

MINUTES

FIFTY-FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST ASSOCIATION
HELD IN PORTLAND, OREGON

The General Assembly was convened on Wednesday, June 24, 2015, at approximately 8:30 p.m. by Moderator Jim Key at the Oregon Convention Center in Portland, Oregon.

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

Five new congregations were recognized as having entered into membership in the Unitarian Universalist Association during the past year: All Souls in Miami, Florida; Iowa Lakes Unitarian Universalist Fellowship in Okoboji, Iowa; Open Door Unitarian Universalist Fellowship in Owensboro, Kentucky; Saint Croix Unitarian Universalist Fellowship in St. Croix Falls, Wisconsin; and Unitarian Universalist Bay de Noc Fellowship in Escanaba, Michigan.

The Assembly received reports from, among others, the President, the Moderator, the UUA staff, 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 Unitarian Universalist Service Committee, 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 2015 Award for Distinguished Service to the Cause of Unitarian Universalism to the Rev. Clark Olsen.

Actions on Bylaw and Rule Amendments

Proposed bylaw amendments that would have made the Commission on Appraisal a committee of the Board and would have made other changes to the Commission did not receive the requisite vote of two-thirds or more of the Assembly.

The Assembly passed by a vote of two-thirds or more amendments to the bylaws and rules so as to read as follows:

Underlining indicates insertion; brackets indicate deletion.

7.5 Executive Committee

The Executive Committee shall consist of the Moderator, the First Vice Moderator, the Secretary, the Financial Advisor, and the **Financial Secretary [Chair of the Finance Committee]**. The position on the committee occupied by the First Vice Moderator shall be filled by the

Second Vice Moderator at any meeting of the committee from which the First Vice Moderator is absent or at which the First Vice Moderator is presiding in the absence of the Moderator. The position on the committee occupied by the Secretary shall be filled by the Assistant Secretary at any meeting of the committee from which the Secretary is absent. The Executive Committee shall conduct the current and ordinary business of the Association between meetings of the Board of Trustees. If, between meetings of the Board of Trustees, matters arise which (1) in the opinion of the Executive Committee are not current and ordinary business but in the best interests of the Association must nevertheless be acted upon, or (2) the Executive Committee has been authorized by the Board to be acted upon, then the Executive Committee may act thereon for the Board of Trustees, but only if four or more members vote the action.

[Section 7.7 Finance Committee

The Finance Committee shall consist of the Financial Advisor, the Treasurer, five trustees, and the Moderator without vote. The duties of the Finance Committee are set forth in Article X.]

Section 7.14 Audit Committee

The Audit Committee shall consist of **[five] no fewer than four members** as follows:

- (a) **[three]** persons appointed by the Board, none of whom are members of the Board or hold a salaried position with the Association;
- (b) and the Financial Advisor. **]; and]**
- [(c) a member of the Finance Committee, who shall be appointed by the Board.]**

No member of the Audit Committee shall serve for more than four terms on the Audit Committee. The duties of the Audit Committee are set forth in Article X.

10.2 [Duties of the Finance Committee] Election and Duties of the Financial Secretary

The Financial Secretary shall be elected by the Board from among its members. The Financial Secretary facilitates the Board's conversations in order to fulfill its financial responsibilities.
[The Finance Committee shall submit proposed annual budgets for the Association to the Board of Trustees and make recommendations to the Board with respect to major financial policies of the Association other than those pertaining to investments. It shall review the use made of specific funds held by the Association and shall also recommend long-range financial plans.]

ARTICLE III Membership

Section 3.4. Church of the Larger Fellowship.

The Church of the Larger Fellowship, Unitarian Universalist, shall be a member congregation which is not considered to be located in any particular district **or region**.

ARTICLE IV General Assembly

Section 4.4. Special General Assembly.

A special General Assembly may be called by the Board of Trustees at any time, and shall be called upon petition of not less than fifty certified member congregations by action of the governing boards or their congregations. No more than twenty of the fifty congregations may be from the same district.

Section 4.11. Tentative Agenda for Regular General Assemblies.

The Board of Trustees shall prepare a Tentative Agenda for each regular General Assembly which shall include:

- (a) reports and other matters required by these Bylaws to be submitted to the General Assembly;
- (b) proposed amendments to these Bylaws which are submitted as prescribed in Article XV, Section 15.2;
- (c) items referred by the preceding General Assembly;
- (d) Business Resolutions and proposed amendments to Bylaws and Rules submitted by the Commission on Appraisal;
- (e) all proposed amendments to Rules and all Business Resolutions as defined in Rule G-4.18.2, submitted by:
 - (1) the Board of Trustees or the Executive Committee;
 - (2) not less than fifteen certified member congregations by action of their governing boards or their congregations; or
 - (3) a petition by not less than 250 members of certified member congregations with no more than 10 members of any one member congregation counted as part of the 250;
- (f) proposed amendments to Rules and Business Resolutions submitted by a district **or region** by official action at a duly called meeting at which a quorum is present but not in excess of three Business Resolutions per district. **In a district or region that does not maintain a formal governance structure, a meeting for this purpose may be convened by vote of the governing bodies or membership of at least fifteen congregations in that region in good standing with the UUA. A quorum for such a meeting shall require that at least one-third of the congregations of the district or region be represented by one or more formally credentialed delegates;** and
- (g) Proposed Congregational Study/Action Issues submitted by the Commission on Social Witness pursuant to Section 4.12(a).

