

MINUTES

**FORTY SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST ASSOCIATION
HELD IN PORTLAND, OREGON**

The General Assembly was convened on Wednesday, June 20, 2007 at 9:15 p.m. by Moderator Gini Courter at the Portland Convention Center, Portland, Oregon.

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

A list of the congregations entered into membership in the Unitarian Universalist Association during the past year was read: Unitarian Universalist Peace Fellowship, Raleigh, North Carolina and Unitarian Universalist Church of Hot Springs, Hot Springs, Arkansas.

The Assembly received written, and in some cases oral, reports from the President, the Moderator, the Executive Vice President, the Treasurer, the Financial Advisor, the Secretary, the Board of Trustees, the General Assembly Planning Committee, the Commission on Appraisal, the Commission on Social Witness, the Nominating Committee, the Journey Toward Wholeness Transformation Committee, the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee, the Unitarian Universalist United Nations Office, the Unitarian Universalist Women's Federation, Beacon Press, the Unitarian Universalist Washington Center for Advocacy and Witness, the Annual Program Fund Committee, the Investment Committee, the Committee on Socially Responsible Investing, the Ministerial Fellowship Committee, and the Religious Education Credentialing Committee

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.

Moderator Gini Courter and other members of the Distinguished Service Award Committee, including the Rev. Doug Gallagher, Chair, and Roger Comstock, presented the 2007 Award for Distinguished Service to the Cause of Unitarian Universalism to Dr. Leon E. Spencer.

Action on Bylaw Amendments

**VOTE ON DESCRIBING THE MODERATOR AS CHIEF GOVERNANCE
OFFICER**

By a vote of two-thirds or more, the Assembly approved changes to the Bylaws that establish the Moderator as Chief Governance Officer of the Association.

Section 8.8. Moderator.

The Moderator shall preside at General Assemblies and meetings of the Board of Trustees and the Executive Committee. The Moderator shall represent the Association on special occasions and shall assist in promoting its welfare. The Moderator shall serve as Chief Governance Officer of the Association.

VOTE ON RULES FOR THE BOARD OF REVIEW

By a vote of two-thirds or more, the Assembly approved Bylaw changes that give the Board of Trustees the authority to approve Board of Review Rules, parallel to their approval authority for Ministerial Fellowship Committee and Religious Education Credentialing Committee Rules.

***Section 11.9. Procedure on Appeal.**

An appeal to the Board of Review shall be heard by a panel of the Board selected as provided in its rules. The panel hearing an appeal shall not try the case de novo but shall only review the record made before the Ministerial Fellowship Committee, except that the Board of Review by rules may permit the introduction of newly discovered evidence. These Bylaws, the rules of the Ministerial Fellowship Committee, and the rules of the Religious Education Credentialing Committee shall be binding upon the panel. The panel shall uphold the decision of the Ministerial Fellowship Committee or the Religious Education Credentialing Committee if it can be sustained by a reasonable view of the record. The panel may set aside the decision of the Fellowship Committee or the Religious Education Credentialing Committee only where necessary to correct or prevent manifest injustice. The panel may remand the case in whole or in part to the Committee or take such other action as may be just. The decision of the panel, which shall be the decision of the Board, shall set forth its finding and conclusions and shall be served upon the affected minister and the Ministerial Fellowship Committee or the affected religious educator and the Religious Education Credentialing Committee. The decision shall be entered in the appropriate records and shall be final and binding upon all parties. No appeal shall be allowed from the decision of the Board of Review. The Board of Review shall make rules to carry out the intent of this section, subject to the approval of the Board of Trustees.

Section 12.9. Procedure on Appeal.

