

**REVISED MINUTES****THIRTY THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
OF THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST ASSOCIATION****HELD IN FORT WORTH, TEXAS**

The General Assembly was convened on Thursday, June 23, 1994 at 8:00 p.m. by Moderator Denise Taft Davidoff at the Fort Worth Tarrant County Convention Center, Fort Worth, Texas. A banner parade and worship service began the Assembly.

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

Greetings were received in person from Keith Kron, Chair of the General Assembly Planning Committee; McKinley Jackson, a member of the City Council of Fort Worth, Texas; Mickey Oxford, President of the Southwest District; Professor Robert Tielman, Co-President of the International Humanist and Ethical Union; Jeffrey Teagle, General Secretary of the General Assembly of Unitarian and Free Christian Churches of Great Britain; and Amy Fox, representing the Ecumenical Institute for Religion and Environment.

The Moderator read a list of the congregations entered into membership in the Unitarian Universalist Association during the past year: Paint Creek Unitarian Universalist Congregation, Rochester, Michigan; South Whidby Unitarian Universalist Congregation, Langley, Washington; Unitarian Universalist Church of Canandaigua, Canandaigua, New York; James Reeb Unitarian Universalist Church, Madison, Wisconsin; Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Southern Maryland, California, Maryland; Dorothea Dix Unitarian Universalist Community, Trenton/Hamilton, New Jersey; Unitarian Universalist Community Church, Glen Allen, VA; Albuquerque Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, Albuquerque, New Mexico; Mount Mansfield Unitarian Universalist Fellowship; Jericho, Vermont; Mission Peak Universalist Congregation, Fremont, California; Georgia Mountains Unitarian Universalist Church, Dahlonega, Georgia; Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Twin Falls, Twin Falls, Idaho; Lahore, Pakistan.

On the basis of an initial report by the Secretary of the Association, a quorum was declared present from the time the meeting was called to order.

The Assembly received written reports or, in some case, oral, from the President, the Moderator, the Executive Vice President, the Treasurer, the Financial Advisor, the Secretary, the Chair of the Planning Committee, the Chair of the Commission on Appraisal, the Chair of the Commission on General Resolutions, the President of the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee, the Chair of the Nominating Committee, the President of the Unitarian Universalist United Nations Office, the Chair of the Finance Committee, a member of the Whitney M. Young, Jr. Fund Committee, the President of the Unitarian Universalist Women's Federation, the Minister of the Church of the Larger Fellowship, the Chair of the Governance Commission, and representatives of the Annual Program Fund Continental Committee.

The President presented the annual award for Distinguished Service to the Cause of Unitarian Universalism to the Revs. Judith and Harry Hoehler of Weston, Massachusetts.

### **ACTION ON C-BYLAW AMENDMENTS**

#### **PRINCIPLES**

The assembly voted on a proposed amendment to Bylaw Section C-2.1. The proposed amendment was a substitute for an amendment of the same section of that Bylaw passed by majority vote in 1993. The substituted proposed amendment passed by majority vote. Thus, 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 1995 General Assembly for final adoption which will require a two-thirds vote. The text of the amendment is as follows:

##### *Section C-2.1. Principles.*

Spiritual teachings of Earth-centered traditions which celebrate the sacred circle of life and instruct us to live in harmony with the rhythms of nature.

#### **VOTING**

The Assembly voted a substantive amendment to Bylaw Section C-4.7 which would have the effect of granting District Presidents a vote at General Assemblies. The effect of the vote is to place this Bylaw amendment proposal on the Final Agenda of the 1995 General Assembly for final adoption. The new text is as follows:

##### *\*Section C-4.7. Voting.*

Voting at each regular and special General Assembly shall be by:

- (a) accredited delegates from certified member societies and certified associate member organizations;
- (b) trustees;
- (c) district presidents; and
- (d) life members.

Each delegate, trustee, district president, and life member shall have only one vote, even if present in more than one capacity. Proxy voting is prohibited except when the amendment being proposed is an amendment of the articles of organization.

