

Mini-Assemblies

All business of the General Assembly is conducted in Plenary Sessions. Mini-Assemblies offer opportunities in small sessions for delegates to speak on issues, find out more about individual business items before a vote in plenary, and propose amendments to the business item or social witness statement. The Board of Trustees or the Commission on Social Witness may move amendments to business items as a result of discussion in Mini-Assemblies.

Thursday 3:15 pm - 4:30 pm Room 121
Mini-Assembly on proposed bylaw amendments

Thursday 5:00 pm - 6:15 pm Room 121
Mini-Assembly on the proposed resolution repudiating the Doctrine of Discovery

Bylaw Amendments

Proposed Bylaw Amendments will be discussed in Mini-Assemblies in room 213 D of the Phoenix Convention Center on Thursday at 10:45 a.m., 1:00 p.m., 2:45 p.m. and 4:30 p.m. After the Mini-Assemblies, the Board of Trustees consolidates results and formulates any amendments to be proposed.

Proposed Congregational Study/Action Issues

Five proposed Congregational Study/Action Issues (CSAIs) appear on the Final Agenda as a result of the 2012 Congregational Poll. Discussion of these CSAIs takes place in a workshop on Thursday at 10:30 a.m. in room 121 of the Phoenix Convention Center prior to voting in Plenary. One issue will be chosen for study and action during the coming four years.

2010 Congregational Study/Action Issue (Immigration as a Moral Issue)

No vote is taken this year on the Congregational Study/Action Issue (CSAI) that was chosen at the 2010 General Assembly. There will be a lecture on the topic offered Thursday at 3:15 p.m. in 227 AB of the Phoenix Convention Center.

Actions of Immediate Witness

Actions of Immediate Witness will not be considered at GA in 2012.

Budget Hearing

The UUA Finance Committee members and UUA officers conduct a hearing on the 2012 - 2013 budget Friday at 3:15 p.m. in Room 121 of the Phoenix Convention Center. This session offers an opportunity to ask questions about and consider changes to the budget. Motions on the budget must be submitted in writing in the GA Office (across from Hall D of the Phoenix Convention Center North Building) by 5:00 p.m. on Saturday, for consideration Sunday.



Living the Democratic Process

Purpose

GENERAL ASSEMBLY: A MEETING OF CONGREGATIONS is an annual opportunity for delegates from member congregations to affirm, promote, and practice the democratic process while conducting the business of the Association.

RULES OF PROCEDURE are adopted at the start of the Assembly. They are printed (as proposed but not necessarily as adopted) in the GA Agenda. The Rules of Procedure are designed to help the delegates effectively represent their congregations.

Speaking in Plenary

Before speaking you must be recognized by the Moderator, and to be recognized you must be at a microphone. The Moderator recognizes you by referring to the microphone (“I recognize the delegate at the Pro microphone...”).

Any **DELEGATE** may speak; non-delegates need the consent of the Moderator or vote of the Assembly to admit the speaker to the floor. (This happens only rarely.) Once recognized, identify yourself (name and congregation from which you are a delegate), e.g., “I’m Chris Doe from Rip Roaring Congregation of Great City, Ohio.”

BE SUCCINCT and remember you have only two minutes. You may speak on a motion only once as long as others wish to speak.

Speaking time is limited. Do not speak if your point has already been made by another speaker. Be respectful of other delegates by only speaking when you have something important to add to the discussion.

There are four microphones: **PRO**, **CON**, **PROCEDURE** and **AMENDMENT**

- ◆ To speak in favor - go to the **PRO** mike.
- ◆ To speak against - go to the **CON** mike.
- ◆ To make an amendment – go to the **AMENDMENT** Table for assistance.
- ◆ To raise a procedural issue, go to the **PROCEDURE** mike.

PROCEDURAL questions are limited to:

- ◆ Parliamentary inquiry
- ◆ Points of order and information
- ◆ Question of privilege
- ◆ Motions to extend or limit time of debate, change the order of business, recess, or adjourn.

TIME USED ON PROCEDURAL ISSUES IS INCLUDED in the time set for debating the item on the floor. Procedural issues must be raised at the Procedure microphone. They take precedence over discussion.

The **AMENDMENT** mike is used only for making an amendment that has first been processed at the Amendment Table.

Debate

THERE MUST BE 15 MINUTES OF DISCUSSION ALLOWED ON THE MOTION AS PRINTED (or as presented by the Board of Trustees or Commission on Social Witness) before an amendment may be proposed unless the Rules of Procedure specify otherwise. If no one is standing at a microphone to speak on the motion as presented, this time may be shortened. The Moderator alternates recognizing speakers at **PRO** and **CON** microphones.

AFTER 15 MINUTES OF DEBATE, AMENDMENTS MAY BE PRESENTED. Debate takes place on each amendment until it is resolved. *Only one amendment may be presented at a time.* (You can’t amend an amendment.)

An amendment may be to insert new words, delete words, or to delete and insert. Each amendment may cover only one subject. An amendment may not change a non-business resolution into a Business Resolution; for example, you can’t add language to an Action of Immediate Witness that requires specific action from congregations or the UUA Board or staff. Before an amendment may be presented to the delegates, it must be presented in writing at the Amendment table next to the Amendment mike (see also “Mini-Assembly” below).

Some motions must be filed prior to the opening of a session, particularly ones concerning the **BUDGET**. See Rules of Procedure in the Final Agenda for deadlines and place for filing them.

Motions of Amendment to items on the Agenda, Actions on Reports, etc., may be made as part of the debate. Be careful that your motion does not change the meaning so much that it is a substitute rather than an amendment. At times, you may make a substitute motion but must recognize it as such.

Voting

Delegates vote by:

- ◆ Voice (call for ayes and nays)
- ◆ Uncounted show of voting cards
- ◆ Counted show of voting cards
- ◆ Written ballot

The Moderator is responsible for determining whether a motion passed or failed. A delegate who disagrees with the Moderator's determination may come to the procedural microphone and ask for a counted vote. At least 99 other delegates must support the request to force the counted vote.

It is crucial that you bring your voting card with you to each Plenary Session. Voting cards are difficult to replace, if lost, and you cannot vote without your card. As a delegate, you may not give your voting card to anyone else to use.

Mini-Assembly

A Mini-Assembly is an opportunity for delegates to propose amendments to resolutions on the final agenda and to the proposed Actions of Immediate Witness admitted to the final agenda. (**Note:** Actions of Immediate Witness will not be considered at the 2012 General Assembly.) It's an opportunity to discuss the proposed amendments, and, for the Statement of Conscience, to work collaboratively with other delegates to draft amendments. (**Note:** There is no proposed Statement of Conscience on the Agenda in 2012.) Mini-Assemblies save Plenary time and permit freer debate than plenaries do. It is not possible to offer an amendment to a business resolution, bylaw change, rule change, or social witness statement during plenary debate if it was not submitted for consideration at the appropriate Mini-Assembly.

There is a Mini-Assembly scheduled for the rule changes listed on the final agenda. All Mini-Assemblies are listed in the program.

After a Mini-Assembly and before voting in a Plenary Session, the Board of Trustees may incorporate proposed amendments into a Business Resolution or a Bylaw and the Commission on Social Witness may incorporate proposed amendments into a Statement of Conscience or an Action of Immediate Witness. For Statements of Conscience, the Commission on Social Witness is required to report all amendments to the GA delegates. The Commission on Social Witness can prioritize the amendments, including the order of their presentation at the amendment microphone in Plenary. If you wish to modify the Statement of Conscience, plan to attend the entire Mini-Assembly and work collaboratively with other delegates to suggest amendments.

Budget Hearing

At the Budget Hearing questions may be answered, but no motions may be made. Motions to modify the budget must be made in writing by the time announced in the Rules of Procedure. Budget motions, if adding funds to an item or proposing new spending, must specify which other specific categories are to be reduced. See Rule G-10.1.4.

Statements of Conscience

Note: There is no proposed Statement of Conscience on the Agenda in 2012.

Based on feedback from the Mini-Assembly, the Commission on Social Witness may recommend that the delegates change the length of time the statement is debated before amendments are in order.