An appeal to the Board of Review shall be heard by a panel of the Board selected as provided in its rules. The panel hearing an appeal shall not try the case de novo but shall only review the record made before the Religious Education Credentialing Committee, except that the Board of Review by rules may permit the introduction of newly discovered evidence. These Bylaws and the rules of the Religious Education Credentialing Committee shall be binding upon the panel. The panel shall uphold the decision of the Religious Education Credentialing Committee if it can be sustained by a

reasonable view of the record. The panel may set aside the decision of the Religious Education Credentialing Committee only where necessary to correct or prevent manifest injustice. The panel may remand the case in whole or part to the Religious Education Credentialing Committee or take such other action as may be just. The decision of the panel, which shall be the decision of the Board, shall set forth its finding and conclusions and shall be served upon the affected religious educator and the Religious Education Credentialing Committee. The decision shall be entered in the religious education credentialing records and shall be final and binding upon all parties. No appeal shall be allowed from the decision of the Board of Review. The Board of Review shall make rules to carry out the intent of this section, subject to the approval of the Board of Trustees.

UUA Statement of Conscience

By a vote of two-thirds or more, the Assembly adopted the following Statement of Conscience:

Moral Values for a Pluralistic Society

Moral values increasingly frame public discourse. As Unitarian Universalists, we must affirm the moral influence of liberal religion in society.

At great personal risk, the forebears of our faith have taken public positions on issues of consequence such as religious freedom, abolition, women's suffrage, and civil rights. This tradition continues in our advocacy of the freedom to marry.

People often make religious claims about controversial issues such as reproductive rights, stem cell research, the death penalty, and the teaching of evolution. Their efforts to advocate one perspective, to the exclusion of others, are influencing every branch and level of government. Consequently, the United States is moving away from its constitutionally mandated separation of church and state.

It is time for Unitarian Universalists to assert and defend two basic principles underlying the United States Constitution: (1) the basic principle of freedom, the right of all human beings to follow a life of their choosing as long as others are not harmed, and (2) the basic principle of the inherent equal dignity of all human beings, which includes the right of all human beings to equal justice.

Our moral values are drawn from many sources. We are a blended family with diverse theologies but common moral values. "Values" can be defined as principles or qualities considered worthwhile by members of communities holding them and "morals" as discernment of behaviors that contribute to well-being. We recognize that we live in a moral context that spans many levels--planetary ecology, societies, cultures, individuals, cells, and molecules that we depend upon for our individual and organizational well-being.

As an Association, we have covenanted to affirm and promote each of our seven Principles.

The moral values of Unitarian Universalism correspond profoundly with those embodied in the founding documents of our nation. The Declaration of Independence and the United States Constitution embody freedom of religion, the right of conscience, and the worth and dignity of every person.

Like the values to which we aspire as Americans, our Unitarian Universalist values are distilled from the hopes, dreams, experiences, and struggles of all who honor them.

Our Unitarian Universalist Principles parallel the Ends Principle, the Golden Rule, and the founding documents of this nation. History shows the dire consequences when this core morality is rejected. Although our country has not fully implemented the promises of its founding documents to all of its people, we Unitarian Universalists strive to help this nation fulfill those promises.

Arising from our Principles, the common denominators of Unitarianism Universalist values are Compassion, Justice, Equity, The Right of Conscience, Reason, and Respect for Others. As Unitarian Universalists, we have a responsibility to give voice to the moral values on which our faith is grounded, not only with a statement of conscience but through acts of conscience that honor the values we espouse.

As individuals, let us:

- Speak out on moral issues with clarity and confidence;
- Listen to people with whom we find ourselves in conflict, recognizing them as our neighbors, our kin;
- Model a religion that embraces liberalism and morality; and
- Apply our moral values to improve society.

As congregations, let us:

- State the moral grounding of our social justice agendas;
- Speak collectively on moral issues;
- Give ourselves clear and accessible language to describe our moral values; and
- Urge our religious leaders to proclaim our moral values in the public square.

As an association of interdependent congregations, let us:

- Speak out forcefully on issues using Unitarian Universalist moral values;
- Articulate Unitarian Universalist values and their application to living with respect and compassion;
- Support civil liberties and the separation of church and state; and
- Work across faith, cultural, and national boundaries to cultivate a Beloved Global Community.

Let us proclaim Unitarian Universalist moral values to our communities and our nation. We will reinvigorate our living tradition so that it is visible, audible, and valued in the public square.