### **ACTION ON BYLAW AMENDMENTS**

By a vote of two-thirds of more, the Assembly voted amendments expanding the size of the Ministerial Fellowship Committee from eleven to fourteen members. The text of the amended Bylaw is as follows:

#### *Section 7.6 Ministerial Fellowship Committee*

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

- (a) six members who are not ministers appointed by the Board;
- (b) six members who are ministers in full and final fellowship with the Association, with at least one from each category of ministry including community ministry, appointed by the Board; and
- (c) two members appointed by the Unitarian Universalist Ministers 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.

### **ACTION ON BUSINESS RESOLUTIONS**

A resolution entitled "United Nations and Earth Day Celebrations" was presented and passed by a vote of two-thirds or more:

#### **UNITED NATIONS AND EARTH DAY CELEBRATIONS**

BECAUSE the Unitarian Universalist Association has long been an advocate for world peace, human rights, and environmental protection; and

BECAUSE our principles, our concerns, and our vision for the future have often been expressed through our support for the United Nations and our celebration of Earth Day; and

WHEREAS 1995 marks both the twenty-fifth anniversary of the first Earth Day and the fiftieth anniversary of the signing of the United Nations Charter in San Francisco; and

RECOGNIZING that 1995 also marks the third anniversary of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, which focused international attention on the need for environmental justice and sustainable development; and

AFFIRMING our desire to state our Unitarian Universalist principles through the administration of our institutions;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the General Assembly calls upon the Board of Trustees, the Officers, and the Departments of the Unitarian Universalist Association to take note of the 1995 United Nations and Earth Day anniversaries, by:

1. supporting appropriate commemorative activities at the United Nations and the 1995 General Assembly, especially in the San Francisco Bay area; and
2. publishing a 1995 information package that will alert congregations to opportunities for supporting the United Nations, environmental justice, and sustainable development; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the General Assembly thanks C\*UUYAN and the General Assembly staff and volunteers for their continuing work in encouraging recycling and other responsible environmental activities in connection with General Assembly events.

### **PROPOSED GOVERNANCE CHANGES**

The Assembly considered Bylaw changes concerning the governance of the Association proposed by the Commission on Governance in its April, 1993 report. The changes included, among other things, (1) the combination of the elective roles of Moderator and President into a single position of President, (2) the hiring of an Executive Director as chief executive officer of the Association, (3) the establishment of a Presidential Nominating Committee, and (4) a single, six-year term for the President. The Assembly, voting on Bylaw and Rules changes to implement these recommendations, rejected the changes. The Assembly then considered, separately, whether to adopt single, six-year terms for the President and Moderator and whether to create a Presidential Nominating Committee. Both proposals were defeated.

### **ACTION ON SECOND YEAR RESOLUTIONS**

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

#### **NUTRITION FOR A HEALTHY START IN LIFE**

BECAUSE children are the focus and common ground of our hopes for the future; and

WHEREAS all pregnant women and all children need adequate nutrition for growth and physical and mental health;

WHEREAS the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee is building an advocacy network for children at risk;

WHEREAS hunger and malnutrition are usually related to poverty or lack of nutritional knowledge;

WHEREAS the United States government's Special Supplemental Food Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) is a cost effective program which provides essential foods, nutritional supplements, and nutritional counseling and support; and

WHEREAS funding shortfalls and inadequate dissemination of information have resulted in WIC's serving only 60% of those estimated to be eligible;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Unitarian Universalist Association encourages Unitarian Universalists in the United States to:

1. support efforts in their communities to guarantee:
  - a. increased outreach so all pregnant women, nursing mothers, and mothers of children under five years old know the eligibility for and benefits of WIC;
  - b. adequate nutrition for all children during their formative years;
  - c. nutritional counseling for all pregnant women, including education about breastfeeding;
  - d. technical and moral support for women choosing to breastfeed; and
2. urge full funding of government nutritional programs such as WIC, to guarantee adequate nutritional assistance, education, and support for infants, children, pregnant women, and nursing mothers; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Unitarian Universalist individuals and congregations in the United States be encouraged to work with the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee, community groups, and other national and international organizations to further these goals and to continue to address the broader issues that underlie childhood hunger.