Debate is limited to 12 minutes per amendment.

Actions of Immediate Witness

Note: Actions of Immediate Witness will not be considered at the 2012 General Assembly.

Sometimes significant actions, events, or developments occur that delegates may wish to address immediately. The process for admitting Actions of Immediate Witness to the agenda means that congregations commonly have no opportunity to consider and discuss them in advance of General Assembly, so care should be taken to only submit Actions of Immediate Witness that could not otherwise be accommodated in the Congregational Study/Action Issue process. Consult Article IV, Section 4.16 (b) (1) of the UUA Bylaws for the criteria for an Action of Immediate Witness.

HOW MANY ACTIONS OF IMMEDIATE WITNESS MAY BE ADMITTED TO THE AGENDA? No more than six.

HOW CAN A DELEGATE PLACE AN ACTION OF IMMEDIATE WITNESS ON THE AGENDA? Pick up the required cover sheet and petition form for signatures at the Commission on Social Witness (CSW) booth in the Exhibit Hall. Submit a copy of the AIW at the CSW booth for posting by 5:00 p.m. on Thursday. Then begin collection of signatures from other delegates. Submit the AIW with the required number of delegate signatures to the CSW at the GA Office by 5:00 p.m. on Friday. See the cover sheet for directions, requirements, and deadlines.

WHAT HAPPENS THEN? The Commission will review the AIWs to determine if they meet the criteria for an AIW. The Commission will select no more than six from among those submitted which meet the criteria for an AIW. The Commission on Social Witness screens proposed Actions of Immediate Witness according to the criteria of grounding, fit and opportunity as well as significance, timeliness and specificity (see bylaw section 4.16). Preference is given to proposed Actions of Immediate Witness that emerge from a documented group process. These will be submitted to delegates for admission to the Agenda at the Saturday morning Plenary Session. After consideration of proposed amendments at a Mini-Assembly, each AIW will be voted on by the delegates for adoption by the General Assembly at the Sunday morning Plenary Session.

To Get Your Questions Answered

PLAY FAIR. The guidelines that follow are not subterfuges for you to use to get around time limits. They are designed to make you more knowledgeable and effective.

POINT OF INFORMATION. Raise a point of information when you want to get information, not give it. A delegate may request "Point of Information" from any microphone. It's exactly that: a request for information such as "On what are we voting?" or "What is the cost to the UUA of this motion?" Your question cannot be a statement, and no preface except your identification is permitted.

POINT OF PERSONAL PRIVILEGE. Raise a point of personal privilege when your ability to do business is being hampered. Any delegate may request a Point of Personal Privilege. You go to the procedural microphone and say "Point of Personal Privilege" and wait to be recognized by the Moderator. After recognition, identify yourself and state your point (no statement, no argument or preface,

just the bare request), such as "It is not possible to hear from the pro microphone" or "Our section was not counted."

POINT OF PROCEDURE. You use this for questioning parliamentary procedure. A delegate may interrupt debate by going to the procedural microphone and saying "Point of Procedure" and wait to be recognized. A sample point is "Is this not an amendment to an amendment?" or "Was a vote taken?"

NEED INFORMATION? Have a question about the status of the Agenda, a business matter, procedures, etc.? Ask a member of the Board of Trustees. They will be identifiable on the floor of the Assembly during each Plenary Session.

DO YOU HAVE AN AMENDMENT? ARE YOU UNHAPPY WITH WORDING? Time constraints preclude more than two or three amendments to an item being considered in plenary. Preliminary work on agenda items is completed in the Mini-Assembly.

Committee of the Whole

When the Assembly is debating a particularly complex or difficult question (there may be two, three, or four alternate versions or ideas) the Moderator may decide, or a delegate may move, that the Assembly move into a "Committee of the Whole" to consider the subject. If done, the Rules of Procedure are eased and the Assembly now acts as a committee.

- ◆ A person other than the Moderator may occupy the Chair.
- ◆ Discussion may take place without motions.
- ◆ The only motions allowable are motions to amend, adopt, or reconsider.
- ◆ Non-binding straw votes may be taken.
- ◆ The formality of pro/con microphones is somewhat relaxed.
- ◆ You may speak only once on a topic in a discussion unless no one else wishes to speak.
- ◆ Time limits are relaxed or do not exist unless the "Committee" sets them.

Once the Committee of the Whole has decided what it wants to do, a delegate moves that the Committee of the Whole "rise and report" specifying the agreed-upon result. The Moderator takes the Chair, and the Plenary Session of the General Assembly is again in session. The motion formulated in the Committee is reported and vote is taken immediately, without debate or possibility of amendment.

Late arriving items may require rearrangement of the agenda as published.

Opening Celebration and Plenary #1 Wednesday 7:30 pm - 9:30 pm

Welcome and Call to Order

Vote on Rules of Procedure

Welcome New Congregations

Introduce Youth and Young Adult Caucuses

Journey to the Doctrine of Discovery
Steve Newcomb

Choral Anthem

Keynote Speaker on the Doctrine of Discovery

Story of Today and Tomorrow Part I
Pablo Alvarado, Exec. Director, National Day Laborer Organizing Network (NDLON)

Story of Today and Tomorrow Part II
Rev. Peter Morales

Introduction: Right Relationship Team and GA Chaplains

Invitation to Witness
Rev. Susan Frederick-Gray
Tupac Enrique Acosta

Closing Congregational Song

Recess

Plenary #2 Thursday 7:45 am - 8:30 am

Call to Order

Chalice Lighting

Song

Business Agenda and Mini-Assembly Overview

Building a Community for Justice

- Right Relationships
- Accessibilities

Announcements

Recess

Plenary #3 Friday 8:30 am - 10:15 am

Call to Order

Chalice Lighting

Song

Preliminary Credentials Report

Building a Community for Justice: Right Relationships

General Assembly 2010 Business Resolution Report

Building a Community for Justice: Cultural Humility
GA 2012 Accountability Group

Song

Presentation and Vote on Proposed Congregational Study Action Issues

- CSAI 1 - Climate Action and Adaptation Plans: Why Greenhouse Gases and their Effects Matter to Us
- CSAI 2 - Families, Population, and the Environment
- CSAI 3 - Reproductive Justice: Expanding Our Social Justice Calling
- CSAI 4 - Exploring Class Barriers
- CSAI 5 - Ending Slavery

[NOTE: If a run-off vote is necessary, it will be taken in the Saturday Plenary Session.]

Announcements

Recess

Agenda: Order of Business

Plenary #4 Saturday 1:00 pm - 3:30 pm

Call to Order

Chalice Lighting

Building a Community for Justice: Right Relationships

Report of the UUA Board of Trustees

- Budget Report: Resourcing for Justice
- In Memoriam
- Presentation of the Distinguished Service Award

Building a Community for Justice: Cultural Humility

GA 2012 Accountability Group

Testimony

Comités de Defensa del Barrio

Song

Testimony

Tiffany and Geraldine Mendez, UU Church of Phoenix

Special Collection to Support Immigration Ministry

UUA President's Report

Rev. Peter Morales

- Special Presentation
Rev. Geoffrey A. Black, General Minister and President of the United Church of Christ
- UUA President's Award for Volunteer Service

Recess

Plenary #5 Sunday 2:15 pm - 6:00 pm

Call to Order

Chalice Lighting

GA Volunteer and staff recognition

Rev. Dr. Walt Wieder

Introduction: Taking Justice GA to our congregations

- Unitarian Universalist Women's Federation
Rev. Marti Keller
- Unitarian Universalist Service Committee
Rev. Dr. William F. Schulz
- Staff of the Unitarian Universalist Association
Kay Montgomery

Report of the UUA Financial Advisor

Dan Brody

Song

Debate and vote on proposed amendments to Bylaw Section C-10.9. Pension System - Second Year Vote

Debate and vote on proposed amendments to Bylaw Article XV - Second Year Vote

Debate and vote on proposed amendment to bylaw sections C-3.1, C-3.3, and C-3.6, Member Congregations - Second Year Vote

Song

Moderator's Report

Gini Courter

Debate and Vote: Responsive Resolution: Doctrine of Discovery

Other Responsive Resolutions

Building a Community for Justice: Right Relationship Team

Invitation to General Assembly 2013 in Louisville

Final credentials and announcements

Adjourn

RULE 1. ORDER OF BUSINESS

Consideration of and action upon items must proceed in the order set forth in the Final Agenda unless during the meeting that order is changed by majority vote.