Actions of Immediate Witness

The Assembly adopted by a vote of two-thirds or more the following six Actions of Immediate Witness:

Support for the UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW)

WHEREAS the first Unitarian Universalist principle "to affirm and promote the inherent worth and dignity of every person," and the sixth principle, "the goal of world community with peace, liberty and justice for all," correspond with the purpose of the

United Nations Charter "to promote peace, prosperity, and dignity for all;"

WHEREAS the current 2007 session of the U.S. Senate Foreign Relations Committee presents the best opportunity in over 25 years to pass legislation to end discrimination against women worldwide;

WHEREAS CEDAW, adopted by the United Nations in 1979, is one of the most ratified international human rights conventions, having the support of 185 States Parties;

WHEREAS the Treaty for the Rights of Women (CEDAW), addresses legal rights of women worldwide, empowers them in the areas of education, employment and health care, and provides prevention against and protection from violence;

WHEREAS women in the Ukraine, Nepal, Thailand and the Philippines have used CEDAW to pass new laws to stop sexual trafficking of women and girls;

WHEREAS in Nicaragua, Jordan, Egypt and Guinea, women and girls have now acquired literacy increases after CEDAW has improved access to education;

WHEREAS the US failure to ratify CEDAW places it in the company of Iran, Sudan and Somalia, and four other countries, and the US remains the only nation with a Member Group of the International Council of Unitarians and Universalists that has not ratified CEDAW;

WHEREAS the US Senate has scheduled no hearings to reconsider the ratification of CEDAW since 1980, when President Carter signed the treaty, but the Working Group on Ratification of CEDAW has, in 2007, mobilized a call for Senate hearings, and the current Administration has delayed action by ordering an additional review of the treaty by the Justice Department;

WHEREAS ratification of CEDAW is essential to a claim by the U.S. of moral leadership in human rights; and

WHEREAS US ratification will deter discrimination against women and advance their political and economic equality,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the delegates of the 2007 General Assembly of the Unitarian Universalist Association reaffirm their commitment to eliminate all forms of discrimination against women worldwide;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the delegates urge:

- Individual Unitarian Universalists and congregations to educate themselves about CEDAW and to lobby their elected representatives to call for hearings to ratify the Convention;
- US congregations to call for US Senate Foreign Relations *Committee* hearings on CEDAW during the current Congressional session and to promote coalition building based upon the 2005 End Violence Against Women Act;
- The Unitarian Universalist United Nations Office to continue to monitor and advocate for CEDAW as part of follow-up to the 2007 Annual Intergenerational Spring Seminar, "Stop Modern Day Slavery: Breaking the Web of Human Trafficking;" and
- US congregations to work with the Southwest Unitarian Universalist Women (SWUW) and the Unitarian Universalist Women and Religion (UUWR) to welcome Unitarian

Universalist women worldwide to the International Convocation of Unitarian
Universalist Women in Houston, Texas in February 2009.

Support Immigrant Families – Stop the ICE (Immigration and Customs Enforcement Raids)

WHERE as a community of faith, we uphold the inherent worth, rights and dignity of all people;
WHEREAS we covenant as Unitarian Universalists to promote justice, equity, and compassion
in human relations;

WHEREAS our Unitarian Universalist faith calls us to recognize that no one is "the stranger;"
WHEREAS beginning with our first General Assembly in 1961 with a resolution on the rights of
migrant workers, a 1963 resolution for immigration reform, three General Assemblies endorsing
sanctuary for refugees (1980, 1984, and 1985), and Resolutions of Immediate Witness passed in
1985 for humane treatment of immigrants and in 2006 the General Assembly voted for an Action
of Immediate Witness to support immigrant justice, we have demonstrated a commitment to
support immigrant families;

WHEREAS since December 2006 U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) has
intensified its raids on immigrants beginning on December 12th, 2006 (on the feast of Our Lady
of Guadalupe, a day of enormous religious significance for Mexican families) when ICE agents
simultaneously raided six Swift & Company meat packing plants in five states, when
approximately 1,000 ICE agents, some in riot gear, detained 1,282 workers at gunpoint, many
shackled with chains between their legs;