### **ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE**

BECAUSE we affirm justice and compassion in human relations, the inherent worth and dignity of every person, and respect for the interdependent web of all existence; and

BECAUSE we share the goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all; and

WHEREAS waste and pollution, over consumption by the world's affluent few, and the pressures caused by poverty and burgeoning populations are inflicting harsh and often irreversible damage on the environment, and have endangered the future we wish for both humanity and the rest of nature;

WHEREAS the poor, the powerless, the landless, and the disinherited are often compelled to carry the major burdens of waste and pollution without representation in planning and decision-making processes;

WHEREAS the concept of environmental justice links the principles of liberal religion with the values of ecological awareness and racial and class justice;

WHEREAS the Unitarian Universalist Association has adopted separate resolutions on specific economic, political, and environmental issues, it also realizes that environmental justice requires an integrated, holistic approach; and

WHEREAS the Union of Concerned Scientists, the First National People of Color Environmental Leadership Summit (1991), the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (1992), and other assemblies and organizations are seeking to move environmental justice higher on the public policy agenda;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Unitarian Universalist Association shall act and urge its affiliates, member societies, and individual Unitarian Universalists to:

1. promote programs for social, economic, and political empowerment so that all people may join together in one struggle for peace, justice, and sustainable development;
2. support the development of democratic and ecologically responsible community organizations, labor unions, and business cooperatives;
3. develop religious education and community action programs honoring cultural and religious diversity and connecting environmental issues to other social justice concerns;
4. set time aside for seasonal celebrations to honor our interdependence and to deepen our commitment to natural and cultural diversity; and
5. work with the Unitarian Universalist Seventh Principle Project, the Unitarian Universalists for a Just Economic Community, the Unitarian Universalist United Nations Office, and others to implement the recommendations of the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development; and
6. commend the President of the United States for the issuance of Executive Order 12898 of February 11, 1994, which addresses environmental justice in minority and low-income populations;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Unitarian Universalist Association shall act and encourage its affiliates, member societies, and individual Unitarian Universalists to bear witness to the need for environmental justice by reducing their consumption of the earth's resources, generating as little waste as possible, recycling, and making a commitment as producers, investors, and consumers to living in an ecologically balanced and responsible manner.

## **RESTRICT ARMS SALES AND TRANSFERS**

BECAUSE Unitarian Universalists covenant to affirm and promote the inherent worth and dignity of every person and the goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all; and

WHEREAS there are profound questions about the ethics and legality of arms sales and transfers, particularly under conditions of war or conflict;

WHEREAS the United States is the world's largest weapons purveyor; and

WHEREAS the United Nations Security Council has established a Register on Conventional Arms and a number of countries are reporting arms sales and transfers;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Unitarian Universalist Association urges the United States government to enact and abide by a policy of arms restraint requiring the United States to refrain from selling or giving weapons to any government that:

1. abuses human rights,
2. initiates aggression against either its own people or other nations, or
3. undermines international efforts to control arms;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Unitarian Universalist Association urges the United States government to seek agreements from other nations to enact and abide by similar policies of arms restraint; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Unitarian Universalist Association calls for prohibiting United States foreign economic aid from being used for the purchase of weapons;

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the Unitarian Universalist Association urges the United States government to develop and implement strategies to phase out the economy's reliance on the sale and transfer of arms.

**DRAFT GENERAL RESOLUTIONS REFERRED FOR STUDY**

The Assembly approved by majority vote three draft General Resolutions (as amended) to be referred to member congregations and districts for review and study.

The member congregations and districts may submit comments about proposed amendments to the draft resolutions to the Commission on General Resolutions by no later than March 1, 1995. Final action on each of the resolutions is scheduled for the 1995 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 RESOLUTIONS OF IMMEDIATE WITNESS**

The Assembly adopted by a two-thirds vote or more the following two Resolutions of Immediate Witness.

