

MINUTES

TWENTY-SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST ASSOCIATION HELD IN PALM SPRINGS, CALIFORNIA

The General Assembly was convened on Friday, June 17, 1988, at 8:30 a.m. by Moderator Natalie Gulbrandsen in the Palm Springs Convention Center, Palm Springs, California.

The Assembly adopted, by a two-thirds vote, Rules of Procedure for the conduct of the meeting, including an amendment to Rule 11 which involved the manner in which the Assembly decides which two Resolutions of Immediate Witness are eligible to be considered.

Greetings were received in person from Phyllis Daniel, President of the Southwest District; Dr. Roy Smith, General Secretary of the General Assembly of the Unitarian and Free Churches; Sonny Bono, Mayor of the City of Palm Springs; and Diether Gehrman, General Secretary of the International Association for Religious Freedom.

The Moderator read a 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 oral reports (as well as written, in some cases) from the President, the Moderator, the Treasurer, 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 Co-Executive Directors of the Unitarian Universalist United Nations Office, the Chair of the Finance Committee, the Chair of the Whitney M. Young, Jr. Memorial Fund, the President of the Unitarian Universalist Women's Federation, and the Director of the Unitarian Universalist Peace Network.

The President presented the Annual Award for Distinguished Service to the Cause of Unitarian Universalism to Dr. C. Conrad Wright. A memorial service was held commemorating the lives of the Reverend Shinichiro Imaoka of Japan and the Reverend Toribio Quimada of the Philippines.

ACTION ON BY-LAW AMENDMENTS

A proposed amendment to permit a person who is not a member of a Unitarian Universalist congregation to fill the position of either Treasurer or Assistant Treasurer was defeated.

CHANGING DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF FEEDBACK ON SECOND YEAR GENERAL RESOLUTIONS

By a two-thirds or more vote, the Assembly voted to change the deadline for submitting feedback on second year General Resolutions by amending Section 4.12 (d) to read as follows:

Section 4.12 (d) General Resolutions

Member societies and the Districts shall submit by not later than the following March 1 comments about or amendments to the resolutions to the Commission on General Resolutions.

CHANGING REQUIREMENTS FOR ADOPTION OF SECOND YEAR GENERAL RESOLUTIONS

By a two-thirds or more vote, the Assembly voted to change requirements for adoption of second year General Resolutions by amending Section 4.12 (f) to read as follows:

Section 4.12 (f) General Resolution

All motions to amend a resolution on the Final Agenda after study (including those proposed by the Commission) shall require a two-thirds vote for adoption. Adoption of each resolution shall be by two-thirds vote.

ENSURING QUORUM AT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

By a two-thirds or more vote, the Assembly voted to ensure a quorum at Executive Committee meetings by amending 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 position on the committee occupied by the First Vice Moderator shall be filled by the Second Vice Moderator at any meeting of the committee from which the First Vice Moderator is absent or at which the First Vice Moderator is presiding in the absence of the Moderator. The position on the Committee occupied by the Secretary shall be filled by the Assistant Secretary at any meeting of the Committee from which the Secretary is absent. 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.

CLARIFICATION OF THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE BOARD OF REVIEW

By a two-thirds or more vote, the Assembly voted to clarify that the President is not a member of the Board of Review by amending Section 8.9 as follows:

Section 8.9 President

The President shall be the chief executive officer of the Association and shall be a member, ex-officio, without vote, of all standing committees of the Association, except the Nominating Committee and the Ministerial Fellowship Board of Review, and of all standing committees of the Board except the Ministerial Fellowship Committee.

ACTION ON C-BYLAW AMENDMENTS

APPLICATIONS FROM INDIGENOUS SOCIETIES WORLDWIDE

By a two-thirds vote or more, the Assembly voted final approval to amend Bylaw Section C-3.1 Member Societies by approving the deletion of the words "which are located primarily in the United States or Canada and." The change provides the

opportunity for more intentional membership consideration of societies not located in North America. Section C-3.1 now reads as follows:

Section C-3.1 Member Societies

The Unitarian Universalist Association is a voluntary association of autonomous, self-governing local churches and fellowships, referred to herein as member societies, which have freely chosen to pursue common goals together.