WHEREAS raids have continued across the country in New Bedford, Massachusetts, Danbury
and New Haven, Connecticut, Chicago, Illinois, and most recently on June 12th, 2007, in
Portland, Oregon;

WHEREAS many of us attending General Assembly have encountered someone who is impacted
by the raid in Portland last week;

WHEREAS federal raids are breaking up families, many of them parents with children, causing
pain and suffering, and creating a climate of fear and repression among immigrant communities;
WHEREAS the interplay between our laws, foreign policy and economy over many decades has
trapped many immigrants, while our lawmakers in Congress are unable to reach agreement:
WHEREAS undocumented immigration is on the rise, and immigrants are driven from their
homes as refugees of "free trade" policies and by U.S. businesses' voracious appetite for
cheap labor;

WHEREAS we must acknowledge that many of us have lives of privilege supported in
thousands of ways by people whose labor is invisible and whose suffering is hidden and
who are criminalized for simply working to provide for their families;

WHEREAS now more than ever the voice of the religious community needs to be heard
calling for the passing of just comprehensive immigration reform, for an immediate stop to
the ICE raids and offering hospitality to and solidarity with the millions living in fear.

THEREFORE be it resolved that the 2007 General Assembly of the Unitarian Universalist
Association:

Calls for an **immediate** moratorium of all inhumane raids and resulting deportations;

- Urges all Unitarian Universalist congregations and their members to create a
dialogue with the local business community, politicians, and if possible minority
coalitions to create alternative actions for fair and legal deportations: and
- Urges all Unitarian Universalist congregations and their members to offer support
and solidarity with the millions of immigrants seeking recognition and dignity in
United States.

Support Comprehensive Sexuality Education Legislation

BECAUSE our Unitarian Universalist principles call on us to affirm and promote the inherent worth and dignity of every person; justice, equity and compassion in human relations, and the goal of world community with peace and justice for all;

WHEREAS the PATHWAY Act (Protection Against Transmission of HIV for Women And Youth) will remove the requirement in the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) that one-third of United States foreign aid for AIDS be spent on abstinence-only-until-marriage programs, and will require the President to establish a comprehensive and integrated HIV prevention strategy to empower women and girls to negotiate and demand safe sexual practices both within and outside marriage while addressing their vulnerable situations; WHEREAS the REAL Act (Responsible Education About Life) will establish the first ever federal funding stream for medically accurate, comprehensive sexuality education; WHEREAS Congress is poised, for the first time in years, to make definitive decisions on these issues;

WHEREAS more than 40 million people worldwide suffer from HIV/AIDS, an increase of 2.6 million people in the past three years;

WHEREAS African women between 15 and 24 account for 75% of new HIV infections; and married women are the majority of those infected with HIV worldwide with more than 80% of new infections in women resulting from sex with husbands or primary partners; .

WHEREAS in the US, black women and Latinas account for about 75% of all HIV infections among 13 to 24-year-old women in the United States although they represent only 26% of women in this age group;

WHEREAS by current federal law, abstinence-only-until-marriage programs do not affirm or acknowledge gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, queer identities or relationships;

WHEREAS an essential approach to reducing sexually transmitted infections such as HIV and unintended pregnancy is to provide young people with medically accurate, comprehensive information regarding sexual health and recognizing that cultural and economic forces may negatively impact sexual;

WHEREAS eight out of ten American adults, including conservative Christians, support junior and high school sexuality education to prevent disease and unintended pregnancy;

WHEREAS abstinence-only programs are not proven to be effective and may contain medical inaccuracies and do not address the reality that young people are sexually active and at risk of infection and pregnancy;

WHEREAS Unitarian Universalist congregations provide Our Whole Lives, a comprehensive lifespan sexual education program that teaches abstinence and medically accurate safer sex information;

WHEREAS support for the REAL and PATHWAY Acts will:

- Improve the ability of every person to make informed decisions regarding sexual health;
- Enable programs to address the unique and urgent needs of women and youth including comprehensive, medically-accurate information; and
- Stop the United States government from imposing perceived theological values on United States communities and other countries.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the delegates of the 2007 General Assembly of the Unitarian Universalist Association call upon Congress to support passage of the REAL and PATHWAY Acts and urge member congregations and individual Unitarian Universalists to

immediately petition congressional representatives to co-sponsor these bills; and
BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that all UU congregations and individuals are encouraged to use the resources of the UU~UNO, the Washington Office for Advocacy and the UU Global AIDS Coalition to mobilize interfaith support for passage of the REAL and PATHWAY Acts.