**SEXUALITY EDUCATION IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

BECAUSE Unitarian Universalists affirm and promote the inherent worth and dignity of every person, and

BECAUSE Unitarian Universalists affirm the value of loving relationships — heterosexual, gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender; and

WHEREAS youth are increasingly exposed to and victimized by rape and incest, unplanned pregnancy, sexual abuse, and sexual harassment;

WHEREAS the Texas Republican Party platform, adopted on June 11, 1994, states that “homosexuality should not be presented as an acceptable lifestyle in our public schools” and that “we also oppose the use of any tax dollars for any program . . . which teaches and legitimizes sexual activity, birth control, abortion, and homosexuality”;

WHEREAS there are high suicide rates among heterosexual, gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender high school students; and

WHEREAS each high school class graduating without appropriate sexuality education is more prone to prejudiced attitudes, pregnancy, and sexually transmitted diseases, including HIV;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the 1994 General Assembly of the Unitarian Universalist Association condemns the platform expressed by the Texas Republican Party; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the 1994 General Assembly of the Unitarian Universalist Association urges member congregations to advocate the availability of comprehensive, objective, unbiased, up-to-date, age-appropriate, sexuality education curricula in public schools, including information about:

1. the reproductive system and its functions;
2. the proper use of all forms of contraception, including the option of abstinence;
3. sexually transmitted diseases, their prevention and treatment;
4. sexual abuse, sexual assault, sexual harassment, rape (including date rape), and incest as well as their prevention and treatment through counseling, information, and resources;
5. pregnancy counseling and options including information about organizations such as Planned Parenthood and Birthright; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that sexuality education curricula be taught by teachers specifically trained to educate youth on the topic of sexuality education, and that the curricula will encompass heterosexual, gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender orientations and include a focus on sexual responsibility and the emotional aspects of relationships and crises; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that member congregations are urged to make available sexuality education programs, such as *About Your Sexuality*, to both Unitarian Universalist youth and youth in the community at large.

#### **SUPPORT THE EMPLOYMENT NON-DISCRIMINATION ACT OF 1994**

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

WHEREAS Senator Edward Kennedy, along with Senator John Chafee and with the support of over 25 other Senators and 108 members of the House of Representatives, has introduced the Employment Non-Discrimination Act of 1994 (ENDA);

WHEREAS many people in the United States gain a major part of their identity, satisfaction, and happiness from their employment;

WHEREAS job discrimination resulting from prejudice is unprofitable, lowers productivity, and is a threat to anyone who is perceived to have an orientation disliked by their employer;

WHEREAS sexual orientation does not determine one's buying power or tax paying responsibility;

WHEREAS far right-wing political and religious groups have made the denial of workplace equity based on sexual orientation a major objective; and

WHEREAS it is simple justice for gay men, lesbians, and bisexuals to be judged in their job settings like all other Americans, by their performance and not by their sexual orientation;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the 1994 General Assembly of the Unitarian Universalist Association urges Unitarian Universalist individuals and congregations in the United States to demonstrate active support for the Employment Non-Discrimination Act by:

1. learning the facts about what this legislation will and will not do;
2. communicating their support of ENDA to their Congressional representatives;
3. speaking out in public forums;
4. working to dispel the misinformation and lies on this issue which are promulgated by the far right-wing political and religious groups; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that individual Unitarian Universalists in the United States are encouraged to speak out in their places of employment, community, professional organizations and unions in support of the Employment Non-Discrimination Act.

### **ACTION IN RESPONSE TO REPORTS OF OFFICERS**

Pursuant to Bylaw 4.16 and Rule of Procedure 9, a budget resolution was offered by an Assembly delegate. The resolution concerned the funding of General Assembly and a proposed reduction in fees for Assembly attendees. The resolution failed.

### **CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE REPORT**

The final credentials report of the Secretary of the Association was as follows:

Accredited and attending the 33rd General Assembly of the Unitarian Universalist Association were 953 member delegates, 348 ministerial delegates, 5 associate member delegates, 26 members of the Board of Trustees (not included as registered delegates from congregations), for a total of 1332 delegates representing 502 congregations, 47 states, the District of Columbia, the Virgin Islands, and 7 Canadian provinces. Total registration for the assembly was 2204.