ASSOCIATE MEMBER QUALIFICATIONS

The Assembly voted a substantive amendment to Bylaw Section C-3.7 by deleting the proposed requirement that the membership of an Associate member organization must consist of individuals rather than organizations. In accordance with the terms of Bylaw Section C-14.1, the result of this action is to place this bylaw amendment proposal on the Final Agenda of the 1989 General Assembly for final adoption. The text of the amended version is as follows:

Section C-3.7 Associate Member Organizations

The Board of Trustees may admit to associate membership in the Association any major organization whose membership or constituency is located throughout the Association and 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.

The Board of Trustees may adopt rules governing the requirements for admission to and retention of associate membership. An associate member organization shall be recognized as certified during the fiscal year in which it becomes a member, and during each subsequent fiscal year. The Association shall neither exercise control over nor assume responsibility for the programs, activities or finances of any associate member.

ACTION ON BUSINESS RESOLUTIONS

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

SUPPORT FOR UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST MINISTRY

WHEREAS the increased vitality of the Unitarian Universalist movement in the years and generations to come will require a continuing cadre of educated and competent ministers; and

WHEREAS the increasing costs of ministerial education have forced many seminarians to incur substantial indebtedness in order to complete their ministerial training; and

WHEREAS this indebtedness makes it difficult for smaller congregations to call theological school graduates to accept calls from congregations with limited financial resources; and

WHEREAS the numbers of students preparing for our ministry has doubled in the past fifteen years and has thereby placed increased demands on scholarship funds; and

WHEREAS our commitment to the future of the Unitarian Universalist movement needs to be manifested in our generosity of giving as well as our generosity of spirit;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the 1988 General Assembly of the Unitarian Universalist Association urges the Board of Trustees of the Unitarian Universalist Association to:

- A. Establish a Living Tradition Fund for the support of our ministry, including provision of scholarship aid and reduction of education indebtedness of recently graduated students;
- B. Encourage each member society to contribute on an annual basis to the Living Tradition Fund;
- C. Request that Ordination and Installation Services held in member societies include an offering to be devoted to the Living Tradition Fund;
- D. Request Unitarian Universalist ministers to encourage such offerings in Ordination and Installation Services in which they are invited to participate;
- E. Institute an offering at the Service of Living Tradition to include the Living Tradition Fund; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees of the Unitarian Universalist Association be encouraged to provide for the inclusion of a significant component for theological education purposes in the next Unitarian Universalist Association Capital Fund Campaign; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that this resolution will take place effective June 17, 1988.

ACTION ON SECOND-YEAR GENERAL RESOLUTIONS

The following General Resolutions were passed by a vote of two-thirds or more:

AGAINST CENSORSHIP IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Because Unitarian Universalists have historically affirmed the value of public education in a pluralistic society; and

Because we believe that free inquiry strengthens minds in the individual search for knowledge; and

WHEREAS, recent history shows a continuing series of attacks on access to information and ideas in the classroom as well as attempts to promote sectarian ideology in public education at national, state, provincial, and school-district levels; and

WHEREAS, strategies are being pursued to eliminate from public school curricula and material considered by some parents to be offensive to their own religious beliefs; and

WHEREAS, a broad-based, multicultural public school system requires that teaching instruments, including textbooks, film, video, speakers, and student publications exhibit a varied and open exposition of historical, scientific, and cultural fact;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Unitarian Universalist Association, mindful of the roles played by religious movements throughout our history, encourages its members societies to affirm that educational excellence rather than the promotion of sectarian ideology is the proper business of public education and calls upon congregations and individual members:

- A. To educate themselves and the public on censorship and sectarian interference in education;
- B. To organize groups to monitor religious intrusions affecting public schools, especially curricula and educational materials;
- C. To encourage teachers, parents, students, librarians, and other school officials and community residents to remain vigilant in the face of censorship challenges;
- D. To advocate laws, regulations, and policies in educational, legislative, and judicial arenas ensuring freedom from sectarian based censorship of curriculum and extra-curricular activities, which include student publications;
- E. To oppose vigorously efforts to make public education conform to any group's sectarian beliefs; and
- F. To support the development of curricula designed to teach the historic and cultural influence of religious movements and religious motivation while excluding the teaching of specific sectarian doctrine.