RULE 2. MEANS OF VOTING

So long as a quorum is present, action on any question, unless the Bylaws otherwise provide, will be decided in the first instance by an uncounted show of hands/voting cards. If the Moderator wishes a counted vote or if a delegate requests it and the Moderator determines that 99 other delegates join in the request, the vote must be counted. Except for Congregational Study/Action Issues (Rule 11), no vote will be taken by written ballot unless the delegates order a written ballot by a two-thirds vote. Provided a quorum is present at each Plenary Session, all matters submitted to a vote of the delegates will be determined by the number of votes cast by delegates present and voting on the matter. The required proportion of votes cast by delegates to approve any action or resolution will be as set forth in the Bylaws or Rules or these Rules of Procedure.

RULE 3. MINUTES

The Board of Trustees will approve the minutes of the General Assembly Plenary Sessions, which will be prepared by the Recording Secretary in consultation with Legal Counsel.

RULE 4. PRESENTATION OF ITEMS

The provisions of Rule 5 notwithstanding, the Board of Trustees and/or the Commission on Social Witness will, at their discretion, move the item as printed on the Final Agenda or move an amended version of the item.

RULE 5. AMENDMENTS

Except for clarifying amendments, amendments to the main motion and motions to refer, table or to call the question will not be in order until there has been at least fifteen minutes of debate, if that much is needed, on the merits of the main question as moved. Amendments to a business resolution, a bylaw, a rule, or a proposed amendment must be submitted for consideration at the appropriate Mini-Assembly in order to be offered in the plenary session. No amendment or other change to any motion under consideration will be entertained unless it is submitted in writing on forms prescribed by the Moderator, who may, however, waive this requirement.

RULE 6. TIME LIMITS

The following time limits are imposed on all business transacted by the Assembly except as otherwise provided in these Rules for Actions of Immediate Witness, Congregational Study/Action Issues, and UUA Statement of Conscience. (**Note:** Actions of Immediate Witness will not be considered at the 2012 General Assembly; there is no proposed UUA Statement of Conscience on the Agenda in 2012.) If, however, there is no objection from the floor, the Moderator may grant minor extensions of time. Any time limits imposed by this rule may be extended by a two-thirds vote.

- a) No person may speak on any motion for more than two minutes, and not more than once, so long as there are others who have not spoken who desire the floor, except that persons having special information may, with the permission of the Moderator, reply to questions.
- b) Thirty minutes is allowed for discussion of any proposed bylaw or rule amendment, resolution, or action on a report that is on or admitted to the Final Agenda. Whenever possible, the discussion time will be equally divided between proponents and opponents through equitable recognition of speakers at microphones designated Pro and Con and off-site delegates.
- c) A motion to call the previous question on the main motion shall not be in order if there are potential speakers at both Pro and Con microphones or in the off-site queue and the original or extended time for discussion has not expired. A motion to call the previous question on a motion to amend the main motion is in order after 10 minutes of discussion concerning the amendment.

RULE 7. MICROPHONES

- a) Pro and Con Microphones. Usage of the microphones designated "Pro" or "Con" and off-site "Pro" and "Con" queues is limited to statements in support of or in opposition to motions.
- b) Amendment Microphone. Usage of the microphone or off-site queue designated "Amendment" is limited to presenters of motions and members of the Board of Trustees who may use the microphone only for:
 - 1) making an amendment to a main motion or another amendment, provided the motion is otherwise in order;

Rules of Procedure

- 2) using such additional time remaining under Rule 6, if any, to speak in support of the amendment; and
 - 3) stating the Board of Trustees' position at the outset of debate on those items on the Final Agenda on which the Board takes a position.
- c) Procedure Microphone. All other matters must be brought to the Procedure microphone or queue.

RULE 8. COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

At any stage of the meeting, the Moderator, without a vote of the Assembly, at his or her discretion from time to time may order the meeting resolved into a Committee of the Whole or reconvened in regular Session. While the meeting is acting as a Committee of the Whole, the following Special Rule will apply:

The Presiding Officer, without a vote of the Committee of the Whole, may permit reconsideration of any action taken by the Committee of the Whole and other departures of the Rules of Parliamentary Procedure if it appears to him or her that the work of the Committee of the Whole will thereby be expedited.

When the General Assembly is reconvened, the only motion in order will be to adopt the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole. A motion recommended by the Committee of the Whole will not be subject to amendment, debate, or delay.

RULE 9. BUDGET MOTION

Any motion concerning the 2012 - 2013 budget that is to be made at the time provided for such motions during the formal business sessions must be filed in writing at the General Assembly Office not later than 5:00 p.m. Saturday. All such motions must provide for reductions in specific other categories of spending equivalent to the increase in spending recommended in the motion. Adoption of the motion requires a two-thirds vote.

RULE 10. RESOLUTIONS AND ACTIONS NOT ON THE FINAL AGENDA

A Resolution or Action not on the Final Agenda may be considered only under the following circumstances:

- a) under Bylaw Section 4.16, which permits the addition of Actions of Immediate Witness to the Agenda and consideration of non-substantive resolutions; (**Note:** Actions of Immediate Witness will not be considered at this General Assembly.)

- b) under Bylaw Section 4.16(c), which permits the addition of Responsive Resolutions in response to a substantive portion of a report by an officer or committee reporting to the Assembly.

The author of a Responsive Resolutions must notify the Moderator in writing of the title and content of his/her Responsive Resolution as soon as it is practical to do so, but not later than 6:00 p.m. on Saturday for Responsive Resolutions based on reports delivered in plenary sessions 1-4. A resolution submitted to the Commission on Social Witness for consideration as an Action of Immediate Witness may not be submitted as a Responsive Resolution.

RULE 11. CONGREGATIONAL STUDY/ACTION ISSUES

Pursuant to Bylaw Section 4.12(a): In a year in which Congregational Study/Action Issue(s) are proposed, up to five Congregational Study/Action Issues may be presented to the General Assembly. A sponsor of a Congregational Study/ Action Issue determined by the Commission on Social Witness to be eligible for consideration will have two minutes to speak in support of obtaining the vote necessary to be selected as the Congregational Study/Action Issue referred for study. Following the presentation by the sponsors for all Congregational Study/Action Issues eligible for consideration, time will be provided for up to four additional statements of support for each Congregational Study/Action Issue. Persons wishing to speak shall use the microphone or off-site queue designated for the Congregational Study/ Action Issue for which he/she advocates.

After debate concerning the proposed Congregational Study/Action Issues, a written or electronic ballot, prepared by the Commission on Social Witness, will be used to receive the vote of the delegates for which one of the Congregational Study/Action Issues will be referred for study. The Congregational Study/Action Issue receiving the highest number of votes among all Congregational Study/Action Issues shall be referred for study providing, however, that if no 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.

RULE 12. UUA STATEMENT OF CONSCIENCE

In a year in which a UUA Statement of Conscience is proposed, one hour will be allowed for debate. **(Note:** there is no proposed UUA Statement of Conscience on the Agenda in 2012.)

The Commission on Social Witness may recommend for delegate approval by majority vote an amount of time for the Statement to be debated before amendments are in order. If no such recommendation is proposed and approved, no amendment shall be in order unless there has been at least 30 minutes of debate, if that much is needed, on the merits of the proposed UUA Statement of Conscience.

A motion to amend a proposed UUA Statement of Conscience is not in order in the Plenary Session unless it first was presented to a Mini-Assembly as described in Rule 4.12.4. Up to twelve minutes will be allowed for the debate of an amendment.

The Commission on Social Witness will have the discretion to prioritize the amendments including their presentation at the amendment microphone in Plenary.

RULE 13. ACTIONS OF IMMEDIATE WITNESS

(Note: Actions of Immediate Witness will not be considered at the 2012 General Assembly.)

