

**MINUTES**

**FIFTIETH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE  
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST ASSOCIATION  
HELD IN CHARLOTTE, NORTH CAROLINA**

The General Assembly was convened on Wednesday, June 22, 2010 at 8:00 p.m. by Moderator Gini Courter at the Charlotte Convention Center in Charlotte, North Carolina.

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

One new congregation was recognized as having entered into membership in the Unitarian Universalist Association during the past year: Harmony Unitarian Universalist Church, Morrow, Ohio.

The Assembly received written, and in some cases oral, reports from the President, the Moderator, the UUA staff, the Treasurer, the Financial Advisor, the Secretary, the Board of Trustees, Beacon Press, 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, and the Unitarian Universalist Women's Federation.

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.

Members of the Distinguished Service Award Committee presented the 2011 Award for Distinguished Service to the Cause of Unitarian Universalism to the Rev. Dr. Victor H. Carpenter.

**Action on Bylaw and Rule Amendments**

**FIRST-YEAR VOTE ON THE DEFINITION OF THE WORD  
“CONGREGATION”**

The Assembly voted to give first-year approval to amendments to the Bylaws that broaden the definition of the word “congregation.” The effect of the vote is to place these Bylaw amendment proposals on the Final Agenda of the 2012 General Assembly for final adoption which will require a two-thirds vote. The proposed text is as follows.

**Section C-3.1. Member Congregations.**

The Unitarian Universalist Association is a voluntary association of autonomous, self-governing member congregations, which have freely chosen to pursue common goals together.

**\*Section C-3.3. Admission to Membership.**

A congregation becomes a member upon acceptance by the Board of Trustees of the Association of its written application for membership in which it subscribes to the principles of and pledges to support the Association. The Board of Trustees shall adopt rules to carry out the intent of this Section.

**Section C-3.6. Termination of Membership.**

A member congregation upon written notification to the Association may withdraw from the Association at any time. The Board of Trustees may terminate the membership of any congregation that, pursuant to the provisions of Section C-3.5, has been placed in an "inactive congregation" category maintained by the Association but shall do so only after consultation with:

- (a) the congregation in question, whenever possible; and
- (b) the President of the district in which the congregation is located or such other authorized official as the district designates in writing to the Association.

**VOTE ON OFF-SITE DELEGATES TO GENERAL ASSEMBLIES**

By a vote of two-thirds or more, the Assembly approved changes to the Bylaws that permit voting by delegates not physically present at General Assemblies. The amended text is as follows.

**Article IV General Assembly**

**Section 4.5. Place of Meeting.**

Each regular and special General Assembly shall be held at such place in the United States or Canada as the Board of Trustees shall determine. Subject to procedures and guidelines adopted by the Board of Trustees, delegates not physically present at General Assembly may be deemed present in person to participate in and vote at General Assembly by means of remote communication.

**VOTE ON PROCEDURES FOR THE RELIGIOUS EDUCATION  
CREDENTIALING COMMITTEE**

By a vote of two-thirds or more, the Assembly approved changes to the Bylaws that clarify the procedures for the Religious Education Credentialing Committee in either

revoking or suspending the credentialed status of a religious educator, bringing the language in line with the similar language governing the Ministerial Fellowship Committee. Additionally, there were several minor administrative changes. The amended text is as follows.

#### **Article IV General Assembly**

##### **Section 4.8. Delegates.**

- (b) Minister Delegates and Religious Education Director Delegates. Each certified member congregation is also entitled to be represented at each General Assembly by the ordained minister or ministers in full or associate ministerial fellowship with the Association settled in such congregation, and by the director or directors of religious education having achieved Credentialed Religious Education – Master Level status by the Association and employed in such congregation. In addition, each certified member congregation is also entitled to be represented at each General Assembly by any minister emeritus or minister emerita of such congregation in ministerial fellowship with the Association and by any director of religious education emeritus or emerita having achieved Credentialed Religious Education – Master Level status by the Association designated as such by a vote at a meeting of the member congregation not less than six months prior to the General Assembly, provided that any such minister has been settled previously in such congregation, and any such director of religious education who has been previously employed in such congregation.

#### **Article V Committees of the Association**

##### **Section 5.11. Board of Review.**

- (a) Members. The Board of Review shall consist of eight members as follows:
- (1) Three members who are ministers, each of whom at the time of election is in final ministerial fellowship with the Association and has held such fellowship continuously for the preceding seven years; and
  - (2) One member who is a credentialed religious educator-master level;  
and
  - (3) Four members who are not ministers or credentialed religious educators, each of whom at the time of election is a member of a certified member congregation and has been a member of one or more such congregations for not less than three years as an officer or a member of the governing bodies of one or more such congregations.
- (b) Election and Term. At each regular General Assembly held in an odd-numbered year one person who is neither a minister nor a credentialed religious educator shall be elected and shall serve for a term of eight years and until a successor is elected and qualified. At each regular General Assembly held in an odd-numbered year there shall be elected either a minister, as described in subsection (a)(1) above, or a credentialed religious educator-master level as described in

section (a)(2) above, who shall serve for a term of eight years and until a successor is elected and qualified. In the first election in an odd-numbered year following the adoption of the amendment to this subsection (b) as stated above, the election shall be of a credentialed religious educator, and this sentence shall thereafter be deleted from this subsection.

## **Article VII Committees of the Board of Trustees**

### **Section 7.13. Religious Education Credentialing Committee.**

The Religious Education Credentialing Committee shall consist of seven members as follows:

- (a) three members, none of whom is a parish minister, minister of religious education, community minister, a credentialed religious educator, or a director of religious education, appointed by the Board;
- (b) one member who is a parish minister or community minister, appointed by the Board;
- (c) one member who is a minister of religious education, appointed by the Board;
- (d) one member who is a credentialed religious educator-master level, appointed by the Board; and
- (e) one member nominated by the Board of the Liberal Religious Educators Association and appointed by the Board of Trustees.

The Committee shall have jurisdiction over religious education credentialing with the Association as provided in Article XII thereof. 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.

## **Article XII Religious Education Credentialing**

### **Section 12.3. Achievement of Religious Education Credentialing Status.**

A religious educator may achieve a religious education credentialing status by action of the Religious Education Credentialing Committee, upon complying with the requirements of these Bylaws and the rules, policies, procedures and requests of the committee.

### **Section 12.4. Religious Education Credentialing Levels.**

The Religious Education Credentialing Committee shall adopt rules related to levels of religious education credentialing as follows: religious education credentialing includes credentialed religious educator-associate level status, credentialed religious educator status, and credentialed religious educator-master level status as determined by action of the Religious Education Credentialing Committee.

### **Section 12.5. Religious Education Credentialing Records.**

The Executive Secretary of the Religious Education Credentialing Committee shall maintain up-to-date records of all religious educators who have achieved a status as a religious educator as described in Section 12.4 of these bylaws. These records shall be available only to members of the committee, persons designated by the Committee, and, in cases of appeals, the Board of Review.