HOUSING FOR THE HOMELESS

Recognizing the inherent worth and dignity of every human being, we as Unitarian Universalists hold that access to affordable, habitable housing is a fundamental right in a just society.

WHEREAS hundreds of thousands of people are homeless and living in the streets; and

WHEREAS current U.S. governmental policies restrict and eliminate funding that has assisted local governments and communities in developing low-cost housing; and

WHEREAS public and private policies, such as withdrawal of funds for maintenance, upscaling of low-rent dwellings, and exclusionary zoning, are causing deterioration of affordable housing, and

WHEREAS making needed shelter available can best be achieved by combined efforts between government and the private sector; and

WHEREAS solutions for long-term homelessness must alleviate the growing scarcity of housing for the impoverished;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Unitarian Universalist Association affirms access to affordable, habitable housing as a just and achievable goal and calls upon its member societies:

- A. To work to establish, strengthen, and fund programs to assist low-income individuals, families, and the homeless on local, state, provincial, and national levels;
- B. To identify and support cooperative community efforts that offer creative approaches in developing housing for the impoverished in economically integrated settings;
- C. To encourage the provision of appropriate community-based housing for disabled and chronically mentally ill persons;

- D. To work to provide not only long-term housing but also transitional housing with social services for families and individuals, as well as emergency short-term shelter that will assure safety, privacy, and dignity for persons in need;
- E. To explore and support preventive approaches to the problems of homelessness among families, the de-institutionalized, the unemployed, the disabled, the elderly, runaways, and victims of abuse; and
- F. To advocate legislation and funding at national, provincial, state, and local levels which will alleviate the immediate misery of homelessness and stem the tide of homelessness by addressing the permanent housing needs of low-income individuals and families.

THE RIGHT TO DIE WITH DIGNITY

Guided by our belief as Unitarian Universalists that human life has inherent dignity, which may be compromised when life is extended beyond the will or ability of a person to sustain that dignity; and believing that it is every person's inviolable right to determine in advance the course of action to be taken in the event that there is no reasonable expectation of recovery from extreme physical or mental disability; and

WHEREAS medical knowledge and technology make possible the mechanical prolongation of life; and

WHEREAS such prolongation may cause unnecessary suffering and/or loss of dignity while providing little or nothing of benefit to the individual; and

WHEREAS such procedures have an impact upon a health-care system in which services are limited and are inequitably distributed; and

WHEREAS differences exist among people over religious, moral, and legal implications of administering aid in dying when an individual of sound mind has voluntarily asked for such aid; and

WHEREAS obstacles exist within our society against providing support for an individual's declared wish to die; and

WHEREAS many counselors, clergy, and health-care personnel value prolongation of life regardless of the quality of life or will to live;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Unitarian Universalist Association calls upon its congregations and individual Unitarian Universalists to examine attitudes and practices in our society relative to the ending of life, as well as those in other countries and cultures; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Unitarian Universalists reaffirm their support for the Living Will, as declared in a 1978 resolution of the General Assembly, declare support for the Durable Power of Attorney for Health Care, and seek assurance that both instruments will be honored; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Unitarian Universalists advocate the right to self-determination in dying, and the release from civil or criminal penalties of those who, under proper safeguards, act to honor the right of terminally ill patients to select the time of their own deaths; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Unitarian Universalists advocate safeguards against abuses by those who would hasten death contrary to an individual's desires; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that Unitarian Universalists, acting through their congregations, memorial societies, and appropriate organizations, inform and petition legislators to support legislation that will create legal protection for the right to die with dignity, in accordance with one's own choice.

ACTION ON RESOLUTIONS OF IMMEDIATE WITNESS

A Resolution of Immediate Witness entitled "Non-Violent Paths to Peace in the Middle East" was defeated.