- a) The proposed Action of Immediate Witness must be in writing.
- b) A copy for posting at the Commission on Social Witness booth in the Exhibit Hall must be delivered to the booth in the exhibit area no later than 5:00 p.m., Thursday, so that proposals may be made available for viewing prior to the filing deadline.
- c) The copy to be filed must have attached signatures showing the requisite delegate support specified in Bylaw Section 4.16(b)(2) and must be filed with the Commission on Social Witness in the General Assembly Office by no later than 5:00 p.m. Friday.
- d) The Commission on Social Witness may provide a summary of the Actions of Immediate Witness that meet the criteria for admission to the agenda during Friday morning's plenary and seek a sense of the meeting.

- e) Each sponsor of an Action of Immediate Witness determined by the Commission on Social Witness to be eligible to be considered for possible admission to the agenda under Bylaw Section 4.16(b) will have two minutes to speak in support of obtaining a vote supporting the admission of the action to the agenda.
- f) The sponsor will move admission at a Plenary Session scheduled before vote on the action is to occur and when called upon to do so by the Moderator.
- g) The motion to admit is not debatable and requires a two-thirds vote of support.
- h) A motion to amend an Action of Immediate Witness is not in order in the Plenary Session unless it first was presented to a Mini-Assembly, as described in Bylaw Section 4.16(b)(4).
- i) Up to twenty minutes will be allowed for debate, if needed, on each proposed Action of Immediate Witness. No amendment shall be in order unless there have been at least twelve minutes of debate, if that much is needed, on the merits of the proposed Action of Immediate Witness.
- j) Debate and voting on adoption of an Action of Immediate Witness will occur during Plenary on Sunday morning. Adoption must be by two-thirds vote, as specified in Bylaw Section 4.16(b)(5).

RULE 14. AMENDING THE RULES OF PROCEDURE

These Rules of Procedure will be adopted by a two-thirds vote and may be amended, suspended, or repealed during the course of the Assembly only by a two-thirds vote, except for the preceding Rule 9, the amendment, suspension, or repeal of which requires a four-fifths vote.

RULE 15. ADJOURNMENT

The final business session of the 2012 General Assembly will be adjourned no later than 6:00 p.m. on Sunday, June 24.

Five Proposed Congregational Study/Action Issues (CSAIs) appear on the Final Agenda as a result of the 2012 Congregational Poll. Discussion of these CSAIs takes place in a workshop on Thursday at 10:30 am in room 121 of the Phoenix Convention Center prior to voting in the Friday Plenary session. One issue will be chosen for study and action during the coming four years.

CSAI 1
Climate Action and Adaptation Plans: Why Greenhouse Gases and their Effects Matter to Us

1 **Issue**

2 Effects of Global Climate Change (GCC) now threaten our lives, property, health, and our children’s futures. We
3 must simplify people’s united support behind a single campaign for policy change on greenhouse gases; and
4 inform ourselves, and others, about practical new Climate Action and Adaptation Plans, which lay out imaginative
5 lifestyle change.

6 **Grounding in Unitarian Universalism**

7 Our Seventh Principle calls us to respect the interdependent web. Our Fifth Principle honors the democratic
8 process. Heeding the guidance of science, as articulated in our Fifth Source, we submit this proposal standing on
9 the shoulders of the many Unitarian Universalists (UUs) who act responsibly on Global Climate Change.

10 **Topics for Congregational Study**

- 11 • Study of state, regional and local Climate Action and Adaptation Plans.
- 12 • What recommendations in the plans are/are not funded and/or implemented?
- 13 • How can planned adaptation measures be used to motivate more individuals to act on the personal,
14 local, and federal level to reduce greenhouse gas emissions?
- 15 • If your congregation does educational outreach on GCC, and you could email a link to all audience
16 members afterward that would result in their effective advocacy on GCC with just two clicks of a
17 mouse, what would the one or two sentence advocacy message say?
- 18 • Should UU’s participate in or support lawsuits that hold governmental bodies responsible for the
19 harmful effects of greenhouse gases?

20 **Possible Congregational/District Actions**

- 21 • Congregational: Select an effective national advocacy campaign for the reduction of carbon emissions,
22 and facilitate the participation of congregants and others in your community.
- 23 • Congregational: Educating the congregation and the surrounding community on the causality link
24 between manmade greenhouse gas emissions and their local effects.
- 25 • Congregational: Taking up local issues related to flooding, destruction from extreme weather events,
26 drought related water supply issues, and other GCC effects in Congregation Based Community
27 Organizations with which the congregation is affiliated.
- 28 • District: Synchronizing the District legislative Agenda with the legislative agendas of state and local
29 governments implementing Climate Action plans.
- 30 • District: Informing congregations of cross-jurisdictional Climate Action/Adaptation measures that affect
31 them.

32 **Related Prior Social Witness Statements**

- 33 • Alternate Sources and Conservation of Energy—1981
- 34 • Law of the Sea Treaty—1982
- 35 • Toxic Substances and Hazardous Waste—1984
- 36 • Protecting the Biosphere—1989
- 37 • Safer Sources of Energy—1992
- 38 • Population & Development—1996
- 39 • Earth, Air, Water, and Fire—1997
- 40 • Endorse the Earth Charter—2002

- 41 • End Mountaintop Removal Coal Mining—2006
- 42 • Threat of Global Warming/Climate Change—2006
- 43 • Extend the Tax Credit for Wind and Solar Power—2008
- 44 • In Support of America’s Red Rock Wilderness Act—2009
- 45 • Clean Up the Clean Energy Bill—2010
- 46 • The Green Revolution in Religion—2010

47 **Additional Information**

48 This Congregational Study/ Action Issue (CSAI) Proposal is submitted in the hope of creating a greater capacity for
49 UU congregations to take action on Global Climate Change.

50 **I. Unitarian Universalist Involvement In the Issue**

51 Unitarian Universalists have been involved in Global Climate change for more than two decades. The
52 2006 Statement of Conscience on Global Warming defined many ways that UU’s could take individual,
53 congregational, or group advocacy action to reduce greenhouse gases, and many UU’s have made
54 significant lifestyle changes and participated in many advocacy campaigns as a result of the guidance of
55 that SOC.

56 After the 2010 General Assembly, a UU Climate Change and Environmental Justice Action Coalition was
57 formed, including representatives from UU Ministry for Earth (UUMFE), the Unitarian Universalist
58 Association (UUA), the UU State Advocacy Networks, the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee
59 (UUSC), and the Unitarian Universalist United Nations Office (UU-UNO). If this CSAI Proposal is accepted
60 for study, our democratic CSAI Social Witness process could inform the future efforts of this coalition.

61 Currently, it is possible to link to Advocacy Action campaigns on Global Climate Change through the
62 UUA website, the UU-UNO website, the UUMFE website, and the UUSC website website. Information
63 on Global Climate Change is available through state UU Legislative ministries as well. Most of what is
64 available on these websites is educational and informative. Some of what is available is direction to
65 other websites where direct action can be taken, and some of what is available contains direct links to
66 active electronic petitions and campaigns.

67 On the UUA website, there is a sample letter for Climate Change Advocacy and a script for telephone
68 advocacy on climate change. The UUA Social Justice Page links to the Environmental Justice Page. The
69 Environmental Justice Page has a Global Warming/Climate Change link. As of the May 26, 2011 update
70 there were no Advocacy Action links on this page.

71 The UU-UNO Climate Portal has Action Alerts accessible on the home page. Unfortunately, if you click
72 on the “What we can do-mitigation” link, rather than scrolling down to the Action Alerts, then the
73 electronic petition is missed. If, however, you make it to the Action Alerts, there is a succinct electronic
74 petition to sign and submit.

75 The UUSC website home page links to an Environmental Justice page, on which there is a “What you
76 can do” link. Action listed on this page includes: registering for UUSC’s e-Community, signing up for
77 Environmental Justice News, Getting Information about your water, and considering becoming a Green
78 Sanctuary under the UUMFE program.