**Section 12.6. Termination or Administrative Suspension of Religious Education Credentialing Status.**

The religious education credentialing status of a religious educator may be terminated by the Religious Education Credentialing Committee for unbecoming conduct, incompetence or other specified cause. Credentialing status may be terminated only after notice by the Committee and opportunity for a Religious Education Credentialing Status Review before the Committee. During an investigation or the pending of a complaint, the Religious Education Credentialing Committee may suspend a religious educator's credentialing status until a final determination can be made.

**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 Board of Review or its panel hearing an appeal shall limit its review to an examination of the Religious Education Credentialing Committee's decision, including the documents and other evidence compiled during the Religious Education Credentialing Status Review, and the reasons articulated by the Religious Education Credentialing Committee for its decision terminating the religious educator's credentialing status. If the religious educator requests consideration of newly discovered evidence, not previously presented to the Religious Education Credentialing Committee, then the matter shall be returned to the Religious Education Credentialing Committee for consideration of that evidence before the Board proceeds with the appeal. These Bylaws and the rules of the Religious Education Credentialing Committee shall be binding upon the Board of Review or its panel. The Religious Education Credentialing Committee's determination of fact and/or credibility will not be overturned unless no reasonable fact finder could have reached such determination, and disputes of fact are to be resolved in favor of the Religious Education Credentialing Committee's determination.

The Board of Review or its panel may set aside the decision of the Religious Education Credentialing Committee only where necessary to correct or prevent manifest injustice. The Board of Review or its 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 Board of Review or its panel shall set forth its finding and conclusions and shall be communicated to 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.

## **VOTE ON THE MINISTERIAL FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE**

By a vote of two-thirds or more, the Assembly voted on changes to the Bylaws that modify the conditions for appointment to the Ministerial Fellowship Committee, open the possibility of more than fourteen members, and eliminate the obligation to have members of the Board of Trustees on that Committee. The amended text is as follows.

### **Article VII Committees of the Board of Trustees**

#### **Section 7.6. Ministerial Fellowship Committee.**

The Ministerial Fellowship Committee shall consist of no fewer than fourteen members as follows:

- (a) at least six members who are not ministers appointed by the Board;
- (b) at least eight members who are ministers in final fellowship with the Association, four appointed by the Unitarian Universalist Ministers Association and the remainder by the Board.

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.

## **FIRST-YEAR VOTE ON AMENDMENTS TO ARTICLE XV**

The Assembly voted to give first-year approval to amendments to the Bylaws that retain the current process for amending Article II, with a study commission followed by votes at two General Assemblies. The new process, however, lets the first General Assembly propose amendments to the study commission's Article II language using a mini-assembly process similar to the one used for many other business actions. The effect of the vote is to place these Bylaw amendment proposals on the Final Agenda of the 2012 General Assembly for final adoption which will require a two-thirds vote. The proposed text is as follows.

### **Article XV Amendment**

#### **Section C-15.1. Amendment of Bylaws.**

- (a) Amendments to Bylaws. These Bylaws may be amended by a two-thirds vote at a regular General Assembly if a proposed amendment has been placed on the agenda; provided, however, that proposals to amend, repeal, or add a new section of these Bylaws whose section number is preceded by a "C" (hereinafter a "C Bylaw") shall be governed by subsections (b) or (c) hereof.
- (b) Amendments to C Bylaws Other Than in Article II. A proposal to amend, repeal or add a new C Bylaw, other than those C Bylaws in Article II of these Bylaws, shall be subject to a two-step approval process.

- (1) Such proposals must be placed on the agenda of a regular General Assembly and approved preliminarily by a majority vote at such regular General Assembly. Following such preliminary approval, the proposal to amend, repeal or add a new C Bylaw shall be placed on the agenda of the next regular General Assembly for final adoption. Final adoption shall require a two-thirds vote.
  - (2) The text of a proposed amendment which has been approved by one General Assembly, may be amended at any time prior to final adoption. If the Moderator rules that the amendment to the proposal is substantive, final adoption shall only be by a subsequent General Assembly except that any such proposal that has been under consideration for final approval at three successive regular General Assemblies shall not be subject to substantive amendment and shall be submitted to a vote for final approval at the third such regular General Assembly.
  - (3) Such a proposal which, on any vote for final adoption, receives a majority but not a two-thirds vote, shall be placed on the agenda of the next regular General Assembly, at which it may be finally adopted if it receives the requisite approval. If the proposal is not passed by a two-thirds vote at the third regular General Assembly at which it is considered for final approval, neither the proposal nor another proposal that is substantively similar shall be placed on the agenda of the next regular General Assembly.
- (c) Amendments to C Bylaws in Article II. A proposal to amend, repeal or add a new C Bylaw in Article II of these Bylaws shall be subject to the following process.
- (1) Such a proposal shall be admitted to the agenda of a regular General Assembly for the purpose of determining whether the proposal shall be referred to a commission appointed by the Board of Trustees for study. Such a study shall involve member congregations. A majority vote at a regular General Assembly shall be required to refer such a proposal to the study commission. Once the study of the proposal is complete, which shall be completed in no more than two years, the study commission shall submit to the Board of Trustees for inclusion on the agenda of the next regular General Assembly any amendments to Article II that the study commission recommends. The Board of Trustees shall also include on the agenda any amendments that it recommends to the study commission proposal.
  - (2) A motion to dispense with the study process and give preliminary approval to a proposal to amend, repeal or add a new C Bylaw in Article II shall be in order during the General Assembly at which consideration of a

motion to refer the proposal to the study process is authorized. A motion to dispense with the study process shall require a four-fifths vote for passage. Such a proposal shall then be placed on the agenda of the next regular General Assembly for final adoption without amendment. Final adoption shall require a two-thirds vote.

- (3) At the first General Assembly following the completion of the study process, amendments to the Article II proposal may be considered only as follows:
  - (i) During the General Assembly there shall be a mini-assembly held during which amendments to the Article II proposal recommended by the study commission shall be considered.
  - (ii) A delegate may submit in writing at the mini-assembly an amendment to an Article II proposal. All such amendments shall be made available in writing to the General Assembly. The Moderator, in consultation with the chair of the study commission, the parliamentarian and legal counsel shall prioritize proposed amendments for consideration by the General Assembly. A majority vote of the General Assembly is required for approval of any amendment proposed in the mini-assembly.
  - (iii) Following the vote on any amendments proposed in the mini-assembly, the General Assembly shall vote on any amendments proposed by the Board of Trustees. A majority vote is required to adopt such amendments. Following the vote on all amendments, the General Assembly shall vote on preliminary approval of the Article II proposal. A majority vote is required for preliminary approval.
  - (iv) If no amendments proposed in the mini-assembly are adopted by the General Assembly pursuant to subsection (c)(3)(ii) above, the Article II proposal shall be submitted for final approval to the next regular General Assembly. Final approval requires a two-thirds vote of the General Assembly. No amendments may be considered.
  - (v) If one or more amendments proposed in the mini-assembly are adopted by the General Assembly, the Article II proposal shall be referred to the study commission. Within six months after the close of the General Assembly, the study commission, taking into account the decisions of the General Assembly, shall prepare the proposal to amend Article II. The Board of Trustees

shall put this proposal on the agenda of the next regular General Assembly.