The following Resolutions of Immediate Witness was passed by a vote of two-thirds or more:

SUPPORT VETERANS' PEACE CONVOY AND JUSTICE FOR THE PEOPLE OF NICARAGUA

Because Unitarian Universalists are guided by a vision of world community with peace and justice for all and are especially concerned with the survival and welfare of children worldwide;

WHEREAS the United States embargo on Nicaragua has resulted in shortages of food, medical supplies, and clothing, and threatened the well-being of the children of Nicaragua; and

WHEREAS a Veterans' Peace Convoy of 41 vehicles bearing thousands of dollars worth of food, medical supplies, and clothing for delivery to the children of Nicaragua was refused permission by the United States government to depart from the United States in June 1988, citing the existing embargo as a reason; and

WHEREAS the breakdown of peace talks between the Nicaraguan government and the armed rebels known as "Contras" has led to renewed demands to Congress to renew military aid that will prolong the war and bring further suffering to the people of Nicaragua; and

WHEREAS the President of the United States is being asked by some to pardon defendants who have been charged with illegally supplying arms to the "Contras" in violation of United States laws, and to the harm of citizens of Nicaragua;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the 1988 General Assembly of the Unitarian Universalist Association expresses its support for:

- A. The mission of the Veterans' Peace Convoy;
- B. Using negotiation to end the war; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the 1988 General Assembly of the Unitarian Universalist Association expresses its opposition to:

- A. Any further military aid to the "Contras;"
- B. Any presidential pardon to defendants on trial in the Iran/Contra affair; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the 1988 General Assembly of the Unitarian Universalist Association call upon its United States congregations and individual members to:

- A. Petition the President of the United States and the Treasury Department to allow the veterans to proceed with their convoy to Nicaragua;
- B. Petition their legislators to support legislation lifting the embargo against Nicaragua;
- C. Petition their legislators to reject any further military appropriations for the "Contras" and actively seek a negotiated settlement to the conflict in Nicaragua; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the 1988 General Assembly of the Unitarian Universalist Association requests that President Schulz and his administration communicate this resolution to Unitarian Universalist congregations, the media, President Reagan and members of Congress.

DRAFT GENERAL RESOLUTIONS REFERRED FOR STUDY

The Assembly approved by two-thirds or more vote three draft General Resolutions (as amended) to 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 March 1, 1989. Final action on each of the resolutions is scheduled for the 1989 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

The following motions were approved by majority vote:

CONCERN FOR THE MINORITY PEOPLES OF ROMANIA

WHEREAS, the 1988 General Assembly of the Unitarian Universalist Association has received public and private reports in increasing volume of serious discrimination against ethnic minorities in Romania, including members of Lutheran, Reformed, Roman Catholic, and Unitarian churches and other religious communities; and

WHEREAS, the process of relocating the inhabitants of villages in such a way as to destroy invaluable historic churches, homes, and public buildings violates basic human rights and is a violation of the Helsinki Accords; and

WHEREAS, the relocation is also an abrogation of the Paris Peace Treaty of February 10, 1947 which, among other things, guaranteed an autonomous Hungarian region; and

WHEREAS, neither the U.S. nor the U.S.S.R. should look with equanimity upon the violation of this peace treaty, to which they are signatories and particularly since this discrimination includes education and employment opportunities, religious freedom, the right to travel, and the destruction of cultural documents and artifacts; and

WHEREAS, this discrimination has been a continuing problem; but the proposed eradication of historic villages makes the problem a critical one; and

WHEREAS, the 1988 General Assembly of the Unitarian Universalist Association is particularly sensitive to this violation of human rights because of its keen awareness of

the most serious disruption in the traditional patterns of life suffered by native peoples of North America;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the 1988 General Assembly of the Unitarian Universalist Association expresses its concern for the minority peoples of Romania and particularly at this time for the relocation of village populations.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the 1988 General Assembly of the Unitarian Universalist Association urges the President of the UUA to consult with other religious leaders on common action to help prevent these wrongs, and recommends that:

- A. the Washington Office of the Department for Social Justice be utilized to request prompt U.S. governmental attention,
- B. the UU-United Nations Office be requested to bring these violations to the urgent attention of the U.N. Human Rights Commission and U.N.E.S.C.O. and to the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees, with the object that the affected minority peoples be accorded official refugee status,
- C. the Canadian Unitarian Council be requested to bring this matter to the attention of the Canadian government and to work with other groups and churches in Canada with regard to it,
- D. assistance be sought from the principal signatories of the Paris Peace Treaty, the U.S. and the U.S.S.R., and
- E. the President take such other action that he may regard as effective.