Resolutions submitted under (d), (e)(2), (e)(3) and (f) must be received by the Board of Trustees by February 1 whenever the regular General Assembly opens in June. If the General Assembly opens in a month other than June, the Business Resolutions submitted under (d), (e)(2), (e)(3) and (f) must be received no later than 110 days before the date set for the opening of that General Assembly. The UUA Statements of Conscience process deadlines are established by

Sections 4.12(a) and (c) and by the Board of Trustees pursuant to Section 4.13 whenever one or more regular General Assembly is scheduled to begin in a month other than June. The Board of Trustees shall include on the Tentative Agenda all items so submitted. It may submit alternative versions of Business Resolutions in addition to the original ones submitted if in its judgment such alternatives clarify the resolutions and may make such changes in the Business Resolutions as are necessary to make each conform to a standard format. It may also submit one or more alternative versions for the purpose of combining two or more Business Resolutions. Adoption of Business Resolutions by a General Assembly shall be by two-thirds vote. The Tentative Agenda shall be mailed to each member congregation, associate member organization and trustee by March 1 if the General Assembly opens in June; otherwise, not less than 90 days before the opening of the General Assembly.

***Section 4.12. UUA Statements of Conscience.**

The purpose of the Congregational Study/Action Process is to provide the member congregations of the Association with an opportunity to mobilize energy, ideas, and resources around a common issue. The end result will be a deeper understanding of our religious position on the issue, a clear statement of Association policy as expressed in a Statement of Conscience, and a greater capacity for the congregations to take effective action. The process for adoption of UUA Statements of Conscience shall be as follows:

- (a) First Cycle Year
 - (1) Each member congregation[, **district,**] and sponsored organization (as designated by the Board of Trustees), may submit to the Commission on Social Witness by October 1 in the year preceding a General Assembly one proposed Congregational Study/Action Issue, such proposed Congregational Study/Action Issue to be approved at a duly called meeting of its members or its governing board at which a quorum is present. This commences the process of a four-year UUA Statement of Conscience cycle (“the Cycle”). A Cycle year ends at the close of General Assembly.
 - (2) The Commission on Social Witness shall by November 1 of that year submit to the Board of Trustees for inclusion on the Tentative Agenda of the regular General Assembly not more than ten proposed Congregational Study/Action Issues, each of which shall be based in whole or in part on the issues submitted to it as described in the previous subsection. The Commission on Social Witness shall verify with the proposing congregation[, **district,**] or sponsored organization that the proposed Study/Action Issue reflects the intent of the proposer prior to being included in the poll ballot. The ten proposed Congregational Study/Action Issues shall be included for approval by the congregations on the Congregational Poll ballot, such ballot to be available and congregations notified of its availability by November 15 of the same year. Congregational Poll ballots concerning the proposed Congregational Study/Action Issue shall be due by February 1 of the following year (the first Cycle year).

- (3) For the proposed Congregational Study/Action Issue to be placed on the Final Agenda of the General Assembly, twenty-five percent (25%) of all certified congregations must participate in the ballot vote concerning the proposed Congregational Study/Action Issues.
 - (4) The proposed Congregational Study/Action Issue shall be ranked in the order of the votes received in the Congregational Poll. The Study/Action Issues receiving the most votes (not to exceed five in number) shall be submitted to the General Assembly as follows:
 - (i) Each of the Proposed Congregational Study/Action Issues shall be presented to the General Assembly by a delegate, and one such proposed Congregational Study/Action Issue shall be referred for study by virtue of having received the highest number of votes among all proposed Congregational Study/Action votes cast by the General Assembly; provided, however, that if no proposed Congregational Study/Action Issue receives a majority of the votes cast, then a second vote shall be taken between the two issues receiving the highest number of votes cast in the initial election.
 - (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.
 - (5) If a UUA Statement of Conscience has been adopted in the previous year, the regular meeting of the General Assembly shall also conduct workshops on the implementation of such UUA Statement of Conscience.
 - (6) If no proposed Congregation Study/Action Issues are on the Final Agenda in the first Cycle year, or if no Congregational Study/Action Issue is referred for study by the General Assembly, then following the regular meeting of the General Assembly, the Cycle shall begin again as set forth in this subsection.
- (b) Second Cycle Year
- (1) Member congregations **[and the districts]** shall submit by not later than March 1 of the second Cycle year comments regarding the Congregational Study/Action Issue and the related resource guide to the Commission on Social Witness.
 - (2) During the meeting of the General Assembly in the second Cycle year the Commission on Social Witness shall conduct workshops on the Congregational Study/Action Issue.