- (4) At the next regular General Assembly following the process described in subsection (c)(3)(v), above, the Article II proposal is subject to amendment only by a three-fourths vote in favor of an amendment submitted to the General Assembly in writing by the Board of Trustees, a district, or a minimum of fifteen (15) certified congregations, as described in Section 15.2 of these Bylaws. Final approval of the Article II proposal requires a two-thirds vote of the General Assembly.
- (5) If the Article II proposal does not receive the requisite approval at the General Assembly following the completion of the study process described in subsection (c)(3)(iv) or subsection (c)(4), above, neither the proposal nor another proposal that is substantively similar shall be placed on the agenda of the next regular General Assembly.
- (6) If no study process of Article II has occurred for a period of fifteen years, the Board of Trustees shall appoint a commission to study Article II for not more than two years and to recommend appropriate revisions, if any, thereto to the Board of Trustees for inclusion on the agenda of the next regular General Assembly. The Board of Trustees shall also include on the agenda any amendments that it recommends to the study commission proposal. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary contained herein, proposals to amend Article II which are promulgated by a study commission in accordance with this paragraph shall be subject to a two-step approval process as described in subsections (c)(3) and (c)(4), above.

#### **VOTE ON ELIMINATING THE CATEGORY OF “ASSOCIATE MINISTERIAL FELLOWSHIP”**

By a vote of two-thirds or more, the Assembly approved changes to the Bylaws that eliminate the category of “Associate Ministerial Fellowship,” thus corresponding to changes in the Ministerial Fellowship Committee Rules. The amended text is as follows.

#### **Section 4.8. Delegates.**

- b) Minister Delegates and Religious Education Director Delegates. Each certified member congregation is also entitled to be represented at each General Assembly by the ordained minister or ministers in ministerial fellowship with the Association settled in such congregation, and by the director or directors of religious education having achieved Credentialed Religious Education – Masters Level status by the Association and employed in such congregation. In addition, each certified member congregation is also entitled to be represented at each General Assembly by any minister emeritus or minister emerita of such

congregation in ministerial fellowship with the Association and by any director of religious education emeritus or emerita having achieved Credentialed Religious Education – Masters Level status by the Association designated as such by a vote at a meeting of the member congregation not less than six months prior to the General Assembly, provided that any such minister has been settled previously in such congregation, and any such director of religious education who has been previously employed in such congregation.

**Section C-10.9. Pension System.**

The Association shall establish and maintain a pension system for ministers in fellowship with the Association.

**VOTE ON CLARITY OF RESPONSIBILITY FOR STAFF**

By a vote of two-thirds or more, the Assembly approved changes to the Bylaws that substitute the word “staff” for a specific staff group and leave room for more flexibility in staffing structures. The amended text is as follows.

**Section 4.12**

- (ii) After one Congregational Study/Action Issue has been referred for study in accordance with (i) above, the UUA staff shall conduct a workshop to discuss processes for study and action on the selected issue. By November 1 following the General Assembly, the UUA staff shall have developed a resource guide pertaining to the Congregational Study/Action Issue selected by the General Assembly. The resource guide shall be made available and congregations notified of its availability.

**VOTE ON CHANGING THE SIZE OF THE UUA BOARD, THE PROCESS FOR ELECTION OF TRUSTEES, AND PROVIDING CLARITY ABOUT THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE**

By a vote of two-thirds or more, the Assembly approved changes to the Bylaws and Rules that reduce the size of the UUA Board from 26 persons to 14, change the process of election of trustees from a combination of election by district and at-large elections to all at-large elections and establish the responsibility of the Nominating Committee to endeavor to make nominations that reflect diversity. The terms for trustees have been shortened to two three-year terms. The amended text is as follows.

**Section 6.3. Membership.**

The Board of Trustees shall consist of:

- (a) the President, without vote, the Moderator and the Financial Advisor; and

- (b) eleven trustees elected at large.

**\*Section 6.4. Election of Trustees.**

- (a) One third, as nearly as possible, of the members of the Board of Trustees shall be elected at each regular General Assembly.
- (b) The Board of Trustees shall assign a number to each trustee position for the purposes of electing trustees.

**Section 6.5. Term.**

Trustees shall take office immediately after the close of the General Assembly at which they are elected, and shall serve for terms of three years and until their successors are elected and qualified. Any partial term of more than two years shall be considered a full term for purposes of this section. No trustee may serve more than two successive full terms. However, a trustee may at any time become one of the elected officers of the Association and serve as long in that office as if such trustee had not previously been a trustee. No person who has served as an elected officer for a full term or as a trustee for two full terms shall thereafter be elected a trustee without an interim of at least three years.

**\*Section 6.6. Qualifications of Trustees.**

Each elected trustee shall be a member of a member congregation. A trustee who ceases to meet this qualification shall be disqualified and the office declared vacant. Not more than one trustee shall be a member of the same member congregation. If a trustee becomes a member of a member congregation in which another trustee is already a member, such trustee shall be disqualified and the office declared vacant. The Board of Trustees shall adopt rules for the application of this section to persons holding membership in more than one member congregation.

**Section 6.8. Vacancies.**

A vacancy created by the death, disqualification, resignation, or removal of a trustee shall be filled by majority vote of the remaining trustees until the next regular General Assembly at which an election can be held. The vacancy shall then be filled by election for the balance of the unexpired term, if any.

**Section 8.3. Term of Office.**

- (a) Elected Officers. The elected officers shall be elected at a regular General Assembly and shall take office immediately after the close of such General Assembly.
  - (1) President. The President shall serve for a term of six years and until his or her successor is elected and qualified. No President shall serve more than one term; and any partial term of more than two years served by

reason of appointment and/or election to office pursuant to subsection 8.7(a) below shall be considered a full term for purposes of this subsection.