EXPRESSION OF CONCERN FOR CHURCH STAFF HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE

WHEREAS, recognizing the possibility that our religious professionals and other participants face the loss of health insurance as provided through the UUA; and

WHEREAS, recognizing that the UUA Board of Trustees, Administration, Council on Church Staff Finances, and the UUMA have previously and consistently encouraged these religious professionals and other participants to continue within the existing program; and

WHEREAS, recognizing that upon loss of their insurance through the cessation of the existing program, certain participants will not be able to obtain health insurance;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the 1988 General Assembly of the Unitarian Universalist Association affirms the Association's moral commitment to those currently in the UUA Health Plan; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the 1988 General Assembly of the Unitarian Universalist Association urges the UUA Board of Trustees, the UUMA, and local congregations to place highest priority upon making certain that no one currently in the plan be without access to adequate health insurance.

FUNDING FOR THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE

BE IT RESOLVED that the UUA Board of Trustees be urged to provide the necessary funds to allow all members of the Nominating Committee to attend the 1989 and all future General Assemblies; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that when sufficient funds are not available in the UUA budget, such additional funds as are necessary shall be obtained from General Assembly registration fees.

CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE REPORT

The final report of the Credentials Committee was as follows:

Accredited and attending the 27th General Assembly of the Unitarian Universalist Association were 812 lay delegates, 302 ministerial delegates, 10 ministers emeriti, 1 director of religious education (ministerial delegates include ministers of religious education), 3 associate member delegates, 27 members of the Board of Trustees (not included as registered delegates from congregations), for a total of 1155 delegates representing 478 congregations, 47 states and the District of Columbia, and 7 Canadian provinces. Total registration for the Assembly was 2,262.

OTHER BUSINESS

The Assembly voted, by unanimous consent, to express its appreciation to the General Assembly Planning Committee, the Local Committee, the General Assembly Administrator, and to the Moderator. A closing worship service was held.

The Assembly then voted to adjourn sine die.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/Kathleen C. Montgomery
Recording Secretary

ATTACHMENT A-1

DRAFT RESOLUTION: AIDS CRISIS

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

Because we reject the ancient fear and loathing of the human body and sexuality inherent in Calvinist and Augustinian teachings; and

Because the General Assembly has declared its resolve that health care be made accessible to all, and that the civil rights of persons with AIDS and those who are perceived to be at risk for AIDS be safeguarded;

WHEREAS Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome presents a pandemic of global proportions that threatens the lives of millions of persons irrespective of sex, age, or sexual orientation, and

WHEREAS governments, religious institutions, and other instrumentalities of contemporary society have not spoken or acted with adequate moral or intellectual clarity in this crisis;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Unitarian Universalist Association:

Rejects superstitious or punitive notions of this or any other disease as a divine punishment or natural retribution for "moral failure" and calls for an intensified search for medical causes of the disease; and

Calls upon individual Unitarian Universalists, its member societies and affiliated organizations and on the religious community at large to work with compassion, energy, and imagination to care for the suffering, support those who give care, and engage the human issues occasioned by this crisis; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Unitarian Universalist Association opposes such infringements upon the dignity and rights of citizens as:

Mandatory HIV testing, which diverts resources from substantive responses to AIDS while posing a serious threat to the confidentiality, rights, and livelihood of those whose tests may indicate exposure to the virus, and produces useless and often misleading or inaccurate information; and

Discrimination against AIDS patients, against their domestic partners, and against their families and associates, and discrimination against those who are thought to be infected or at risk; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Unitarian Universalist Association calls upon the governments of the United States and Canada and their component jurisdictions to:

Initiate immediately a program of forthright education of the general population about transmission of AIDS, including explicit information about sexual practices that pose high risk of infection, and methods for reducing risk;

Acknowledge the severity of intravenous (I.V.) drug abuse and, while increasing efforts to halt it, honor the humanity of I.V. drug users and redirect public policy in ways that reduce the threat of AIDS infection among this population, including assessment of the wisdom of distributing clean needles; and

Expedite medical research and testing of new drugs, and make the full range of health care available to everyone regardless of economic status or means; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the Unitarian Universalist Association urges the medical and religious communities to address ethical issues heightened by this crisis, including personal autonomy, the right to death with dignity, and the roles of the patient, family, partners, and medical personnel.