(c) Third Cycle Year

- (1) Member congregations **[and the districts]** shall submit by not later than March 1 of the third Cycle year comments regarding the Congregational Study/Action Issue and the related resource guide to the Commission on Social Witness.
- (2) During the General Assembly in the third Cycle year, the Commission on Social Witness shall conduct workshops on the Congregational Study/Action Issue. Following the General Assembly, the Commission on Social Witness shall then compose a draft UUA Statement of Conscience.
- (3) The draft UUA Statement of Conscience, a draft Statement of Conscience congregational comment form, and a ballot to place the draft UUA Statement of Conscience on the Final Agenda shall be included in the Congregational Poll, to be made available and congregations notified of its availability by November 15, following the General Assembly. Notice of the availability of these items shall be given to the congregations. Congregational Poll ballots and the congregational comment forms concerning the draft UUA Statement of Conscience shall be due by February 1 of the following year (the fourth Cycle year).
- (4) The Commission on Social Witness shall then prepare a revised draft of the UUA Statement of Conscience taking into consideration comments received by the member congregations **[and districts]** and place this revised draft of the UUA Statement of Conscience on the Final Agenda.
- (5) For a draft UUA Statement of Conscience to be placed on the Final Agenda of the General Assembly, twenty-five percent (25%) of all certified congregations must participate in the ballot vote concerning such draft UUA Statement of Conscience.

(d) Fourth Cycle Year

- (1) If the draft UUA Statement of Conscience is placed on the Final Agenda for the next regular meeting of the General Assembly, then the next General Assembly must debate and vote on the proposed UUA Statement of Conscience. Adoption of the UUA Statement of Conscience shall require a two-thirds vote.
- (2) If (i) the proposed UUA Statement of Conscience is not placed on the Final Agenda for the next regular meeting of the General Assembly; or (ii) the General Assembly chooses, by a two-thirds vote, to refer the proposed UUA Statement of Conscience to the Commission on Social Witness for one additional year of study/action, then the Commission of Social Witness shall continue the study and revision of the proposed UUA Statement of Conscience for one more year. The revised UUA Statement of Conscience may be placed on the Final Agenda for the next regular meeting of the General Assembly pursuant to subsections (c)(3), (c)(4) and (c)(5) above. If by the regular meeting of the General Assembly following the additional year the Commission on Social Witness has been unable to find support to generate an acceptable UUA Statement of Conscience, the Congregational Study/Action Issue may be placed on the Final Agenda with a proposal to drop such Congregational Study/Action Issue.

- (3) Following the regular meeting of the General Assembly in the fourth Cycle year, the Cycle shall begin again as set forth in Section 4.12(a) above.
- (e) The Cycle may begin again, as set forth in Section 4.12(a), only after the General Assembly in the second Cycle year of a Congregational Study/Action Issue, and as provided in Sections 4.12(a)(6) and 4.12(d)(3).

Section 4.13. Revision of UUA Statements of Conscience Process Schedule.

If the Board of Trustees votes to schedule one or more regular General Assemblies to begin in a month other than June, the Board of Trustees shall forthwith revise the UUA Statements of Conscience process schedule set forth in Section 4.12 accordingly and shall immediately notify the member congregations[, **the districts**] and the Commission on Social Witness of the revised schedule in writing.

Section 4.15. Agenda for Special General Assemblies.

The Board of Trustees shall prepare the agenda for each special General Assembly which shall include resolutions and proposed amendments to Rules submitted by:

- (a) the Board of Trustees;
- (b) the petition, if any, which calls the special General Assembly; or
- (c) not less than 50 certified member congregations by action of their governing boards or their congregations, with no more than 20 of the 50 congregations from the same district.

The agenda shall be mailed to each member congregation, associate member organization and trustee not less than 30 days before the General Assembly.

***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.

Section 9.6. Nomination by Petition.

- (a) For Moderator and President. A nomination for the office of Moderator or President, for a regular or special 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 elective position, for a regular or special 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.

ARTICLE XIII Regional Organizations

Section C-13.1. Districts and Regions.

The Association shall support areas of regional responsibility known as districts or regions.

***Section C-13.2. Establishment.**

The establishment of districts or regions and the manner of determining which congregations are included in each district or region shall be in accordance with rules adopted by the General Assembly.

Section 13.3. Members.

All member congregations of the Association located within the district or region shall be entitled to be member congregations of that district or or region.

Section C-13.4. Autonomy.

Each district or region shall be autonomous and shall be controlled by its own member congregations to the extent consistent with the promotion of the welfare and interests of the Association as a whole and of its member congregations.

Section 13.5. District or Region Bylaws or Policies.

Each district or region shall adopt bylaws or policies which are not in conflict with these Bylaws.

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 1789 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.