- (2) Moderator. The Moderator shall each serve for a term of six years and until his or her successor is elected and qualified. No Moderator shall serve more than one term; and any partial term of more than two years served by reason of appointment and/or election to office pursuant to subsection 8.7(a) below shall be considered a full term for purposes of this subsection.
  - (3) Financial Advisor. The Financial Advisor shall serve for a term of three years and until his or her successor is elected and qualified. No Financial Advisor shall serve more than two successive terms; and any partial term of more than two years served by reason of appointment and/or election to office pursuant to subsection 8.7(a) below shall be considered a full term for purposes of this subsection.
- (b) Appointed Non-salaried Officers. The appointed non-salaried officers shall serve for one or more terms of two years and until their successors are appointed and qualified.
- (c) Transition Provision. The bylaw amendment changing the term of office of the President from four years to a single term of six years shall become effective for the election of the President at the regular General Assembly in 2017. The President elected at the regular General Assembly in 2013 shall not be eligible for election in 2017. The bylaw amendment changing the term of office of the Moderator from four years to a single term of six years shall become effective for the election of the Moderator at the regular General Assembly in 2013. The bylaw amendment calling for the election of a Presidential Search Committee (Section 5.2) shall become effective for the election of members of the Presidential Search Committee at the regular General Assembly in 2013. The first two sentences of this transition provision, and this sentence, shall automatically be deleted from the bylaws following the regular General Assembly in 2017. The third, fourth and last sentences of this transition provision shall automatically be deleted from the bylaws following the regular General Assembly in 2013.

**Section 8.7. Vacancies.**

- (a) Elected Officers. A vacancy created by the death, disqualification, resignation, or removal of an elected officer shall be filled by the Board of Trustees until the next regular General Assembly. The vacancy shall then be filled by election for the balance of the unexpired term, if any.

- (b) Appointed Non-salaried Officers. A vacancy created by the death, disqualification, resignation, or removal of an appointed non-salaried officer may be filled by the Board of Trustees for the balance of the unexpired term.

**Section 9.1. Elective Positions.**

The elective positions of the Association are those of the elected officers, the trustees, and the elected members of the standing committees of the Association. No person shall hold more than one elective position at a time whether by election or appointment. Ex officio positions for the purposes of this Bylaw provision shall be deemed part of the elected position from which the ex officio position is derived.

**Section 9.3. Notice by Nominating Committee.**

On or before August 1 of each year, the Nominating Committee shall notify all certified member congregations in writing of the elective positions and vacancies to be filled at the next regular General Assembly.

**Section 9.4. Nomination by Nominating Committee.**

- (a) The Nominating Committee shall submit one or more nominations for each elective position to be filled, except Moderator and President, including those to fill any vacancies occurring prior to October 1 of the year before the election. With respect to Board positions, the Nominating Committee shall designate the position number for which each person is being nominated.
- (b) The Nominating Committee shall endeavor to nominate individuals so that the membership of the Board of Trustees and each elected committee reflects the full diversity of the Association, especially in regard to historically marginalized communities, but also balancing amongst size of congregation, lay and ordained, geography, age (including youth and young adults), and gender, among others. The Nominating Committee shall consult with groups and organizations including those traditionally underrepresented in Unitarian Universalist leadership, to help inform the nominating process.
- (c) Only one person from any one member congregation shall be nominated to serve on the Nominating Committee or the Board of Trustees.
- (d) The report of the Nominating Committee shall be filed with the Secretary of the Association and mailed to all certified member congregations, associate member organizations, and trustees on or before December 10 of each year.

**Section 9.6. Nomination by Petition.**

- (a) For Moderator and President. A nomination for the office of Moderator or President, or to fill a vacancy in an unexpired term occurring prior to December 1 of the year before the election may be by petition signed by no fewer than twenty-five certified member congregations, including no fewer than five certified member congregations located in each of no fewer than five different districts. A certified member congregation may authorize the signing of a

- petition only by vote of its governing board or by vote at a duly called meeting of its members. Such a petition shall be filed with the Secretary of the Association, only in such form as the Secretary may prescribe, not later than February 1 of the year of the election and not earlier than the preceding March 1.
- (b) For Other Elective Positions. A nomination for any other elective position or to fill a vacancy in an unexpired term occurring prior to December 1 of the year before the election may be by petition signed by not less than fifty members of certified member congregations, with no more than ten signatures of members of any one congregation counted toward the required fifty. A separate petition, in form prescribed by the Secretary, shall be filed for each nomination not later than February 1 of the year of the election and not earlier than the preceding October 1. A petition for nomination to the Board of Trustees must designate the position number for which the person is being nominated.

**Section 9.11. Counting of Ballots.**

- (a) For President. If there are no more than two duly nominated candidates for President, the candidate receiving the greater number of votes is elected. If there are more than two duly nominated candidates for President, the ballot shall be designed to permit the designation of first, second, third, etc. choice. If no candidate receives a majority of the first-choice votes cast, the candidate receiving the lowest first-choice vote shall be eliminated and the ballots cast for such candidate shall be redistributed in accordance with the second choice indicated thereon. This process shall be repeated until one candidate receives a majority of all votes cast or until only two candidates remain, at which time the one receiving the greater number of votes is elected.
- (b) For Other Elective Positions. If there is one elective position to be filled, the candidate receiving the greatest number of votes is elected. If there is more than one such elective position of the same kind to be filled, the candidates respectively receiving the greatest number of votes are elected; provided, however, that in construing the foregoing with respect to positions on the Board, each Board position number shall be considered a separate elective position.

**\*Section 9.12. Rules for Nominations and Elections.**

Rules relating to nomination and election procedures shall be adopted by a General Assembly. Such rules shall be applicable to elections held after the close of the General Assembly at which they are adopted.

**Section 9.13. Transition Provision.**

- (a) The amendments to Sections 6.3, 6.4(a) 6.5, 6.6, 6.8, 8.3, 8.7, 9.1, 9.3, and 9.6(a) shall become effective at the close of the regular General Assembly in 2013.
- (b) The amendments to section 6.4(b), 9.4, 9.6(b), 9.11, 9.12, and Rule G-9.12.2 shall become effective at the close of the regular General Assembly in 2012.
- (c) The terms of all trustees shall expire at the close of the regular General Assembly in 2013.
- (d) Notwithstanding the provisions of Section 9.4., for elections at the regular General Assembly in 2013:
  - (1) The Board of Trustees shall appoint, not later than October 31, 2012, from among its current members, four members, for specified numbered seats, to each serve a two-year term beginning immediately after the close of the regular General Assembly in 2013. No member whose service on the Board of Trustees began prior to June 2009 shall be eligible for selection for such a term.
  - (2) The Nominating Committee shall nominate one or more candidates to run for election to each of seven additional positions: four positions with a one-year term and three positions with a three-year term. These candidates may or may not be current members of the Board of Trustees.
  - (3) The Nominating Committee shall nominate one or more candidates for election to a three-year term as Financial Advisor.
  - (4) Candidates may be nominated by petition for the Board of Trustees or the Financial Advisor, as specified in Section 9.6.
  - (5) A report of the Nominating Committee shall be filed with the Secretary of the Association and be mailed to all certified member congregations, associate member organizations, and trustees on or before December 10, 2012.
- (e) For elections at any regular General Assembly before 2019, no trustee shall be eligible for nomination for a term that would result in more than six years of continuous service.
- (f) This transition provision shall automatically be deleted from the bylaws following the regular General Assembly in 2018.