ATTACHMENT A-2

DRAFT RESOLUTION: ECONOMIC CONVERSION FOR PEACE AND HUMAN NEEDS

Because Unitarian Universalists are committed to promoting world peace and affirming the worth and dignity of all people; and

Because we support programs to meet human needs for food, shelter, health care, a sustainable environment, and satisfying jobs in a stable world economy; and

Because successive General Assembly resolutions have spoken to issues relating to economic conversion, the orderly redirection of resources now employed in all aspects of weapons manufacture to the rebuilding of civilian industries; and

WHEREAS while an adequate national defense force is necessary, human experience has shown that ultimate national security is based on a just economy, not military strength; and

WHEREAS excessive military spending on weapons is economically unproductive and is a major component of government budgetary deficits and world trade imbalance; and

WHEREAS nations large and small continue to produce and stockpile nuclear weapons, and the United States is again producing new chemical weapons even as it strives to rid itself of 400,000 tons of old, unstable nerve gas, and seeks an environmentally sound method to dispose of accumulating nuclear wastes; and

WHEREAS the war economies of nations lead them to neglect basic human needs as well as improvements in medical research, educational programs, and transportation systems; and

WHEREAS military spending is the most geographically uneven of all federal budget items and intensifies regional economic disparities; and

WHEREAS abrupt, unplanned cessation of military spending in a community or region results in immediate economic dislocations; and

WHEREAS economic conversion would stimulate the world economy, strengthen communities everywhere, and stabilize the work force, thereby enhancing global security;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Unitarian Universalist Association endorses national, state, and local policies which will promote economic conversion by eliminating unnecessary and excessive military expenditures, both at home and abroad; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the resources made available by this conversion be directed toward more adequate social programs for the benefit of all segments of our society and for global peace.

ATTACHMENT A-3

DRAFT RESOLUTION: PROTECTING THE ECOSYSTEM

Guided by our respect for the interdependent web of all existence;

Recognizing the stress placed upon the earth's ecosystem through excessive demands upon resources, and mismanagement of those resources for industrial and commercial objectives; and

Acknowledging that we are stewards for future generations of the only habitable planet in our solar system;

WHEREAS industrialized countries consume a disproportionate share of the earth's finite resources and generate a disproportionate quantity of waste and pollution; and

WHEREAS the disposal of non-biodegradable consumer wastes in the form of plastics, chemicals, metals, and synthetic materials has proven to contaminate our aquifers, ground water, and land with hazardous carcinogens and toxins; and

WHEREAS acid rain has destroyed forests and lakes throughout the northern latitudes, and global carbon dioxide levels have been rising since the late 19th century, threatening life on earth with an unprecedented warming trend; and

WHEREAS the ozone layer over the Antarctic has decreased by more than 40% in the past decade, threatening the earth with increased levels of ultra-violet radiation;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Unitarian Universalist Association calls upon its congregations and individual Unitarian Universalists to examine their attitudes and to practice responsibility as consumers, affirming the need to support and participate in community conservation and recycling programs; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Unitarian Universalists inform and petition their legislators to support legislation:

- A. encouraging the conservation and recycling of natural resources;
- B. advocating environmentally sound controls and practices in the manufacture, use and disposal of non-biodegradable materials; and
- C. mobilizing U.S. and Canadian action against dangerous polluted air masses and water flow across political boundaries; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Unitarian Universalist congregations and their members inform themselves of the global issues of environment and quality of life as addressed in the United Nations Brundtland report, "Our Common Future," and network with nongovernmental groups within the United States, Canada, and abroad; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that Unitarian Universalists support international efforts to heal the harmful effects of human activities on the global atmosphere as a part of our covenant to affirm and promote the goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all.