***Section 15.2. Submission of Proposed Amendment.**

Proposed amendments to these Bylaws may be submitted only by:

- (a) the Board of Trustees;
- (b) the General Assembly Planning Committee;
- (c) the Commission on Appraisal; **or**
- (d) not less than fifteen certified member congregations by action of their governing boards or their congregations; such proposed amendments to Bylaws must be received by the Board of Trustees on February 1 whenever the regular General Assembly opens in June; otherwise, not less than 110 days before the General Assembly.]; **or**
- [(e) a district by official action at a duly called district meeting at which a quorum is present, such proposed amendment to be received by the Board of Trustees on February 1 whenever the regular General Assembly opens in June; otherwise, not less than 110 days before the next General Assembly.]**

Rule G-4.12.1. Report of Comments on UUA Statements of Conscience.

The Commission on Social Witness shall report to the General Assembly in summary fashion those comments on UUA Statements of Conscience submitted to it by member congregations **[and districts]**.

Rule G-4.12.2. Study/Action Issues for Social Justice.

The Commission on Social Witness shall prepare (and the Board of Trustees shall include with the Tentative Agenda) a report summarizing the numbers and topics of the proposed Congregational Study/Action Issues submitted by the certified member congregations **[districts,]** and sponsored organizations as defined in Section 4.12(a)(1), and the criteria which it used in selecting proposed Congregational Study/Action Issues included in the Congregational Poll. Each proposed Congregational Study/Action Issue that appears on the Tentative Agenda shall be accompanied by previous General Resolutions, actions and statements on related issues, with dates (if applicable), and the names or number of congregations submitting issues included within such proposed Congregational Study/Action Issue.

Rule G-4.12.3 Report on Implementation of UUA Statements of Conscience.

The UUA Administration shall report at each regular General Assembly regarding implementation of UUA Statements of Conscience with particular reference to the most recently adopted Statement of Conscience. Such report shall summarize implementation by member congregations, **[Districts,]** UUA staff and other Unitarian Universalist groups.

Section 4.18. Agenda Rules.

Rule G-4.18.1. Notice to Member Congregations [and Districts].

By November 1 whenever in the fiscal year the General Assembly opens in June, otherwise not less than two hundred and ten days before each regular General Assembly, each certified member congregation **[and district]** shall be notified of the dates for submitting items for the Tentative and Final Agenda, the procedure to be followed, and the forms to be used.

RULE XIII Regional Organizations

Section C-13.2. Establishment.

Rule G-13.2.1. Establishing Districts or Regions.

- (a) **[There shall be districts named Ballou Channing, Clara Barton, Florida, Joseph Priestley, Massachusetts Bay, Metropolitan New York, MidAmerica, Mountain Desert, Mid-South, Northern New England, Ohio Meadville, Pacific Central, Pacific Northwest, Pacific Southwest, St. Lawrence, Southeast, and Southwestern.] Authority to recognize a new district or region as a unit of the UUA, or to remove that recognition, shall reside with the General Assembly; provided, however, that a district or region may request that the UUA cease to recognize it without approval from the General Assembly. The UUA Secretary shall maintain a current list of the districts and regions of the UUA as recognized by the General Assembly.**
- (b) Each district **or region** shall be composed of the congregations assigned to that district **or region** by the Board of Trustees.
- (c) The boundaries of each district **or region** encompass the areas served by its member congregations.
- (d) Upon application to the Board of Trustees and after notice and an opportunity to be heard is afforded the affected districts **or regions**, a congregation may change its district **or regional** membership with approval of the Board of Trustees.
- (e) The **[District]** Map of **Districts and Regions published on the UUA Website [published in the Annual Directory]** contains boundaries that are an approximation only of the boundary lines determined pursuant to subparagraph (c) above and are intended primarily as a guide for the newly admitted congregation in determining its membership.
- (f) Transition Provision. The amendments to Rule G-13.2.1 deleting the Central Midwest, Heartland, and Prairie Star Districts shall not become effective until those Districts dissolve. This transition provision shall automatically be deleted from the bylaws following the first regular General Assembly occurring after all of those districts have dissolved.

Section 15.2. Submission of Proposed Amendments. Rule G-15.2.1. Form of Submission.

A proposed amendment to the Bylaws submitted by certified member congregations [or a district] must include:

- (a) the Article and Section which it is proposed to amend or repeal;
- (b) a concise summary of the principal arguments on which the proponents rely; and
- (c) other Articles (or Sections) or “G” Rules affected by the proposed amendment and proposed text of any necessary conforming amendments and “G” Rules.

Underlining indicates insertion; brackets indicate deletion.

Rule G-9.13.8 Campaign Finances Disclosures and Limitations.

Candidates for UUA President are limited to spending no more than \$100,000 on their campaign for election. No single donor, including the candidate themselves and any organization or group, may contribute more than \$5,000 in total, to a presidential campaign. In-kind donations of greater than \$500 equivalent cash value are reportable, but do not count against these totals.