**Rule G-9.12.2. Order of Names on Ballot.**

On all ballots used in elections held by the Association, the order of names shall be determined by the drawing of lots done by the Secretary and witnessed by two other persons; provided, however, that the order of names for elections to the Board of Trustees shall be by Board position number first, and then as determined above. The Secretary shall certify the results of the drawing of lots, the certificate shall be attested by the witnesses, and the certificate shall be filed with the Secretary's office. This Rule shall be printed on all official ballots or on the instructions accompanying them.

### **VOTE ON MODIFYING THE TERMS OF PERSONS SERVING ON THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE**

By a vote of two-thirds or more, the Assembly approved changes to the Bylaws that modify the term of persons serving on the Nominating Committee from one six-year term to two three-year terms. The amended text is as follows.

#### **Section 5.2. Election and Terms of Office.**

Elected members of all Section 5.1 committees shall take office at the close of the General Assembly at which they are elected and shall serve until their successors are elected and qualified except as otherwise provided herein. One-half as nearly as possible of the elected members of the General Assembly Planning Committee and the Commission on Social Witness shall be elected at the regular General Assembly held in each odd-numbered year. The elected members of the General Assembly Planning Committee and the Commission on Social Witness shall serve for terms of four years. One-third of the members of the Commission on Appraisal shall be elected at the regular General Assembly held in each odd-numbered year. One third of the members of the Nominating Committee shall be elected at the regular General Assembly held in each year. The elected members of the Commission on Appraisal shall serve for single terms of six years. Members of the Nominating Committee shall serve no more than two terms of three years. Any member of the Commission on Appraisal in office for a period of more than three years shall be deemed to have completed a six-year term for the purposes of re-election. Any member of the Nominating Committee in office for a period of more than 18 months shall be deemed to have completed a three-year term for the purposes of re-election. The elected members of the Presidential Search Committee shall be elected at the regular General Assembly held four years before the General Assembly at which there is to be a presidential election at the expiration of a President's term. The elected members of the Presidential Search Committee shall serve for terms of six years.

#### **Section 5.5. Vacancies.**

A vacancy created by the death, disqualification, resignation, or removal of an elected member of a standing committee of the Association shall be filled by the Board of Trustees until the next regular General Assembly. The vacancy shall then be filled by election for the balance of the unexpired term, if any.

**Section 5.6. Nominating Committee.**

The Nominating Committee shall consist of nine elected members. A member shall not during the term of office hold any salaried position in the Association and, after serving two terms in office, shall not be eligible for re-election to the Nominating Committee until after an interim of at least three years. The Nominating Committee shall submit nominations for certain elective positions of the Association, as provided in Article IX.

**Section 5.16. Transition Provision.**

Notwithstanding the provisions of Sections 5.2 and 5.6:

- (a) Members of the Nominating Committee elected at the regular General Assembly in 2013 shall be elected to three-year terms.
- (b) Members of the Nominating Committee elected prior to the regular General Assembly in 2013 may serve their full six-year terms.
- (c) For elections at any regular General Assembly before 2018, no person shall be eligible for nomination for a term on the Nominating Committee that would result in more than six years of continuous service.
- (d) This transition provision shall automatically be deleted from the bylaws following the regular General Assembly in 2017.

**VOTE ON DISTRICT NAME CHANGE**

By a vote of two-thirds or more, the Assembly approved changes to the Bylaws that acknowledge the decision made by the former Thomas Jefferson District to change that district's name to the Southeast District. The amended text is as follows.

**Rule G-13.2.1. Establishing Districts.**

- (a) The districts shall be nineteen in number and named Ballou Channing, Central Midwest, Clara Barton, Florida, Heartland, Joseph Priestley, Massachusetts Bay, Metropolitan New York, Mountain Desert, Mid-South, Northern New England, Ohio Meadville, Pacific Central, Pacific Northwest, Pacific Southwest, Prairie Star, St. Lawrence, Southeast, and Southwestern.

**VOTE ON ACTIONS OF IMMEDIATE WITNESS**

By a vote of two-thirds or more, the Assembly approved changes to the Bylaws that would eliminate Actions of Immediate Witness in 2012, reconstitute them beginning with the 2013 General Assembly, modify the process for submission, and limit them in number to three. The amended text is as follows.

**Section 4.16. Additions to the Agenda of Regular General Assemblies.**

- (a) Non-substantive items related to greetings and similar matters may be admitted to the agenda by a regular General Assembly.
- (b) Prior to 2013, there will be no General Assembly Actions of Immediate Witness on the agenda.
- (c)
  - (1) A General Assembly Action of Immediate Witness is one concerned with a significant action, event or development, the timing or specificity of which makes it inappropriate to be addressed by a UUA Statement of Conscience pursuant to the Study/Action process.
  - (2) Beginning with General Assembly 2013, no more than three General Assembly Actions of Immediate Witness may be admitted to the agenda of a regular General Assembly.
  - (3) A petition to admit an Action of Immediate Witness to the agenda must be submitted by a delegate and signed by 150 delegates from at least 25 congregations in at least five districts. If six petitions or fewer are received, all petitions received that have the requisite level of delegate and congregation support are eligible to be considered for possible admission to the agenda. In the event more than six petitions are submitted that satisfy the sponsorship requirement, the Commission on Social Witness shall select six from among those which meet the criteria for a General Assembly Action of Immediate Witness, and shall submit those six actions to the agenda of the General Assembly for possible admission. The Commission on Social Witness shall prepare summaries of no more than six petitions and present those summaries to the General Assembly for a vote to rank the petitions in order of delegate support. The three petitions receiving the most votes are eligible for admission to the agenda. If there are submitted three or fewer petitions meeting the criteria for a General Assembly Action of Immediate Witness, each of the petitions is eligible for admission to the agenda.
  - (4) The motion to admit each General Assembly Action of Immediate Witness ruled eligible is not debatable, but an opportunity for a two-minute statement of advocacy to the General Assembly for each eligible action by one of its sponsors prior to any such motion shall be provided. Admission of a General Assembly Action of Immediate Witness shall be by a two-thirds vote.
  - (5) During the General Assembly, a mini-assembly shall be held during which each admitted action shall be discussed and amendments shall be accepted in writing. All such amendments shall be made available in writing to the General Assembly. The Commission on Social Witness shall finalize each

General Assembly Action of Immediate Witness, and the chairperson of the Commission on Social Witness, in consultation with the moderator of the General Assembly, the parliamentarian, and legal counsel, shall prioritize unincorporated amendments for consideration by the General Assembly.

- (6) Adoption of a General Assembly Action of Immediate Witness shall be by a two-thirds vote.
  - (7) Actions submitted pursuant to this Section 4.16(c) must be in writing and filed with the Chair of the Commission on Social Witness or the Commission's designee by the deadline established by the Commission and announced at the opening session of the General Assembly.
- (d) Responsive Resolutions may be admitted to the agenda of a regular General Assembly and acted upon.
- (1) A Responsive Resolution is a resolution made in response to a substantive portion of a report by an officer or committee reporting to a regular General Assembly.
  - (2) Adoption of a Responsive Resolution shall be by two-thirds vote.