79 The UUMFE website has a “Take Action” tab on the home page, which brings up a page with a menu on
80 the left. This menu has a Global Warming/Climate link. The areas of action listed are: We can reduce
81 our carbon footprints, We can learn, We can provide ways for individuals to take action by using
82 resources from the First Unitarian Church of Portland, Oregon, and We can start a small group
83 conversation.

84 UU State Advocacy Networks have been established to facilitate UU advocacy. Issues are selected at 2
85 year intervals in California. In Florida, Climate Change is a core issue of the UULMF. This website
86 informs us that laws to address this issue have been sidetracked and are still being opposed nationally

87 and locally, and that both state and federal legislators need to hear about the public's concerns. The
 88 Link to their Climate Change page has links to informational climate change resources: The US EPA,
 89 Wikipedia, Oceana website, UUMFE, Florida Climate Change, NASA's Goddard Spaceflight Center,
 90 Mother Nature Network, Union of Concerned Scientists, Environment News Service, Thousand Friends
 91 of Florida, Nature Conservancy, National Sierra Club, Sierra Club Florida Chapter, and the IPCC. As of
 92 July12, 2011 there were no links to Action petitions or campaigns on the UUMLF site.

93 **II. The Lawsuit Filed by Jim Hansen**

94 Jim Hansen filed a lawsuit against the White House for failing to address Global Warming.

95 **III. State and Local Climate Action and Adaption Plans**

96 Meaningful Global Climate Change policy has been stalled at the federal level, but many states and
 97 localities have adopted plans with aggressive mitigation goals, and sustainability as a guiding principle.
 98 The policy recommendations in the state Climate Action Plans are in line with Unitarian Universalist
 99 values, and reflect the thinking expressed in our 2006 Statement of Conscience on Global Warming.
 100 Advocacy is needed to move from policy recommendations to funded and implemented public policy.

101 **A. State Climate Action Plans:**

102 The EPA website states that: "A climate Action Plan lays out a strategy, including specific policy
 103 recommendations, that a state will use to address climate change and reduce its greenhouse
 104 gas emissions." The following states have completed a climate change action plan: AK, AZ, AR,
 105 CA, CO, CT, FL, IA, IL, ME, MD, MA, MI, MN, MT, NC, NH, NJ, NM, NV, NY, OR, PA, RI, SC, UT, VA,
 106 VT, WA, WI, All States.

107 **B. State and Regional Climate Action Initiatives:**

108 The Pew Center has researched state and regional climate policy initiatives. Several Regional
 109 initiatives are detailed on this site. Effective advocacy at the state and local level requires
 110 information about the Climate Action Plans and Adaptation Plans enacted by the governmental
 111 bodies in states and localities in which we live and worship, knowledge about which
 112 recommendations are being implemented, and updates on which recommendations have not
 113 been implemented. Advocates also require knowledge about which recommendations have or
 114 have not been funded, and the public process to advocate for movement from policy
 115 recommendations to public policy. City and county Climate Action Plans, Adaptation Plans, and
 116 Mitigation plans will require congregations to do local research.

117 **C. Climate Action Plans for cities and counties in which congregants of The Unitarian Universalist
 118 Fellowship of Boca Raton reside Palm Beach County has a Climate Action Plan under
 119 development in conjunction with Broward County, Miami Dade County and Martin County**

- 120 1. Palm Beach County Unified Local Mitigation Strategy: This document assigns risk,
 121 vulnerability, and financial loss dollar values to parcels of land and buildings throughout
 122 Palm Beach County. The procedures for prioritizing mitigation efforts and rebuilding
 123 projects from hazards of all kinds using a cost benefit analysis are spelled out in this
 124 document. It lists sea level rise in response to global climate and local tectonic changes
 125 as a flood hazard.
- 126 2. Boynton Beach Climate Action Plan
- 127 3. Delray Beach Climate Action Plan is not yet developed. Their Green Task Force is working
 128 on this issue.
- 129 4. Boca Raton has a commitment to sustainability found on page CP-3 of this document,
 130 but no Climate Action Plan.
- 131 5. City of Lake Worth Climate Action Plan is in draft form.

Contact

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Boca Raton, FL

CSAI 2 Families, Population, and the Environment

132 **Issue**

133 The world’s human population continues to grow. Yet millions live in poverty and many, both young and old, have
 134 been abandoned. What moral responsibility do people have to each other and to future generations? We ask for a
 135 new conversation about families and family planning, population growth, and the environment.

136 **Grounding in Unitarian Universalism**

137 Unitarian Universalists bring human rights concerns and environmental protection concerns together. One of our
 138 Association’s principles calls attention to the interdependent web of existence. Other principles affirm the worth
 139 and dignity of every individual and the need for justice for all.

140 **Topics for Congregational Study**

- 141 • Are there too many people in the world? Listen to different points of view. Some leaders say that the
 142 human population can be much increased. Should there be limits to population growth? If so, what
 143 programs do you propose and support?
- 144 • Discuss the “carrying capacity” and “sustainable development” concepts.
- 145 • Consider family planning, access to health care services, sexuality education, marriage and adoption
 146 rights, the empowerment of girls and women, and related subjects. What moral guidelines, if any, should
 147 guide the population issues discussion?
- 148 • Family structures are changing. As you discuss families and family planning, consider the needs of single
 149 parents, adoptive parents and guardians, same-gender couples, and others who have sometimes been
 150 overlooked in “family values” discussions. How can congregations be helpful?
- 151 • Life expectancy is increasing. How can congregations care for an aging population?
- 152 • Consider the role of women and girls in population management and sustainable development. Review
 153 the work of the United Nations since its 1994 International Conference on Population and Development.
- 154 • Discuss the significance of the Millennium Development Goals and the Earth Charter.
- 155 • Does the world exist for humanity alone? What moral responsibility, if any, do human beings have to
 156 protect biodiversity?

157 **Possible Congregational/District Actions**

- 158 • Support Planned Parenthood and reproductive and sexual health services in North America and in other
 159 parts of the world.
- 160 • Support the Our Whole Lives (OWL) program and similar programs for sexuality education.
- 161 • Review the “family values” discussion. Discuss the needs of different kinds of families. Develop
 162 congregational programs that can assist families with adoption, parenting, and care for elders.
- 163 • Work for marriage and adoption rights for same-gender couples.
- 164 • Reclaim Father’s Day and Mother’s Day and celebrate these holidays in appropriate ways. Honor
 165 biodiversity and the teaching of evolution with religious activities.
- 166 • Expand your understanding of “stewardship.” Become a Green Sanctuary congregation. Demonstrate the
 167 appropriate use of water, energy, and other resources. Lead by example on a crowded planet.

168 **Related Prior Social Witness Statements**

- 169 • Endorse the Earth Charter—2002 Action of Immediate Witness
- 170 • Population and Development—1996 General Resolution
- 171 • Sexuality Education in Public Schools—1994 Action of Immediate Witness
- 172 • Environmental Justice—1994 General Resolution
- 173 • Choices Affecting Population—1990 General Resolution
- 174 • Amerasian Children—1983 General Resolution
- 175 • Women and Religion—1977 Business Resolution
- 176 • Federal Legislation for Choice—1973 General Resolution
- 177 • Discrimination Against Homosexuals and Bisexuals—1970 General Resolution
- 178 • Concern for Older Adults—1966 General Resolution

179 **Additional Information**

180 Are there too many people in the world?

181 On October 31, 2011, the world's human population reached seven billion, according to the United Nations
 182 Population Fund. In 1930, the world's human population was an estimated two billion. So the size of the human
 183 population has more than tripled in about eighty years and the human population continues to grow. High birth
 184 rates, in some parts of the world, combined with decreased infant mortality rates and increased life expectancy, in
 185 many regions, help to explain population growth during recent decades.

186 There is little disagreement about the size of the human population, but the question remains, "Are there too
 187 many people in the world?" It's possible that the world can support a human population of ten billion, or fifteen
 188 billion, or even more. However, many natural resources, such as water and fossil fuels, are finite. If worldwide oil
 189 production peaks during the next thirty years, while the human population is expanding and the developing
 190 nations are industrializing, the results may be cataclysmic. The Earth has a limited supply of fresh water and
 191 increased competition for water can also produce social conflict.