All candidates for at-large elective positions shall keep detailed and accurate records of:

- (a) their campaign expenses (stated in United States dollars) by categories of travel, postage, telephone, printing and other such categories as seem appropriate; **and**
- (b) the number of contributors to their campaigns, including the number of contributors in each of the following categories:
 - (1) under \$50.00,
 - (2) \$50.00 to **[\$100.00] \$250.00,**
 - (3) **[\$101.00] \$251.00 to [\$250.00] \$1,000.00,** [(4) \$251.00-\$500.00, and]
 - (4) **Over [\$500.00] \$1,000.00,** and
 - (5) **In-kind donations with an equivalent cash value of \$500 or more.**
- [(c) the number of contributions and the total amount of contributions received from each group or organization supporting the campaign.]**

No candidate for any elective position shall solicit or knowingly accept any contribution that is given through a tax-exempt entity with the purpose of conferring tax-exempt status to the contribution to which it would not otherwise be entitled. Such exempt entities include but are not limited to member congregations, associate member organizations and independent UUA affiliates.

The names of contributors shall be disclosed. Each such report shall identify by name any member congregation, associate member organization or independent affiliate of the Association and any other tax-exempt organization (including specifically, but without limitation to, any minister’s discretionary fund or similar account) that has made any contribution to the campaign and shall state the amount of each such contribution. Such reports shall be filed with the Secretary of the Association. A preliminary report shall be due at the close of the first day

of the regular General Assembly at which the election occurs. A final report shall be due 60 days thereafter. The Secretary shall upon written request from a member of a member congregation furnish such information from these reports as requested. These reports shall be made available for inspection by any member of a member congregation at the principal offices of the Association and shall be brought by the Secretary to the next General Assembly and made available for inspection there by any delegate.

Actions of Immediate Witness

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

Support the Black Lives Matter Movement

WHEREAS, Unitarian Universalists strive for justice, equity and compassion in human relations;

WHEREAS, Unitarian Universalists have a goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all;

WHEREAS, allowing injustice to go unchallenged violates our principles;

WHEREAS, the Black Lives Matter movement has gained powerful traction in conjunction with recent tragic events involving, in particular, police brutality and institutionalized racism that target the black community;

WHEREAS, Tanisha Anderson, Rekia Boyd, Michael Brown, Miriam Carey, Michelle Cusseaux, Shelly Frey, Eric Garner, Freddie Gray, Trayvon Martin, Kayla Moore, Tamir Rice, and Tony Robinson are just a few names of people who were recently killed by the racism that exists in the United States today;

WHEREAS, people of all ages and races are killed by law enforcement, yet black people ages 20-24 are seven times more likely to be killed by law enforcement;

WHEREAS, mass incarceration fueled by for-profit prisons and racially biased police practices drive the disproportionate imprisonment of black and brown Americans;

WHEREAS, the school-to-prison pipeline is an urgent concern because 40% of students expelled from U.S. public schools are black and one out of three black men is incarcerated during his lifetime; and^[1]

WHEREAS, we must continue to support the Black Lives Matter movement and Black-led racial justice organizations;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the 2015 General Assembly of the Unitarian Universalist Association calls member congregations to action, to become closer to a just world community, and to prevent future incidents of this nature;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the 2015 General Assembly urges member congregations to engage in intentional learning spaces to organize for racial justice with recognition of the interconnected nature of racism coupled with systems of oppression that impact people based on class, gender identity, sexual orientation, ability and language;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the 2015 General Assembly encourages member congregations and all Unitarian Universalists to work toward police reform and prison abolition (which seeks to replace the current prison system with a system that is more just and equitable); and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the 2015 General Assembly recognizes that the fight for civil rights and equality is as real today as it was decades ago and urges member congregations to take initiative in collaboration with local and national organizations fighting for racial justice against the harsh racist practices to which many black people are exposed.

No matter who you are, black lives matter, and a system of fair, transformative, and restorative justice that is accountable to communities is something to which each of us has a right. Unitarian Universalists and our greater society have the power to make this happen. Let's do it!

Footnote

[1] This sentence was edited for accuracy. The original clause, as adopted by the General Assembly, read "WHEREAS, the school-to-prison pipeline is an urgent concern because 40% of black students are expelled from the U.S. public schools and one out of three black men is incarcerated during his lifetime; and".

**Support a Strong, Compassionate Global Climate Agreement in 2015:
Act for a Livable Climate**

WHEREAS, global climate change is fundamentally a moral and ethical crisis induced and exacerbated by human activity that can and must be modified to maintain a livable world for ourselves, our descendants, and other species;

WHEREAS, looming ecological catastrophes impacting food, water, and disease threaten the vulnerable and our descendants with mass suffering;

WHEREAS, Peter Morales (UUA President) and Bill Schulz (UUSC President and CEO) recently wrote that "The crisis of climate change is the gravest threat facing our world today";

WHEREAS, we can act to limit the harmful consequences of climate change by effective risk management (adaptation and mitigation, including emission reductions, development of renewable energy, etc.), with sufficient motivation, persistence, optimism, and will;