**Rule G-4.16.1. General Assembly Actions of Immediate Witness, and Responsive Resolutions.**

The Moderator shall take such steps as the Moderator considers practical to advise delegates and other persons or bodies as early as possible, preferably in writing, of the contents of any actions or resolutions presented to the General Assembly which are not on the Final Agenda and which are admitted to the agenda pursuant to Article IV, Section 4.16 of the Bylaws; and some time shall be scheduled when the sponsor(s) of the action(s) or resolution(s) can discuss the action or resolution with those interested.

**UUA Statement of Conscience**

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

**STATEMENT OF CONSCIENCE**

**ETHICAL EATING: FOOD & ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE**

Aware of our interdependence, we acknowledge that eating ethically requires us to be mindful of the miracle of life we share with all beings. With gratitude for the food we

have received, we strive to choose foods that minimize harm and are protective of the environment, consumers, farmers, and all those involved in food production and distribution.

Environmental justice includes the equitable distribution of both environmental burdens and benefits for populations of residents and workers. Marginalized people have often been able to find housing or work only in areas exposed to environmental pollutants, with consequent negative health and quality of life effects.

As Unitarian Universalists, we are called to address our relationship with food. Our Principles call for recognition of and respect for the other. As we search freely and responsibly for truth, meaning, and spiritual wholeness, we will make a variety of individual choices about food. Ethical eating is the application of our Principles to our food choices. What and how we eat has broad implications for our planet and society. Our values, Principles, and integrity call us to seek compassion, health, and sustainability in the production of food we raise or purchase.

Food production involving growing, processing, packaging, transporting, and distributing food has become a vast worldwide industry. The mass production of food often maximizes production while minimizing price. This mass production has greatly increased food supply, but has resulted in the overuse of fertilizers and pesticides with crops and the mistreatment of animals and workers in food production. Both this overuse and the large waste streams from concentrated animal feeding operations (CAFOs) result in pollution of water, land, and air.

Access to an adequate supply of healthy food and clean water is a basic human need and right. Many people do not have adequate food, while others have a surplus. In many locations, poor distribution of food is a major contributor to hunger and malnutrition. The effects of climate change, weather conditions, and armed conflicts can also expose many people to starvation. Paradoxically, an abundance of food does not guarantee access to healthy food.

We acknowledge that aggressive action needs to be taken that will ensure an adequate food supply for the world population; reduce the use of energy, water, fertilizer, pesticides, and hormones in food production; mitigate climate change; and end the inhumane treatment of animals. These steps call for an evolution of our eating habits to include more locally grown, minimally processed whole foods. We acknowledge that this evolution must respect diversity in cultures, nutritional requirements, and religious practices.

Minimally processed plant-based diets are healthier diets. Some of us believe that it is ethical only to eat plants while others of us believe that it is ethical to eat both plants and animals. We do not call here for a single dietary approach. We encourage a knowledgeable choice of food based on understanding the demands of feeding a growing world population, the health effects of particular foods, and the consequences of production, worker treatment, and transportation methods. We commit to applying this knowledge to both personal and public actions, recognizing that many of us might

embark on a dramatic change in eating choices and some might pay more for food that is ethically produced. For congregations, helping congregants gain this understanding and supporting their choices will require a long-term collective process of engagement, education, discernment, and advocacy. Unitarian Universalists aspire to radical hospitality and developing the beloved community. Therefore, we affirm that the natural world exists not for the sole benefit of one nation, one race, one gender, one religion, or even one species, but for all. Working in the defense of mutual interests, Unitarian Universalists acknowledge and accept the challenge of enlarging our circle of moral concern to include all living creatures.

As individuals and as congregations, we recognize the need to examine the impact of our food choices and our practices and make changes that will lighten the burden we place on the world. We also recognize that many food decisions will require us to make trade-offs between competing priorities. These priorities include: taste, selection, price, human health, environmental protection, sustainability, adequate food supply, humane treatment of animals used for food, and fair treatment of farm and food workers.

**Environmental** concerns include the use of fertilizers, herbicides, pesticides, and hormones and high volumes of animal wastes produced by CAFOs, all of which can contaminate soil, air, and water. Contributors to global warming include the overreliance on fossil fuels for food production; the methane produced by animals, including but not limited to cattle, sheep, and pigs; and the long-distance transport of food. Expanding agriculture and animal farming often removes natural habitats and reduces natural biodiversity. An additional environmental concern is the deterioration of the oceans and their life forms due to overfishing and pollution.

**Human Health** concerns include producers' use of growth promoters, pesticides, and antibiotics that can affect child development, antibiotic resistance, and other health conditions. Advertising and marketing can encourage overeating, poor food choices, a focus on body image that can contribute to eating disorders, and the use of infant formula in preference to breast feeding.

Concerns about the **Humane Treatment of Animals** include intensive confinement and abuse in CAFOs, and inhumane conditions during production, transport, and slaughter. Concerns about the **Fair Treatment of Food and Farm Workers** include low pay, poor and unsafe working conditions, exploitation of undocumented workers, and enslavement of others.

**Policy** concerns include agricultural subsidies that reward the production of certain crops and animal products that are less healthful and environmentally friendly than unsubsidized ones and that penalize small to moderate-sized farming operations. Agricultural subsidies of exported crops have driven small farmers in developing countries off their land. The consequences of agricultural subsidies and mono-cropping include increased gender disparity where women have been the traditional agricultural producers. We recognize replicating corporate agricultural modes in our aid to developing countries is not in the best interest of humanity. We support the development

of farming models that safeguard the environment, produce safe foods, provide economic benefits to all economic levels, and create environmentally and economically sustainable models.

Classism, racism, sexism, and other forms of oppression are deeply connected to economic justice, which is a prime determinant of access to food. Some of us will not be able to pay more for ethical food. Others of us will. Yet all of us can have a role in improving the ethics of food. We affirm that the fight for environmental and economic justice is inherently a fight against all forms of oppression. As a result, ethical eating requires different ways of thinking about these issues that reflect their interconnected nature, and we understand that this work will require creativity, patience, and resolve.

### **CALLS TO ACTION**

#### **Individual Actions**

Recognizing that individual circumstances vary, we aspire to buy, raise, and consume food for ourselves and our families that:

- increases our proportionate consumption of plant-based foods, which increases the global access to calories, provides health benefits, and prevents injuring animals;
- minimizes the pain and suffering of animals by purchasing meat or seafood produced under humane conditions, for those who choose to eat meat or seafood;
- minimizes the negative environmental effects of raising animals or plants by purchasing organically produced food, and seafood certified as responsibly farmed or harvested;
- minimizes transportation-related carbon dioxide emissions by obtaining foods locally produced through home or community gardens, farmers markets, or community supported agriculture (CSA);
- provides farm workers with living wages and safe working environments;
- contributes to social harmony by encouraging communal eating;
- promotes health, consuming food in quantities that do not lead to obesity; and

We advocate for the benefit of animals, plants, food workers, the environment and humanity by:

- purchasing fair trade--certified products as available.
- asking food sellers and producers to label where their products come from to determine distance of transport and whether the products were irradiated or contain Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs);
- pressing food sellers to require that their suppliers certify the humane treatment of animals;
- supporting legislation that requires the labeling of products that are irradiated or contain Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs), distribution of adequate ethical food supplies, effective safety inspection of food production, and realignment of agricultural subsidies to support growing more produce and the viability of small

farmers; and

- protecting and encouraging organic food production and its producers.