192 Each year, an estimated 38% of the pregnancies in the world are unplanned, according to the Alan Guttmacher
 193 Institute. Unwanted pregnancies often produce unwanted children, and, in the poorest regions of the world,
 194 unwanted children are often abandoned and easily exploited and abused. UNICEF can only estimate that there are
 195 "tens of millions" of street children in the world. Abandoned children often become criminals, child soldiers,
 196 factory or farm workers, or prostitutes.

197 The world's human population is aging. Life expectancy is increasing in many nations. When available, data shows
 198 that poverty among older persons is higher than for young adults. As North America's population grows older, the
 199 question in many congregations and communities is becoming, "How do we care for people who are past the age
 200 of 60?"

201 The pollution of the oceans, the loss of wildlife habitat and biodiversity, and the climate change problem, have all
 202 been documented by agencies like the United Nations Environment Programme. The World Wide Fund for Nature
 203 estimates that 10-30% of the mammals, birds, and amphibians on planet Earth are threatened with extinction,
 204 because of human activities. Discussions about human population growth often focus on human concerns.
 205 However, there is a need, also, to ask the question, "What moral responsibility, if any, do human beings have to
 206 other species and to the whole of the natural world?"

207 In 1994, the United Nations coordinated the International Conference on Population and Development in Cairo,
 208 Egypt. What developed at the Cairo conference changed the population growth discussion for many participants.
 209 United Nations reports noted that birth rates decline, and family life improves, as women gain more control over
 210 their lives, and as they rise above the poverty level. In the year 2000, the Millennium Development Goals and the
 211 Earth Charter appeared. Both statements express concern for social justice and the whole community of life. The
 212 Earth Charter was endorsed by the General Assembly in 2002.

213 The Unitarian Universalist United Nations Office represents Unitarian Universalists at the United Nations.

214 The Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice includes a variety of member groups, including the Unitarian
 215 Universalist Women's Federation. The Religious Coalition looks beyond the abortion debate to seek solutions to
 216 pressing problems such as unintended pregnancy, the continued spread of HIV/AIDS, inadequate health care and
 217 health insurance, and the severe reduction in reproductive health care services in the United States. The Religious
 218 Coalition supports access to sexuality education, family planning services, and adoption services for all people,
 219 regardless of income.

220 The Planned Parenthood Federation of America is the American affiliate of the International Planned Parenthood
 221 Federation. The International Federation has member agencies in 149 nations. Planned Parenthood is the largest
 222 provider of reproductive health care services in the United States.

223 Other organizations that are concerned about population issues and reproductive health care services include
 224 Population Connection, Pathfinder International, and Population Action International.

- 225 The Sierra Club is one of the environmental protection organizations that is involved with population issues.
- 226 The Sierra Club’s Global Population and Environment Program acknowledge the complex relationships that involve
227 humans, their health, and their environment. The Sierra Club is concerned about biodiversity issues and
228 sustainable development. It has expressed support for the Millennium Development Goals.
- 229 In 1991, the first edition of the Green Sanctuary handbook was published. The Green Sanctuary program is an
230 environmental action program for congregations. The program is managed by the Unitarian Universalist
231 Association’s Congregational Stewardship Services department.
- 232 The Unitarian Universalist Animal Ministry affirms the inherent worth and dignity of all beings. The Unitarian
233 Universalist Ministry For Earth is involved with environmental justice projects in congregations and districts.
- 234 Same-gender couples often feel excluded from “family values” and family planning discussions. In most parts of
235 the world, marriage rights are denied to same-gender couples and it’s difficult for same-gender partners to
236 establish a family with adopted children. Planning for retirement and elder care can be difficult for a same-gender
237 couple. Parents, Families, and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG) works for marriage and adoption rights for
238 same-gender couples. The Family Equality Council assists lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) headed
239 families at all stages of life. The Human Rights Campaign is involved with civil rights issues.
- 240 Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Ministries, a department of Multicultural Growth and Witness, serves the
241 Unitarian Universalist Association and its member congregations.
- 242 The Religious Institute has reviewed many of the sexuality-related policies and programs established by the
243 Unitarian Universalist Association. The Our Whole Lives (OWL) program is a joint program for sexuality education
244 developed by the Unitarian Universalist Association and the United Church of Christ.

Contact

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Falmouth, MA

CSAI 3

Reproductive Justice: Expanding Our Social Justice Calling

245 **Issue**

246 Reproductive rights and health services are seriously under attack nationally. Reproductive Justice represents a
 247 broader analysis of racial, economic, cultural, and structural constraints on women's power. The right to have
 248 children, to not have children, and to parent children in safe and healthy environments is a human right.

249 **Grounding in Unitarian Universalism**

250 Unitarian Universalist's (UU's) have been on the frontline of women's reproductive rights and anti-racist work for
 251 decades. The commitment to reproductive justice would reenergize that commitment, and pay attention to the
 252 important intersections of race, class and gender. This work would be informed by the feminist theologians,
 253 reproductive justice advocates, and UU's in the movement.

254 **Topics for Congregational Study**

- 255 • Why is focusing on individual choice inadequate?
- 256 • What is reproductive justice?
- 257 • How do power structures limit individuals' access to reproductive justice?
- 258 • What are the choices in birth?
- 259 • What moral questions does reproductive technology create?
- 260 • How does sexual assault and childhood sexual abuse contribute to unintended pregnancies later in life?
- 261 • How can eliminating racism, classism and sexism reduce the need for abortion and enable families to
 262 care for the children they do have?
- 263 • How are pregnant women who use drugs stigmatized and what are the real dangers and solutions?
- 264 • How can transgendered individuals maintain their reproductive rights?
- 265 • How do economic justice and reproductive justice intersect?

266 **Possible Congregational/District Actions**

- 267 • Form a Reproductive Justice Committee.
- 268 • Join Sister Song as an ally member.
- 269 • Invite SisterSong to conduct reproductive justice training.
- 270 • Educate congregation on reproductive justice, choices in birth and other relevant issues, including
 271 presenting a lay service on reproductive justice.
- 272 • Show films about reproductive justice.
- 273 • Present a reproductive justice workshop at district meetings.
- 274 • Advocate for legislative positions that foster reproductive justice.
- 275 • Give money to organizations that help women fund abortions.
- 276 • Create interfaith networks and committees.

277 **Related Prior Social Witness Statements**

- 278 • Reform of Abortion Statutes—1963 General Resolution
- 279 • Abortion—1968 General Resolution
- 280 • Abortion—1973 General Resolution
- 281 • Unitarian Universalist Statement On Survival And Population Control—1970 General Resolution
- 282 • For The Right To Abortion—1975 General Resolution
- 283 • Abortion: Right To Choose—1978 General Resolution
- 284 • A Religious Statement On Abortion: A Call To Commitment—1980 General Resolution
- 285 • Resolution On Abortion Clinic Bombings—1985 Business Resolution
- 286 • Right To Choose—1987 General Resolution
- 287 • Federal Legislation For Choice—1993 General Resolution

288 **Additional Information**

- 289 Online Resources: (for links go to www.uua.org/statements/current/189638.shtml)
- 290 • What is Reproductive Justice? (YouTube)

- 291 • Loretta Ross of SisterSong on “Reproductive Justice 101” Part 1 & Part 2 (YouTube)
- 292 • Lucy Felix, Migrant Health Promotion (YouTube)
- 293 • A Different Vision for the Reproductive Justice Movement: LUZ Reproductive (YouTube)
- 294 • Speak Justice! (YouTube)
- 295 • Reproductive Justice Briefing Book: A Primer on Reproductive Justice and Social Change (PDF)
- 296 • Reclaiming Choice: Broadening the Movement (PDF)
- 297 • Three Applications of the Reproductive Justice (PDF)
- 298 • Important Reproductive Rights Supreme Court Decisions

299 Organizations

- 300 • SisterSong Women of Color Reproductive Justice Collective
- 301 • National Advocates for Pregnant Women
- 302 • National Latina Institute for Reproductive Health
- 303 • Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice

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- 308 • Roberts, Dorothy. *Killing the Black Body*. New York: Vintage Books, 1997
- 309 • Silliman, Jael, et al. *Undivided Rights: Women of Color Organize for Reproductive Justice*. Cambridge: South End Press, 2004
- 310 • Wicklund, Susan with Alan Kesselheim. *This Common Secret: My Journey as an Abortion Doctor*. New York: Public Affairs, A member of Perseus Book Groups, 2007

315 Films

- 316 • *The Abortion Diaries*
- 317 • *Made in LA*
- 318 • *The Business of Being Born*
- 319 • *Entre Nos*

Congregational Support

Certifying Congregation
Unitarian Society of Ridgewood, NJ

Endorsing Congregations

- First Unitarian Society of Denver
- Unitarian Universalist Congregation at Montclair
- Unitarian Universalist Church of Fort Myers

CSAI 4 Exploring Class Barriers

320 Issue

321 Unitarian Universalists (UUs) have a reputation for being snobbish. Pursuing social justice, it is time for us to look
322 inward and study the barriers we create inhibiting people with modest income and/or education to feel included.