Stop United States Sponsored Torture – A Religious Call to Action

BECAUSE one of our core Unitarian Universalist principles is our belief in and affirmation of the inherent worth and dignity of all persons; and

WHEREAS torture violates the basic dignity of the human person that all religions hold dear;
WHEREAS torture shames us all and erodes the character of the nation that tortures; WHEREAS the United States has adopted torture and unlimited detention as an official policy;
WHEREAS the Military Commissions Act of 2006 includes numerous provisions of law that directly or indirectly sanction U.S. sponsored torture;
WHEREAS the Restoring the Constitution Act of 2007 (S. 576 and H.R. 1415), if enacted, would correct the immoral abuses of the Military Commissions Act;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the 2007 General Assembly reject torture by anyone for any purpose under any circumstances without exception;
BE IT RESOLVED that the 2007 General Assembly stand in opposition to all U.S. sponsored torture, secret prisons, and rendition for torture;
BE IT RESOLVED that the 2007 General Assembly stand in support of full U.S. compliance with the Geneva Conventions and the United Nations Convention Against Torture;
BE IT RESOLVED that the 2007 General Assembly stand in support of the Restoring the Constitution Act, including Legislation to restore *habeas corpus*;
BE IT RESOLVED that the 2007 General Assembly stand in support of holding U.S. personnel and persons acting on behalf of the United States accountable for any acts of torture in which they were engaged, ordered, or supervised; and
BE IT RESOLVED that the 2007 General Assembly urge Unitarian Universalist Congregations to oppose and speak out against U.S. sponsored torture wherever and whenever possible.

Repeal “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell”

WHEREAS our Unitarian Universalist Principles call us to affirm the inherent worth and dignity of every person and to promote justice, equity, and compassion in human relations;
WHEREAS under a federal law, commonly referred to as "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" (DADT), the U.S. military discharges gay, lesbian and bi-sexual service members solely because of their sexual orientation;
WHEREAS DADT requires gay service members to lie as a condition of service;
WHEREAS there are over one million gay veterans and at least sixty-five thousand gay people currently serving in the U.S. military;
WHEREAS DADT undermines military readiness by discouraging thousands of patriotic and talented Americans from serving in the military;
WHEREAS under DADT, over 11,000 service members have been discharged, including many with critical skills, such as Arabic linguists;
WHEREAS each year, approximately .3,000 gay service members leave the military rather than

continuing to serve under the stress of DADT;

WHEREAS taxpayers have spent over .360 million dollars training replacements for personnel discharged under DADT;

WHEREAS a 1993 Rand Report concluded the U.S. military could lift the gay ban without detriment to readiness and numerous subsequent studies conclude there is no empirical evidence to support DADT;

WHEREAS, twenty-four nations allow gays to serve openly, including Israel, Britain, Australia and Canada, with no negative effect on military readiness or unit cohesion;

WHEREAS American troops are serving with openly gay troops from twelve countries in Afghanistan in Operation Enduring Freedom and nine countries in Operation Iraqi Freedom;

WHEREAS support for repealing DADT has tremendous momentum;

WHEREAS in February 2007, the Military Readiness Enhancement Act (H.R. 1246), calling for the repeal of DADT, was introduced in Congress and already has 1'24 bipartisan co-sponsors;

WHEREAS in the 110th Congress, hearings on DADT are expected to be held and a Senate bill calling for repeal of DADT is very likely to be introduced;

WHEREAS leaders instrumental in creating DADT, General John Shalikashvili, who was Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff when DADT was adopted, and President Clinton, who signed the law, now support gays serving openly;