WHEREAS, our Principles impel us to act on climate change: The web of life is threatened: climate catastrophes (in near- and long-term) disproportionately impact the poor, disadvantaged, elderly, women, and children; issues of equity, justice, democracy, speaking truth, and defending the right of conscience are associated; and our descendants are threatened, raising intergenerational equity issues;

WHEREAS, Unitarian Universalists overwhelmingly voted to adopt a Statement of Conscience on the Threat of Global Warming and Climate Change in 2006, calling Unitarian Universalists into action to mitigate climate change;

WHEREAS, there can be no long-term solution to many social justice issues with which Unitarian Universalists are concerned without a viable solution to the climate problem; and

WHEREAS, we are responsible as people of faith to mitigate, avert, and limit the potential catastrophes of climate change, standing with other faith traditions caring for our common home;

WHEREAS, Unitarian Universalists have made a commitment to climate justice and stand in solidarity with first nation peoples, who are disproportionately affected by climate disruption;

WHEREAS, an international climate agreement is critical for reducing risk of the myriad severe climate impacts and also increasing positive opportunities for all people; and

WHEREAS, an December 2015, many nations of the world will gather in Paris for their last opportunity to negotiate the most important climate agreement in history;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the 2015 UU General Assembly calls on Unitarian Universalists to unify and provide ethical and moral leadership for climate action and to do so within our congregations and within our multi-faith communities;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Unitarian Universalists will support local actions such as the Lummi Nations' opposition to the Gateway Pacific Coal Terminal on sacred lands;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Unitarian Universalists will participate in and support mobilizations nationally such as the Moral March for Climate Justice in September 2015 during the Papal visit to Washington DC, pressing our government to act urgently and responsibly; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the 2015 UU General Assembly endorses a Unitarian Universalist delegation to the UN Climate Agreement Talks in December 2015 to support a

strong, compassionate, fair, ambitious, binding, and enforceable international climate agreement. Without a global climate agreement, the climate crisis will not be sufficiently addressed, and many social justice issues will continue to magnify.

End Immigrant Child and Family Detention Now

WHEREAS, our Unitarian Universalist values call on us to honor the inherent worth and dignity of every person;

WHEREAS, the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) of congregations affirmed in its 2013 Statement of Conscience on Immigration as a Moral Issue that a moral immigration policy would provide alternatives to detention for those not considered a threat to society and humane treatment for those being detained;

WHEREAS, the recently enacted practice of family detention is inconsistent with our Unitarian Universalist values;

WHEREAS, thousands of children and their mothers have been coming to the United States during the past two years to escape violence in their Central American home countries;

WHEREAS, these women and children are treated without dignity, without access to sanitary conditions, clean water, or healthy food, and are forced to wear prison clothes;

WHEREAS, immigrants imprisoned in detention centers (including, but not limited to, former prisons and for-profit detention centers operating under deplorable conditions), often experience permanent psychological damage, physical violence, and emotional, verbal, and sexual abuse during their incarceration;

WHEREAS, these women and children are generally not considered to be a threat, nor do they meet the Department of Homeland Security priority categories; and

WHEREAS, there are many other ways, with documented success, that the government can ensure that immigrants appear at their hearings, such as non-profit shelters and family or community placements, that can connect them with needed services and U.S. relatives (when applicable).

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Unitarian Universalist Association urges the United States government to treat all immigrants humanely, and in particular to use alternatives to incarceration to ensure that immigrants appear at their hearings;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Unitarian Universalist Association calls on President Obama, Congress, and U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) to close the family detention centers and immediately release those detained who do not meet priority criteria; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the 2015 General Assembly of the Unitarian Universalist Association encourages member congregations to take actions, such as:

1. Educating ourselves and others about the family detention centers (“UU World”, May 8, 2015);
2. Signing the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee’s petition calling on Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and the White House to end family detention;
3. Reaching out to and partnering with community organizations in their areas working to end family detention, including connecting with groups organizing visits to detention centers;
4. Contacting elected officials and encouraging them to stand on the side of love and end family detention by closing family detention centers; and
5. Connecting with and supporting Unitarian Universalist Refugee and Immigrant Services and Education (UURISE) in their work connecting and supporting Unitarian Universalists, member congregations, and state advocacy networks in their work for immigrant justice.

UUA Statement of Conscience

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

As Unitarian Universalists, we embrace the reproductive justice framework, which espouses the human right to have children, not to have children, to parent the children one has in healthy environments and to safeguard bodily autonomy and to express one's sexuality freely. *The reproductive justice movement was founded at a time when the unique range of issues faced by women of color were not addressed by the predominantly white middle class women’s rights and reproductive rights movements nor the predominantly male civil rights movement. Those issues have included forced sterilization, forced contraception, and higher rates of removal of children from families due to accusations of abuse or neglect. These issues, coupled with systemic racism, have frequently made parenting or co-parenting more difficult due to many factors, including but not limited to, discriminatory and unequal implementation of laws and incarceration rates, prohibitions imposed on people after incarceration, unjust immigration policies, and economic insecurity.*

Reproductive justice is the term created by women of color in 1994, to center the experience of the most vulnerable, and to bridge the gap between reproductive rights and other social justice movements. Some of these women helped to found SisterSong and have explained that the reproductive justice framework “represents a shift for women advocating for control of their bodies—from a narrower focus on legal access and individual choice . . . to a broader analysis of racial, economic, cultural, and structural constraints on [their] power. Reproductive justice addresses the social reality of inequality, specifically, the inequality of opportunities that

[women of color] have to control [their] reproductive destiny.”¹ We as Unitarian Universalists declare that all people have the right to self-expression with regard to gender and sexuality and the right to live free from sexual violence, intimate partner violence, and exploitation including sexual and reproductive exploitation.