### **Congregational Actions**

As congregations, we aspire to:

- provide and sell more plant-based, organic, locally produced, and fair trade foods at congregational events;
- promote economic accessibility to safe, ethically produced food by organizing members to work for food justice through activities such as: urging grocery chains to locate stores in low income neighborhoods, supporting local food co-ops, helping people obtain food stamps, advocating for increased funding to alleviate hunger, and assisting local meals on wheels and food bank programs;
- support the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee, Unitarian Universalist United Nations Office, and other relevant UU organizations in their efforts to ensure that everyone has adequate nutritious food, produced sustainably;
- provide educational programs for all ages that address the issues of environmental justice, world hunger, gardening, food preparation, and nutrition;
- become Green Sanctuary—accredited and include ethical eating in programs;
- advocate for healthful food for school and other institutional meals; and
- engage in direct action in solidarity with workers and labor advocacy groups to support agricultural and food workers.

With gratitude and reverence for all life, we savor food mindful of all that has contributed to it. We commit ourselves to a more equitable sharing of the earth's bounty.

### **Actions of Immediate Witness**

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

#### **Protest Representative Peter King's Hearings on "Muslim Radicalization"**

**BECAUSE** Unitarian Universalist Principles affirm the goal of a just community, representing unity in our multiracial world;

**WHEREAS** the hearings of Rep. Peter King, the Chair of the House Homeland Security Committee, which profess to present the "radicalization" of the Muslim community, have begun as of March 10, 2011, and he intends on pursuing these hearings;

**WHEREAS** these hearings fail to acknowledge or represent the complexity of the American Muslim community;

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**WHEREAS** the vast majorities of the Arab and Muslim American communities are law abiding and committed citizens and residents of the United States;

**WHEREAS** such hearings lead to demonization of Arab and Muslim Americans and incite more hatred, racism, and division along racial and religious lines;

**WHEREAS** the first amendment to the Constitution states that “Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof”;

**WHEREAS**, on March 6, thousands of interfaith protestors demonstrated in Times Square against the “Muslim radicalization” hearings; and

**WHEREAS**, on May 21, a coalition of Unitarian Universalist congregations, 25 civil rights and interfaith groups, including chapters of the NY Civil Liberties Union, local mosques, and peace activists demonstrated in front of Rep. Peter King’s office in Massapequa Park, Long Island, NY;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the 2011 General Assembly of the Unitarian Universalist Association affirms multiracial unity and interfaith solidarity in the interest of world peace and calls upon member congregations to:

- \* urge our local congressional representatives to halt Rep. Peter King’s hearings; and
- \* join coalitions working against the divisive idea of “Muslim radicalization” and advocating for interfaith unity.

### **Support Southern California Supermarket Workers’ Struggle for Decent Wages and Benefits**

**BECAUSE** our Unitarian Universalist Principles affirm “the inherent worth and dignity of every person” and call for “justice, equity and compassion in human relations” and

**BECAUSE** our denomination has a long history of opposing racism and sexism;

**WHEREAS** full-time supermarket workers in Southern California (SoCal) earn an average of less than \$30,000 per year, despite the high cost of living in the area;

**WHEREAS** many workers get only 24 hours of work per week and therefore earn far less;

**WHEREAS** SoCal supermarket workers are disproportionately African-American and Latino;

**WHEREAS** SoCal supermarket workers are disproportionately female;

**WHEREAS** the 5-month strike/lockout of these workers in 2003 resulted in reductions in health insurance and pensions;

**WHEREAS**, despite that, the 62,000 members of United Food and Commercial Workers voted overwhelmingly on April 21, 2011, to authorize a strike against the three major SoCal supermarket chains—Ralphs, Albertsons and Von’s;

**WHEREAS** the supermarket chains are demanding further increases in workers’ payments for health insurance;

**WHEREAS**, by authorizing a strike, the supermarket workers acted on behalf of all workers, courageously rejecting the Great Recession rhetoric of “shared sacrifice,” which has so far meant primarily that only workers (employed and unemployed) and their families sacrifice;

**WHEREAS**, in 2003, the supermarket chains adopted a “national strategy,” relying on profits from operations throughout the US to offset losses in Southern California; and

**WHEREAS** it appears likely that the workers will strike within a few weeks of this General Assembly;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the 2011 General Assembly of the Unitarian Universalist Association:

- Calls upon UU congregations in Southern California to support the supermarket workers in ways such as: educating our members, organizing petition campaigns and pledges not to shop at supermarkets where workers are on strike, holding demonstrations, walking picket lines, serving meals to the workers if they strike, and organizing congregations of other denominations and the community in general to do the same;
- Calls upon congregations outside Southern California to a) support the strikers in ways they consider appropriate such as: letters of support, donations to the strikers, petition campaigns, demonstrations at markets owned by the parent companies of the three supermarket chains: Safeway (Von’s), Kroger (Ralphs and Fry’s), and Supervalu, Inc. (Albertsons); b) collect pledges not to shop at stores owned by the chains if the workers strike; and c) urge members of the community not to shop at those stores until the strike is settled.

### **Oppose Citizens United – Support Free Speech for People**

**BECAUSE** Unitarian Universalists believe in the “inherent worth and dignity of every person,” and in the “use of the democratic process” in society at large;

**WHEREAS** the U.S. Supreme Court decision of January 21, 2010, in *Citizens United v. FEC* enshrined corporations as persons and equated money with speech;

**WHEREAS** this unprecedented ruling has already resulted in unlimited spending by corporations in state and federal elections in 2010, flooding the political marketplace with corporate money, drowning out the voices of individuals, and jeopardizing the very democracy that we hold dear;

**WHEREAS** anonymous, unlimited campaign spending and its associated domination of the media conflict with the fourth and fifth UU Principles;

**WHEREAS** Congress cannot pass a law to overturn the Supreme Court decision, once the Supreme Court has interpreted the Constitution to say that corporations have the First Amendment rights of people;

**WHEREAS** continuing this precedent might result in ever increasing gaps between rich and poor, concentrated efforts by the wealthy to control elections by vast infusions of money into campaign front groups, and increasing corruption of the democratic process; and

