.D.S., how A.I.D.S. is transmitted, the real risks of casual contact and which generally increase community awareness about A.I.D.S.; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED: That the UUA, its member societies and affiliate organizations be urged to support such action as will ensure the civil rights of persons with A.I.D.S. and those who test positive to the HTLV-III/LAV/HIV antibodies.

DRAFT GENERAL RESOLUTIONS REFERRED FOR STUDY

The Assembly approved by two-thirds or more vote that three draft General Resolutions (as amended) be referred to member societies and districts for review and study.

The member societies and districts may submit comments about proposed amendments to the draft resolutions to the Commission on General Resolutions by no later than February 1, 1986. Final action on each of the resolutions is scheduled for the 1987 General Assembly.

The text of each of the three draft General Resolutions approved for study is set forth in Attachments A-1, A-2, and A-3.

ACTION ON REPORTS OF OFFICERS AND OTHERS

A motion to amend the 1986-1987 budget to increase funding for the Nominating Committee was defeated.

The following motion was approved by majority vote.

FUNDING FOR THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE

WHEREAS, the General Assembly is the only official continent-wide gathering of Unitarian Universalists; and

WHEREAS, the Nominating Committee is an elected continental committee charged with finding persons with qualities needed for committee and leadership positions on a continental level for our Association; and

WHEREAS, talking and meeting people face to face in an important element of a multi-faceted selection process;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: That the 1986 General Assembly of the Unitarian Universalist Association urges Finance Committee in collaboration with our Board of Trustees to include in the Nominating Committee budget enough funding annually to insure that all members of the Nominating Committee will have their costs covered to attend General Assemblies for the purpose of doing the job we have entrusted to them; and, in the event that it is not possible for the Finance Committee to change the 1986-1987 Nominating Committee budget to make the above possible for the 1987 General Assembly, we the delegates agree to absorb the difference through our General Assembly 1987 registration fees to make it possible for all members of the Nominating Committee to attend the 1987 General Assembly to do their work for us.

COLLATERAL AND PERFECTING AMENDMENTS

There were no further collateral or perfecting amendments.

CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE REPORT

The final report of the Credentials Committee was as follows:

Accredited and attending the 25th General Assembly of the Unitarian Universalist Association were 1,016 lay delegates, 298 ministerial delegates, 4 delegate directors of religious education, 6 associate members' delegates, 26 members of the Board of Trustees (not included as registered delegates from congregations), and 14 Church of the Larger Fellowship delegates for a total of 1,364 delegates representing 493 congregations, 47 states and the District of Columbia, 8 Canadian provinces, and Belgium.

OTHER BUSINESS

The Assembly voted, by unanimous consent, votes of appreciation to the Moderator and to the General Assembly Local Committee.

The Assembly then voted to adjourn sine die.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Kathleen C. Montgomery
Recording Secretary

APPROVED:

Chair, Executive Committee
UUA Board of Trustees

ATTACHMENT A-1

DRAFT RESOLUTION: RIGHT TO CHOOSE

BECAUSE, we believe that the inherent worth and dignity of every person, the right of individual conscience, and respect for human life are inalienable rights due every person; and

BECAUSE, we believe in the acceptance of one another and the encouragement to spiritual growth; and

WHEREAS, the General Assembly has in 1963, 1968, 1973, 1975, 1977, 1978, 1980, and 1985, affirmed the right of all women to act as moral subjects in their own reproductive lives; and

WHEREAS, the legal right of women to choose abortion and contraception is under attack in legislatures, courts and the streets, violence against family planning and abortion clinic clients, staff and facilities continues, and verbal abuse is rising on both sides; and

WHEREAS, the issue of abortion is morally complex, with people of strong moral and political conviction on all sides who share some basic values and want fewer abortions and healthy, wanted children; and

WHEREAS, the current polarized environment is not conducive to open discussion and we as a religious body are in a position to explore moral arguments, encourage public discussion and promote consensus on shared concerns;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: That the 1986 General Assembly of the Unitarian Universalist Association reaffirms its historic position; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That individual UU's educate themselves, their congregations and the public about the new moral understandings emergent in the works of feminist theologians and social ethicists; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED: That individual UU's congregations and the UUA open discussion with those of different mind and seek opportunities for consensus from our shared values.

(The 1986 General Assembly of the Unitarian Universalist Association approved this draft resolution for study purposes only; it therefore may not be quoted or cited as reflecting the position of the UUA on this subject, as there is no guarantee that final approval will be given the resolution in its present form.)

ATTACHMENT A-2

DRAFT RESOLUTION: ENDING HUNGER

BECAUSE, we believe in the goal of a world community with peace, liberty and justice for all, and because we respect the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part, and because we recognize the inherent worth and dignity of every person; and

WHEREAS, millions of people throughout the world go hungry and even starve to death in an age of unparalleled technological achievement; and

WHEREAS, adequate resources now exist to supply the nutritional requirements of all humanity; and

WHEREAS, making these resources available to all people has not been achieved, and can be attained only by a mobilized world-wide effort; and

WHEREAS, we must begin to think in terms of feeding all people as our first priority, and of adjusting our economic system so as to make possible the maximum use of our total food production;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: That the General Assembly of the Unitarian Universalist Association acknowledges the ending of world hunger as an achievable goal; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That Unitarian Universalists work with other organizations on local, state, provincial, national, and international levels toward the establishment of specific programs to redistribute resources equitably; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED: That Unitarian Universalists lobby for financial support from government and private sectors, and encourage the involvement of business and industry in implementing such programs.

(The 1986 General Assembly of the Unitarian Universalist Association approved this draft resolution for study purposes only; it therefore may not be quoted or cited as reflecting the position of the UUA on this subject, as there is no guarantee that final approval will be given the resolution in its present form.)

ATTACHMENT A-3

DRAFT RESOLUTION: COMPARABLE WORTH/PAY EQUITY

BECAUSE, Unitarian Universalists affirm and promote the inherent worth and dignity of every person, as well as justice, equity and compassion in human relations; and

WHEREAS, the wage gap between men and women is one of the oldest and most persistent symptoms of sexual inequality in the United States and Canada; and

WHEREAS, the concept of comparable worth attacks the problem of sex-based wage discrimination by mandating that jobs characterized by similar levels of education, skill, effort, responsibilities and working conditions be compensated at similar wage levels regardless of the sex of the worker holding the job; and

WHEREAS, the goal of pay equity is the raise the wages for undervalued jobs held predominantly by women; and

WHEREAS, female-dominated jobs pay 20-30% less than male-dominated jobs classified as comparable in worth, and more than one-half of all women work in jobs that are over 70% female, 25% in jobs that are more than 90% female; and

WHEREAS, much remains to be done toward implementing pay equity in both the United States and Canada;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: That the General Assembly of the Unitarian Universalist Association urges all Unitarian Universalists to inform themselves and educate others about sex-based wage discrimination, and calls upon the UUA and all its affiliates, districts and member societies to seek the elimination of sex-based wage discrimination in their organizations; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That the General Assembly urges that legislators on all levels enact legislation to eliminate sex-based wage discrimination by implementing a policy of pay equity, and that the Association cooperate with organizations actively engaged in this issue.

(The 1986 General Assembly of the Unitarian Universalist Association approved this draft resolution for study purposes only; it therefore may not be quoted or cited as reflecting the position of the UUA on this subject, as there is no guarantee that final approval will be given the resolution in its present form.)