323 Grounding in Unitarian Universalism

324 Believing in the inherent worth of every person, we can find truth by inclusion of persons of all income and
325 educational statuses. Without that truth, UUs are limited in promoting peace, liberty and justice for all.

326 Topics for Congregational Study

- 327 • Class/Income/Education wise: who are we, who are we not?
- 328 • How can we use our discomfort in encountering someone of a higher or lower class/
329 income/education in making persons of other class/income/education more comfortable?
- 330 • What assumptions do we make about income and education of others?
- 331 • Do we create barriers by our purchases and expressions of our income and education?
- 332 • How can we structure UU congregational activities to be more inclusive?
- 333 • What can the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) do to make General Assembly (GA) and other
334 UUA resources more inclusive?
- 335 • How does our choice of music and art express our class, income and education?
- 336 • How should we approach stewardship and fundraising to be inclusive?
- 337 • How will our class/income/education awareness inform our approach to social justice?

338 Possible Congregational/District Actions

339 To better understand others, get involved with them and their struggle:

- 340 • Remove economic barriers in using UU facilities. For example, host Alcoholic Anonymous (AA) meetings
341 and gatherings of public interest for free.
- 342 • Do social justice outreach within our community—get involved with other churches and schools to
343 stand in solidarity with low income persons. This might involve tutoring, providing school supplies,
344 serving community meals to needy people, and assisting families engaged with the criminal justice
345 system.
- 346 • Lobby local and state government to remove economic barriers to public resources.
- 347 • Lobby school boards to remove economic barriers in our school systems.
- 348 • Use Sunday services to educate the congregation what we've learned to combat insensitive expecta-
349 tions of others.
- 350 • Alter our buildings, our services, our music and our artwork to appeal to a range of people.
- 351 • Consider ways we can structure UU and UUA to avoid charging fees—example, you have to buy
352 podcasts of GA workshops.

353 Related Prior Social Witness Statements

354 Although we have made many Statement of Conscience (SOC) concerned with Income, Race and Class (as in 2006
355 SOC), we have not really explored income and educational barriers to inclusiveness within UU. In searching the
356 words income, economic and class, we've been very concerned—about what the government and culture are
357 doing, but we've never had an SOC that specifically looked inward at who we are and how we relate to those of
358 lower class/income/education backgrounds.

359 Additional Information

- 360 • Elite: Uncovering Classism in Unitarian Universalist History, written by UU minister Mark Harris. A
361 discussion guide was created for the book by Gail Forsyth-Vail and Susan Dana Lawrence, both of the
362 UUA.
- 363 • Rev. Dr. Mark Morrison Reed at 2011 GA discussed that lack of racial diversity was a function of lack of
364 class diversity—so if we want to grow a multicultural/multiracial diversity, we need to tackle inclusion
365 of different classes of people.
- 366 • Suzanne Zilber, PhD, led a workshop exploring issues of class at Midwest Unitarian Universalist Summer
367 Assembly (MUUSA). In October, Suzanne will be sharing this workshop at UU Fellowship of Ames, Iowa.
- 549 • Rev. Lynn Thomas Strauss has led workshops on Classism with Unitarian Universalism for UU ministers
550 in five UUMA chapters around the country.
- 551 • Doug Muder in UU World Magazine, Fall 2007 wrote Not my father's religion about how uncomfortable
UU would have been for his working class father.

Contact

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Ames, IA

CSAI 5 Ending Slavery

372 Issue

373 Modern slavery [see footnote 1.] is among the most pervasive human rights violations. Approximately 27 million
374 people worldwide [see footnote 2.] are enslaved, more than ever throughout history. Their stolen labor creates
375 products consumed every day [see footnote 3.] . However, this egregious violation is not inevitable [see footnote
376 4.] . We can finish the work begun by our abolitionist forebears [see footnote 5.] .

377 Grounding in Unitarian Universalism

378 Slavery is an affront to our principles, stripping people of their dignity and the worth of their labor. It is intrinsically
379 violent, unjust and degrading. Through our faith and history, we have affirmed that all people have inherent worth
380 and dignity, and that freedom is a fundamental right for everyone.

381 Topics for Congregational Study

- 382 • Slavery has been part of many cultures throughout history. Do you know your own family's ancestral
383 history? Were they enslaved? Were they slave holders? How does this impact how your feelings and
384 actions regarding slavery today [see footnote 6.] ?
- 385 • Many products we use every day are manufactured using slave labor [see footnote 7.] . How do our
386 culture and lifestyles contribute to allowing slavery to exist, and how can we change this?
- 387 • In America, slavery and human trafficking are often hidden in plain sight. We can all learn the warning
388 signs of slavery and trafficking. If you saw the warning signs of slavery what actions would you take and
389 who would you contact [see footnote 8.] ?
- 390 • Can you imagine the feeling of being emancipated? What does one need after experiencing
391 enslavement? Does emancipation alone eradicate the culture that allows for human enslavement?
- 392 • What are the local organizations or services in your area that support victims of trafficking and slavery?
- 393 • Many experts believe that we have never been closer to ending slavery [see footnote 9.] . What can you
394 do to end slavery?
- 395 • How does US foreign policy play a role in facilitating trafficking and slavery [see footnote 10.] ?
- 396 • How does our faith tradition's commitment to healthy sexuality impact our understanding of
397 commercial sex, sex trafficking, and the wellbeing of those involved in both systems?

398 Possible Congregational/District Action

- 399 • Most Americans are unaware of the prevalence of modern slavery. Contact other local faith leaders,
400 communities and local media to let them know your congregation is addressing modern slavery.
- 401 • Incorporate information about ending modern slavery via book discussions [see footnote 11.] , DVD
402 showings [see footnote 12.] for youth [see footnote 13.] and adults.
- 403 • Support local, national and international organizations that address societal level factors that
404 contribute to the enslavement of human being, including reducing poverty and empowering
405 marginalized groups.
- 406 • Purchase Fair Trade products at your congregation. Where Fair Trade options aren't available, urge
407 companies to take responsibility for labor practices in their product chains.
- 408 • Contact local law enforcement and other authorities to find out if they have policies, protocols, and
409 training in place.
- 410 • Look at the capitalistic system that allows for a culture where human beings can be rendered
411 disposable [see footnote 14.] .

412 Related Prior Social Witness Statements

413 The last time modern slavery was addressed as a General Resolution was in 1965 [see footnote 15.] and in 1967
414 [see footnote 16.] [see footnote 17.] . Modern slavery was also proposed as a study action area at the 2010 GA.

415 Footnotes

416 1. Experts in modern slavery define a slave as a person who is forced to work without pay beyond bare survival,
417 and who is not free to leave, either through violence or through threat of violence. See Free The Slaves or Anti-
418 Slavery or any of the books referenced below.

419 2. Bitter Harvest, UU World, November/December, Kimberly French. See *The Slave Next Door: Human trafficking*
 420 and slavery in America today by Kevin Bales and Ron Soodalter (Berkeley; Univ. of California Press, 2009) or the FBI
 421 Human Trafficking website.