### **OTHER BUSINESS**

The Assembly voted, by unanimous consent, to express its appreciation to the General Assembly Planning Committee, the Volunteer Committee, the General Assembly Administrator, the Commission on General Resolutions, and 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****STOP THE MARKETING OF VIOLENCE**

BECAUSE Unitarian Universalists are committed to the goal of a peaceful world characterized by justice, equity, and compassion for all; and

WHEREAS play activities and exposure to media images are among the primary ways a child learns about the world;

WHEREAS studies have demonstrated that exposure to media violence increases tolerance of actual violence;

WHEREAS aggression-based toys frequently are marketed in a way that reinforces racist and sexist stereotypes;

WHEREAS many television programs and motion pictures contain a high frequency of violent episodes presented as entertainment; and

WHEREAS marketing decisions are based on profitability rather than ethical considerations;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Unitarian Universalists — both children and adults — be urged to educate themselves about the relationships among media violence, children's aggressive play, and the level of violence in our society;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Unitarian Universalist congregations and individual Unitarian Universalists be urged to:

1. monitor television programs, motion pictures, and toy advertisements in their communities;
2. express their disapproval of violent images and aggression-based toys to television stations, theater owners, toy manufacturers, retailers, and sponsors; and
3. observe the annual International Days of Protest Against War Toys; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that Unitarian Universalist congregations be encouraged to enter into coalitions to boycott sponsors and purveyors of violent media images or aggression-based toys, and to educate adults and children about nonviolent toys and alternative forms of entertainment.

**ATTACHMENT A-2****CRITERIA FOR HEALTH CARE REFORM**

BECAUSE Unitarian Universalists covenant to affirm the inherent worth and dignity of every person; and

BECAUSE Unitarian Universalists covenant to promote justice, equity, and compassion in human relations; and

WHEREAS the 1992 General Resolution "Universal Health Care" called for the adoption of a national, publicly funded system of universal health care in the United States that would include basic treatment, preventive care, and provision for long-term care and catastrophic illness;

WHEREAS the proportion of a society's resources that can be devoted to health care is limited by factors that include economic capability, competing social needs, and democratic choice;

WHEREAS protocols, practices, and public-funding regulations of the current United States health care system require or encourage the use of extreme and costly medical interventions;

WHEREAS these interventions require expenditure of resources disproportionate to the resulting improvement or extension of life, or abuse the dignity of the individual by prolonging life in pain, suffering, or a permanently unconscious state; and

WHEREAS these interventions divert resources from less costly options that more significantly improve the length or quality of life, such as vaccination, nutritional supplements, and encouragement of individual responsibility for health;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Unitarian Universalist Association reaffirms the 1992 General Resolution favoring a national program for "Universal Health Care" and affirms that health care in publicly supported programs should be provided according to criteria that improve the quality and length of life for the greatest number of people, given the resources available; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Unitarian Universalist Association calls upon the United States government to develop, publish, and implement such criteria as an explicit part of its reform of the health care system.

**ATTACHMENT A-3****A JOB, A HOME, A HOPE**

The necessities of life...may, accurately enough, be distributed under the several heads of Food, Shelter, Clothing, Fuel; for not till we have secured these are we prepared to entertain the true problems of life with freedom and a prospect of success...

-- from *Walden*, by Henry David Thoreau

BECAUSE Unitarian Universalists affirm the inherent worth and dignity of every person; and

BECAUSE Unitarian Universalists promote justice, equity, and compassion in human relations; and

WHEREAS homelessness in North America is at a crisis level and continues to grow;

WHEREAS if large numbers of people cannot earn enough to provide "the necessities of life," the tragedy of homelessness will increase;

WHEREAS many people lack the resources to provide basic shelter for their families and themselves because of dwindling incomes and a lack of affordable housing; and

WHEREAS the present social service system does not offer a path to stable employment and decent housing for a large segment of our society;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Unitarian Universalist Association undertakes an aggressive, three-fold action plan to address homelessness by advocating:

1. A job: creation of more better-paying jobs and more effective job-training programs;
2. A home: development of more affordable housing; and
3. A hope: welfare reform, including increased government funding for social services that reduce homelessness and unemployment.