WHEREAS recent polls show that 6.3% - 79% of Americans and 91 % of 18-29-year olds support gays serving openly;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the 2007 General Assembly delegates express their strongest possible support for immediate repeal of DADT and implementation of a policy of nondiscrimination on the basis of sexual orientation in the U.S. Military; and BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the delegates call upon the member congregations of the Unitarian Universalist Association, their individual members and friends, and affiliate organizations, to pledge themselves to work for repeal by:

- Sending letters, e-mails and petitions urging repeal of DADT to the President and Members of Congress;
- Supporting elected officials who are committed to repealing DADT;
- Writing local newspapers and participating in internet blogs; and
- Getting resolutions from city, county and state governments and other influential organizations demanding repeal of DADT.

Pass the Employment Non-Discrimination Act with Transgender Inclusion and Protection

WHEREAS our Unitarian Universalist Principles call us to affirm the inherent worth and dignity of every person and to promote justice, equity and compassion in human relations;

WHEREAS Largo, Florida City Manager Steve Stanton was summarily fired after his planned transition from male to female was disclosed:

WHEREAS Unitarian Universalist congregations condemned on the national stage the action of the Largo City Commissioners but could not point to any record of General Assembly action supporting rights of transgender persons:

WHEREAS only 13 states plus the District of Columbia have policies prohibiting both sexual orientation and gender identity discrimination in employment, seven other states have laws that prohibit discrimination based on sexual orientation only, and about 100 municipalities in the 30 other states without non-discrimination statutes have local nondiscrimination laws;

WHEREAS most people employed in the United States can be fired on the basis of actual or perceived sexual orientation or gender identity;

WHEREAS H.R. 2015, the Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA), as introduced in the 110th Congress, would prohibit discrimination against employees on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity, and provide employment protections similar to those of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (also known as "Title VII") but specifically directed to gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender employees;

WHEREAS opponents of the law often make misleading statements, use questionable statistics or outright falsehoods in opposition to ENDA;

WHEREAS this issue has been discussed in the UU Church of Berkeley Welcoming Congregation Committee and the Pacific Central District Interweave Chapters, and this issue gives Unitarian Universalists the opportunity to be truly inclusive of all lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender persons;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the 2007 General Assembly of the Unitarian Universalist Association expresses its support for immediate action in Congress to pass into law H.R. 2015, the Employment Non-Discrimination Act;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the delegates of the 2007 General Assembly of the Unitarian Universalist Association call upon all member congregations and individual Unitarian Universalists to:

- Support passage of employment non-discrimination legislation at all municipal, county and state levels;
- Oppose attempts to remove sexual orientation and/or gender identity any proposed employment non-discrimination legislation;
- Speak out against misleading and false statements made by opponents of ENDA, particularly those that encourage further intolerance against the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender community; and
- Urge our elected representatives in Congress to pass the Employment Non-Discrimination Act

Responsive Resolutions

Six resolutions in response to the reports of officers were passed by a vote of two-thirds or more:

Engaging in Right Relations at General Assembly 2008

In response to both the Secretary's Report and the Report of the Committee on Right Relationships, moved that this body request the Planning Committee to discuss enabling the delegates and attendees to spend at least 30 minutes during the opening of General Assembly of 2008 to work together to gain insight, skills, and experience with:

Our own individual assumptions when encountering new people; and

Engaging in compassionate response and witness when we fall short of our aspirations to expand our capacity to be allies to our fellow Association members and our larger community.

End the United States Occupation of Iraq

In response to the statements in President Sinkford's Annual Report, which calls for an end to the U.S. Occupation of Iraq, the delegates of this Assembly recommit to taking action to end the Occupation. We reaffirm the 2004 and 2006 Actions of Immediate Witness regarding Iraq.

The 2006 Action of Immediate Witness "Urges all Unitarian Universalist leaders at the international, national, district, and congregational levels to support individuals and congregational participation in interfaith campaigns to end U.S. military involvement in Iraq." That Action of Immediate Witness endorsed The Declaration of Peace Campaign. Be it resolved that the delegates of this Assembly reaffirm the goals of the 2004 and 2006 Actions of Immediate Witness regarding Iraq and will take all necessary action to end the U.S. Occupation of Iraq.