The reproductive justice movement envisions the liberation of people of all genders, sexual orientations, abilities, gender identities, ages, classes, and cultural and racial identities. Such liberation requires not only accurate information about sexuality and reproduction and control of personal reproductive decisions, but also living wages, safe and supported housing, high quality and comprehensive medical and reproductive health care, access to voting and the political process, affordable legal representation, fair immigration policies, paid parental leave, affordable childcare, and the absence of individual and institutional violence.

The world we envision includes social, political, legal, and economic systems that support everyone’s freedom of reproductive choice and expression of gender identity and sexuality, especially the most vulnerable and marginalized. In such a world, all communities are places of equality, abundance and safety, free from violence, oppression, and hazardous environments. This world includes access to safe, affordable, and culturally and developmentally appropriate child care and health care. In our vision, everyone has access to accurate information about sexuality and family planning, and safe, healthy, and culturally sensitive reproductive health services.

Our faith tradition has a long history of progressive witness for freedom and justice. Soon after the merger of Universalism and Unitarianism, the new Association (1961) adopted statements in support of civil rights and the rights of women. In time, the Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations added advocacy for those facing oppression based on their sexual orientation or gender identity and expression. We have offered sexuality education across the lifespan within our congregations, and have advocated for these beliefs in the public sphere.

As participants in the reproductive justice movement, Unitarian Universalists commit to follow the lead of, act in solidarity with, and be accountable to communities of color and other marginalized groups, using our positions of power to support those communities’ priorities. Both those affected and their allies play important roles. Unitarian Universalists are laying the groundwork for the transformative power of multicultural organizing in partnership with reproductive justice organizations and leaders, looking for leadership from those most affected. We will use our position to speak loudly in the religious arena, as the religious voice has often been used to limit access to reproductive justice.

THEOLOGICAL FOUNDING

As Unitarian Universalists we covenant to uphold our seven principles. The first, second and sixth principles are the most applicable to Reproductive Justice. We are all relational beings

¹ From “Why is Reproductive Justice Important for Women of Color?” on the SisterSong website

with varying abilities, preferences, and identities. Unitarian Universalism calls us to advocate for the positive expression of sexuality, including choices about reproduction and nurturing, and for a culture of respect and empowerment. Our commitment to our principles calls us to support and partner with oppressed communities as we work together to build the world we dream about. In order to embody our principles, we as Unitarian Universalists must listen to and follow the lead of those from the affected communities, especially women of color, and reach outside our cultural assumptions.

Unitarian Universalists support gender equity, positive sexuality, diverse sexual expression and the individual's right to make reproductive choices. Such choices are influenced by social and political systems as well as by factors such as racial/cultural identity, economic status, immigration/citizenship status, relationship with the justice system, health status, and ability. Our religious tradition directs us to respect the diversity of faith traditions that surround us and insists that no singular religious viewpoint or creed guide the policies of our governments. Our pluralistic congregations include diverse beliefs, backgrounds, and personal stories. Yet we unite in striving to live out the values and principles that call us to work for reproductive justice in spite of the complexities of the issues.

ACTIONS

We commit to putting our values into action, striving for equality and justice and honoring the rights, needs and choices of everyone. Affirming the interconnected web of life with justice for all people, we commit to undertake actions that could include the following.

As individuals we can

- Study reproductive justice issues, including sexuality, gender identity, classism, ableism, sexual violence, immigration, and racism.
- Seek to understand and take responsibility for our personal biases.
- Risk telling our own stories, and be willing to truly hear and trust the stories of others.
- Work to accept one's own body, sexuality, and abilities.
- Adopt spiritual practices that contribute to self-care.
- Advocate for reproductive justice and related issues through op-ed pieces, letters to the editor, letters and visits to legislators, and direct action.
- Volunteer with and/or provide financial support to organizations that provide reproductive health services at little or no cost, abortion clinics, women's shelters, and child and family community support centers.
- Protest violations of basic human rights, including sexual trafficking and the inhumane treatment of sex workers.
- Support reproductive health/abortion clinics that are experiencing intimidation and spiritual or physical violence.
- Effect positive change within our own social circles and professions.
- Support reproductive justice groups as active participants or accountable allies.
- Consider these issues when voting.