**WHEREAS** we are entering the first presidential election cycle in which this ruling takes effect, so the urgency is for people to speak up NOW in opposition to this ruling and in support of a Constitutional amendment to overturn it, so that this is part of the presidential debates in 2012;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the 2011 General Assembly urges member congregations to sign the resolution for The People’s Rights Amendment proposed at [www.freespeechforpeople.org](http://www.freespeechforpeople.org) and encourage their congressional representatives to sponsor such a resolution in opposition to the Supreme Court decision in Citizens United (Find your U.S. Representatives at [www.house.gov](http://www.house.gov)); and

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the 2011 General Assembly urges member congregations to support pending and future federal and state legislation requiring maximum disclosure by corporations of all political contributions they make, whether directly to candidates or indirectly to advocacy groups; and

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the 2011 General Assembly encourages member congregations to support similar motions of other organizations such as Move to Amend, People for the American Way, and Public Citizen (See [www.movetoamend.org](http://www.movetoamend.org), [www.pfaw.org](http://www.pfaw.org), [www.citizen.org](http://www.citizen.org)); and

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the 2011 General Assembly encourages member congregations to press their state senators and representatives to file similar state and local resolutions opposing the equation of corporate political speech with the free speech of individual persons and to use as models the 2011 state resolutions of Massachusetts, New Mexico, Oregon, Vermont, and Washington State, and the local resolutions of the towns of Brewster, Chatham, Dennis, Great Barrington, Orleans, Provincetown, Truro, Wellfleet,

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and Williamstown, Massachusetts (See [www.freespeechforpeople.org](http://www.freespeechforpeople.org), 2011 resolutions); and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the 2011 General Assembly encourages the existing 11 UU legislative ministries in the UU State Advocacy Network (UUSAN, [www.uustatenetwork.org](http://www.uustatenetwork.org)) to consider adopting “Oppose Citizens United—Support Free Speech for People” as a core issue among their statewide efforts, and encourages member congregations in states that do not YET have a legislative ministry to start one by contacting Interim Administrator Nancy Banks, at [nancy.banks1@verizon.net](mailto:nancy.banks1@verizon.net) or 617-835-5426.

Working together with other groups and other faith traditions, we can make a significant impact in 2011-2012 to restore the effective voice of “we the people” and help to heal our democracy.

### **Responsive Resolutions**

By a vote of two-thirds or more, three Responsive Resolutions in response to the reports of officers were passed.

#### **RESPONSIVE RESOLUTION ON MULTICULTURAL COMPETENCY**

**WHEREAS** President Peter Morales’s Annual Report referred to communities with a “spiritual hunger” that can be fed by Unitarian Universalism, he referred to the need for multicultural competence in serving these communities, and he cited the *Strategic Review of Professional Ministries*, which states in part:  
“Our UUA President, Peter Morales, believes that vibrant multicultural congregations are essential for a thriving Unitarian Universalism of the future”  
**and**  
“Our ministers, religious educators and musicians must be equipped with strong multicultural competence”  
**and recommended that we should**  
“Strengthen RE and music credentialing and continuing education”;

**WHEREAS** some fluency in a second language is one of the paths to multicultural competency (as our Latina/Latino/Hispanic colleagues have already demonstrated) and enhances our ability to engage effectively with diverse communities,

**WHEREAS** the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the consolidation of Universalists and Unitarians offers a powerful challenge and opportunity for our meaningful presence in the future,

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the General Assembly strongly urges members of congregations and religious professionals to engage in continuing education programs in the Spanish language, beginning as early as July 2011.

**RESPONSIVE RESOLUTION ON EQUALITY FOR GAY, LESBIAN, BISEXUAL  
AND TRANSGENDER PEOPLE**

**WHEREAS** the Standing on the Side of Love campaign was recognized by President Peter Morales in his report as the major public witness campaign of the UUA,

**WHEREAS** this campaign has advocated fiercely for marriage equality, and **WHEREAS**, while Unitarian Universalists from throughout the world met in Charlotte at General Assembly, the New York State Legislature, in a bipartisan vote, passed marriage equality legislation that that was signed into law by Governor Andrew Cuomo, and

**WHEREAS** multiracial, interfaith coalitions, including Interfaith Impact of New York State, were instrumental in the passage of this law by showing the legislature that diverse people of faith stand on the side of love, and

**WHEREAS** Unitarian Universalists from the Metro New York and St. Lawrence Districts played significant roles in these coalitions,

**BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT** the 2011 General Assembly celebrates with the people of New York on the occasion of this historic victory and expresses enthusiastic joy for this step toward equality.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT** we recognize that the struggle for equal marriage rights is only one small piece of a larger movement for full equality for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people.

**LASTLY, BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the delegates call upon our congregations and institutions to continue our religious witness and advocacy for love as well as the dismantling of inequality and oppression wherever they are found.

**RESPONSIVE RESOLUTION ON AN ARIZONA YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULT  
ACTION MINISTRY**

**Whereas**, the assembled delegates of the 2010 General Assembly passed business and responsive resolutions acknowledging the importance of engaging and empowering youth and young adults to bring their unique gifts to the planned Justice General Assembly 2012 in Phoenix, Arizona,

**Therefore, be it resolved:** We the delegates of the 2011 General Assembly do hereby call on the UUA Board of Trustees, staff, and GA Planning Committee to facilitate the creation of an Arizona Youth and Young Adult action ministry, tasked with organizing, educating, training, and energizing our youth and young adults around the issues surrounding Justice General Assembly, and empowering them to help plan and attend this historic event.

### **Credentials Report**

The final credentials report of the Secretary of the Association was as follows: accredited and attending the 50th General Assembly of the Unitarian Universalist Association were 1617 member delegates, 410 ministerial delegates, 5 credentialed religious educators, 5 associate member delegates, 24 members of the Board of Trustees (not included as registered delegates from congregations), and 23 delegates representing the Church of the Larger Fellowship (included in member delegate count) for a total of 2061 delegates representing 596 congregations, 49 states, the District of Columbia, and 3 Canadian provinces. Total registration for the Assembly was 4082, including 167 youth.

Offsite attendance included 49 individuals from 19 states and 1 Canadian province.

### **Elections**

The Assembly, by voice vote, elected the following board and committee members:

Board of Review – 8-year terms

Denise Rimes  
Rev. Jann Halloran

Board of Trustees (at large position) – 4-year term

Rev. Clyde Grubbs

Commission on Appraisal – 6-year terms

Rev. John Cullinan  
Rev. Lynne Garner  
Rev. Mitra Rahnema

Commission on Social Witness – 4-year term

Susan Goekler

General Assembly Planning Committee – 4-year terms

Gregory Boyd  
Kathy Charles  
Nan White  
Tim Murphy

Nominating Committee – 6-year terms

Chris Sims  
Rev. Danielle Di Bona  
Elnora Williams

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**Closing**

The Assembly thanked Moderator Gini Courter for her leadership and then voted to adjourn *sine die*.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Kathleen Montgomery  
Recording Secretary