Voting Rights for Communities of Color

We urge Unitarian Universalists to seek insight into problems experienced by communities of color regarding voting. We make this resolution in response to the report by Rev. Sinkford at the second Plenary on our continued need to confront racism.

Therefore,

Be it resolved that the delegates to the 2007 General Assembly are charged to work with their congregations on the following:

Where possible, to partner in at least one program on issues of race and voting (such as intimidation, felon disenfranchisement, and voter identification requirements) with an engaged non-partisan organization such as the Urban League, the American Civil Liberties Union, the League of Women Voters, or a local community group,
To seek opportunities for education and insight through personal interactions with people in communities of color regarding their experiences with voting, and
To report key insights to their congregations and to next year's General Assembly.

Health Care for Unitarian Universalist Ministers, Staff and Families

Whereas about 200 ministers and staff employed by UU congregations do not have health insurance,

Whereas economic justice is a core UU value and a failure to provide health insurance is a threat to their health and well-being,

Be it resolved that:

The General Assembly delegates urge their congregations to initiate fundraising drives to raise the money necessary to provide these approximately 200 uninsured ministers, staff, and their families with health insurance.

Truth, Repair, and Reconciliation

President Sinkford asked, “What are our truths? To whom must we be reconciled?” We have many stories to uncover--genocide, slavery, oppression. Only by knowing our truths can we act boldly on our spiritual journey of healing.

In response to President Bill Sinkford’s report, moved that delegates begin this work by encouraging their congregations and the UUA to research their own and the Association’s history: to uncover our links and complicity with the genocide of native peoples; with slavery and the slave-based economy; and with all types of racial, ethnic, and cultural oppression, past and present, toward the goal of accountability through acknowledgment, apology, repair, and reconciliation, and that they report on their progress at the 2008 and 2009 General Assemblies.

Confronting Gender Identity Discrimination

Whereas the President of the Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations noted, in his June 21st report to the General Assembly, the work of our West Florida congregations on the issue of employment discrimination against transgender individuals, and

Whereas there has been no prior statement by the General Assembly specifically addressing our Association’s views on transgender identity,

Be it resolved that the 2007 General Assembly affirms its commitment to the inherent worth and dignity of every human being, including transgender individuals.

We further resolve to express this spiritual value through our employment practices, educational efforts, congregational life, and public witness, and

Encourage member congregations and societies to explore with their communities the important differences between sexual orientation and transgender identity.

Elections

Elections were held pursuant to Bylaw Sections 5.2, 6.4, 8.3, and 9.10. There being no contested elections, the Secretary of the Association called for a vote from the floor for the entire slate.

Elected:

Board of Review (8-year terms): Rev. Diana Jordan Allende, Glenn Moore

Commission on Appraisal (6-year terms): Peter Fontneau, Bev Harrison, Don Mohr, Jacqui Williams

Commission on Social Witness (4-year term): John Hooper

Nominating Committee: Rev. LoraKim Joyner (6-year term), Larry Ladd (6-year term), Rev. Chris Buice (4-year term)

Planning Committee: Joan Benziger (4-year term), Ginger Brown (4-year term), Elisabeth McGregor (4-year term), Tim Murphy (4-year term), Dr. Denise Hall (2-year term)

Board of Trustees (at large position; 4-year term): José Ballester
Board of Trustees-Youth Position (2-year term): Charlie Burke

Credentials Report

The final credentials report of the Secretary of the Association was as follows: accredited and attending the 44th General Assembly of the Unitarian Universalist Association were 1966 member delegates, 405 ministerial delegates, 4 credentialed religious educators, 6 associate member delegates, 26 members of the Board of Trustees (not included as registered delegates from congregations), and 22 delegates representing the Church of the Larger Fellowship (included in member delegate count) for a total of 2428 delegates representing 643 congregations, 50 states, the District of Columbia, and Mexico. Total registration for the Assembly was 5697, including 321 youth and 130 children.

Closing

The Assembly then voted to adjourn *sine die*.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Kathleen Montgomery
Recording Secretary