- Eliminate barriers (economic, educational, language, accessibility, etc.) to reproductive justice services.
- Provide leadership in our congregation and community on these issues.
- Contribute financially to organizations that advocate for reproductive justice issues, including the social determinants underlying racism, classism, sexism, ageism, ableism, homophobia, transphobia, and other forms of oppression.
- Work to ensure equity and respect and eliminate discrimination and coercion for all participants in the adoption and foster care system.

In our relationships we can

- Respect all people and their decisions regarding reproduction, even those with whom we disagree.
- Minister to one another around reproductive health and reproductive justice issues.
- Be sensitive to others' stories, respecting their life experiences and lived realities.
- Accept people of all abilities, identities, orientations, and generations as sexual beings.
- Accompany anyone wanting support (e.g., while seeking government assistance, in making decisions for their families about pregnancy and adoption, during abortions, and during childbirth).
- Engage children and youth in dialogue and learning about sexuality and relationships in ways that respect their self-expression and contributions.
- Seek and accept leadership from people most affected by reproductive injustice.
- Believe the survivors who share their experience of sexual and/or interpersonal violence. Listen with compassion, offer support, and avoid victim-blaming language.

In our congregations we can

- Form a reproductive justice group, task force, committee, or interfaith coalition.
- Invite and consult with reproductive justice advocates and groups to share their understanding and expertise, and/or conduct reproductive justice trainings.
- Connect religious professionals and lay leaders with organizations and networks that promote reproductive and economic justice and human rights.
- Encourage religious professionals and lay leaders to participate in reproductive justice-related education and training.
- Provide ministry and pastoral care that is inclusive of all people and reproductive justice issues.
- Offer worship, discussion, and small group ministry on reproductive justice issues.
- Develop and promote congregational statements on reproductive justice.
- Provide spaces, programs, and teaching for community groups working on reproductive justice issues.
- Provide education to children, youth and adults that are age, ability, and identity appropriate.
- Engage children, youth, and adults in dialogue and learning about healthy sexuality and relationships in ways that respect their self-expression and contributions.

- Join with state legislative ministry organizations and interfaith networks in their advocacy for reproductive rights or organize such advocacy.
- Communicate reproductive justice information using the congregation's virtual community networks, newsletters, and orders of service.
- Implement Safe Congregations guidelines and practices.
- Continue Welcoming Congregation advocacy and education efforts related to gender and sexuality.
- Reach out and participate in interfaith and secular work on racism, classism, gender and/or sexual health issues.
- Welcome breastfeeding in our shared spaces.

As an Association we can

- Publicly witness and advocate for sexual and reproductive justice in the US and around the world.
- Advocate for just legislation and policies and the rights of families and individuals at the state and federal levels.
- Advocate for comprehensive reproductive health services, including contraception, prenatal care, abortion, and infertility treatment.
- Advocate for the right to access comprehensive and medically accurate reproductive health information.
- Support UU state legislative ministry organizations in their work that supports reproductive justice.
- Provide curricula, resources, current information, and networking opportunities that congregations can use in their reproductive justice education and advocacy efforts.
- Collaborate with other faith-based and secular organizations working for reproductive justice and related issues, in order to build a stronger, more intersectional justice movement.
- Present reproductive justice workshops at district/regional, national, and international meetings.

With open minds, helping hands, and loving hearts, we work toward reproductive justice, and commit to replacing insecurity with safety, fear with acceptance, judgment with love, and shame with compassion.

Elections

The following persons were elected in uncontested elections:

UUA Board of Trustees (three-year terms)

Gregory Boyd

Tim Atkins

Rev. Patrick McLaughlin

Board of Review (eight-year terms)

John Bohman
Rev. Brian Covell

Commission on Appraisal (six-year terms)

Kathleen Henry
Peter Kandis
Brian Chenowith

Commission on Social Witness

Dr. Susan Goekler (four-year term)
Richard Bock (two-year term)

General Assembly Planning Committee (four-year terms)

Ila Klion
Rev. Paul Langston-Daly
Rev. Jennifer Gray
Katherine Allen

Nominating Committee (three-year terms)

Elissa McDavid
Rev. Joe Cherry
Steven Ballesteros
Aisha Hauser

Credentials Report

The final credentials report of the Secretary of the Association was as follows: Accredited and attending the 54th General Assembly of the Unitarian Universalist Association were 1,398 member delegates, 347 ministerial delegates, 1 credentialed religious educator, 2 associate member delegates, and 12 members of the Board of Trustees (not included as registered delegates from congregations). On-site delegates totaled 1,748, representing 580 congregations, 49 states, 1 Canadian province, and the District of Columbia. Total on-site registration was 4,508, including 275 youth.

Additionally, there were 128 off-site delegates, including 115 member delegates and 13 ministerial delegates. Represented were 83 congregations from 31 states. Total off-site registration was 157.

Closing

The Assembly voted to adjourn *sine die* at approximately 4:45 pm on Sunday, June 28, 2015.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Harlan Limpert
Clerk