422 Additionally, in 2010 the United States was for the first time ranked in the Trafficking in Persons (TIP) Report with
 423 the finding that within the US women, men, and children were forced into slavery through “forced labor, debt
 424 bondage, and forced prostitution.” The report ranks 177 countries based on “the extent of government action to
 425 combat trafficking,” with Tier 1 as the highest ranking. A Tier 1 ranking indicates that a state government has
 426 recognized the problem of human trafficking, has made efforts to address the issue, and meets the TVPA’s (Torture
 427 Victim Protection Act) minimum standards. A country with a Tier 2 rating has not met the standards but has made
 428 efforts to do so, while a Tier 3 rating means the country has not met the minimum standards and has not
 429 attempted to do so. The United States received a Tier 1 rating.

430 3. For example, Free the Slaves has a 25 year plan for ending slavery, detailed in *Ending Slavery: How We Free*
 431 *Today’s Slaves* by Kevin Bales (Berkeley; Univ of California Press, 2007).

432 4. There is a strong and vibrant movement to end slavery. Free the Slaves is an organization with a mission of
 433 ending all forms of slavery globally through support of grassroots liberation and rehabilitation actions. Anti-Slavery
 434 International, based in the United Kingdom and founded in 1839, also works to eliminate all forms of slavery.
 435 There are also countless organizations that deal with specific regions or aspects of eliminating slavery, some of
 436 which have a specific focus on putting our Unitarian Universalist (UU) principles into action.

437 The Unitarian Universalist Holdeen India Program works with key leaders and organizations of India’s most
 438 marginalized and disadvantaged peoples in their struggle to secure human rights and economic and social justice.
 439 Part of their focus area is working to eliminate debt bondage in India. Shramajivee Mahila Samity, one of their
 440 partner organizations, is the recipient of the 2009 Harriet Tubman award given to a community-based organization
 441 working to dismantle slavery. SMS goes undercover to expose traffickers, helps slavery survivors return home and
 442 raises awareness within villages to slave-proof their communities.

443 The Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC) advances human rights and social justice in the United States
 444 and around the world. UUSC works by partnering with grassroots organizations, including those whose work
 445 prevents slavery. For example, one partner, the Rock Women’s Group, educates at-risk youth in Kenya who are
 446 vulnerable to trafficking. UUSC also helps UU children throughout the country participate in Reverse Trick-or-
 447 Treating, which educates children about child and slave labor in the cocoa industry.

448 Unitarian Universalists Against Slavery is a small organization focused on educating the UU community about
 449 slavery. It brought speakers to the 2003 General Assembly to speak about slavery. This organization is now
 450 dormant.

451 5. Unitarians and Universalists have a strong history of opposing slavery. William Ellery Channing wrote a book
 452 entitled *Slavery*, where he stated that to enslave a person was an insult to God. He was accused of encouraging
 453 slave insurrection. Theodore Parker hid and defended fugitive slaves and was indicted for obstructing a federal
 454 marshal for defending Anthony Burns, a fugitive slave in his congregation. A list of biographies of Abolitionists and
 455 Civil Rights Unitarians and Universalists is available.

456 6. Resources for uncovering your family history with slavery are available from many sources. Some resources are
 457 listed below:

- 458 1. The documentary *Traces of the Trade* follows Katrina Browne as she and her family uncovers their
 459 history as descendents of a wealthy slave trading family.
- 460 2. *Inheriting the Trade: A Northern Family Confronts Its Legacy as the Largest Slave-Trading Dynasty in*
 461 *U.S. History*, by Thomas Norman (Boston: Beacon Press, 2009)
- 462 3. Listen to family history and review genealogical records for clues to your family history.
- 463 4. The Passover holiday celebrates the Jewish people’s liberation from slavery in Egypt. This time of year
 464 can be used to draw connections between the Passover holiday and modern slavery.

- 465 7. The steel in our cars may be formed using charcoal created by slaves. Our clothing could be cut or sewn
466 by forced slave labor.
- 467 8. Resources include local police or FBI office, the 24-hour National Human Trafficking Resource Center hotline at
468 1-888-373-7888 or the U.S. Department of Justice Hotline at 1-888-428-7581 (during business hours).
- 469 9. See references cited in Endnote 4.
- 470 10. It is well documented that a U.S. military presence abroad often results in women being trafficked for
471 prostitution. Diplomatic immunity awarded to foreign officials exacerbated the potential for this abuse. See the
472 book Barracks and Brothels: Peacekeepers and Human Trafficking in the Balkans by Sarah Elizabeth Mendelson for
473 review.
- 474 11. Suggested reading about modern slavery
- 475 • Ending Slavery: How We Free Today’s Slaves by Kevin Bales (Berkeley: Univ. of California Press, 2007)
 - 476 • A Crime So Monstrous : Face-to-face with modern-day slavery by E. Benjamin Skinner (New York: Free
477 Press, 2008)
 - 478 • Sex Trafficking: Inside the business of modern slavery by Siddharth Kara (New York: Columbia Univ.
479 Press, 2009)
 - 480 • The Slave Next Door - Human Trafficking and Slavery in America Today by Kevin Bales and Ron
481 Soodalter (Berkeley: Univ of California Press, 2009)
 - 482 • To Plead Our Own Cause: Personal Stories by Today’s Slaves by Kevin Bales and Zoe Trodd (Ithaca:
483 Cornell Univ. Press, 2008)
 - 484 • Disposable People: New Slavery in the Global Economy by Kevin Bales (Berkeley: Univ. of California
485 Press, revised edition 2004)
- 486 12. DVD titles available from Free the Slaves that address modern slavery and human trafficking include:
- 487 • Slavery 101 – a video introduction to modern day slavery. (12 minutes)
 - 488 • Slavery: a global investigation – accompanies the book Ending Slavery, can be used by book groups (88
489 minutes)
 - 490 • Freedom and Beyond – Rehabilitation of boys recently freed from slavery in northern India.
 - 491 • Dreams Die Hard – The stories of four women enslaved in the U.S.
 - 492 • Celebrating the Heroes of the Anti-Slavery Movement: Freedom Awards 2008 - Includes Slavery 101 (12
493 minutes) and stories of Award winners in Ghana, Brazil, Philippines, and Uganda
 - 494 • [to come] Freedom Awards 2009 - Includes stories of Award winners in Pakistan, India and Cambodia
- 495 13. Teaching Packets available at www.freetheslaves.org.
- 496 14. According to Kevin Bales’ book Ending Slavery, the enslaved fieldworker who cost the equivalent of \$40,000 in
497 1850 costs less than \$100 today.
- 498 15. Human Rights Conventions—1965 General Resolution: “BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED: That the Unitarian
499 Universalist Association urge the United States Senate, with all possible speed, to ratify the Supplementary
500 Convention on the Abolition of Slavery, the Slave Trade and Institutions and Practices Similar to Slavery; the
501 Convention on the Abolition of Forced Labor; and the Convention on the Political Rights of Women;”
- 502 16. Strengthening the United Nations—1967 General Resolution: “URGES: That the United States Senate advise
503 and consent to ratification of the following Human Rights Conventions: 1. The Supplementary Convention of the
504 Abolition of Slavery, the Slave Trade, and Institutions and Practices Similar to Slavery, prepared under the direction
505 of the United Nations in 1956, to which 61 nations are now parties; 2. The Convention on the Abolition of Forced
506 Labor, adopted by the International Labor Organization in 1957, to which 74 nations are now parties;”
- 507 17. More recent Social Witness Statements reference the successes of 19th Century Abolitionists: The New
508 Abolitionism—1982 General Resolution: “BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That this Assembly urges all Unitarian
509 Universalists to recognize and support solemnly and with hope the great new historical movement known as The

510 New Abolitionism, ‘a worldwide moral and religious movement which says ‘no’ to the nuclear arms race and
 511 nuclear war as the old Abolitionism launched a crusade to say ‘no’ to slavery. The New Abolitionism against
 512 slavery...can be a winning crusade’ because it must;”

513 There are also Actions of Immediate Witness: (Support for the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of All
 514 Forms of Discrimination Against Women— 2007: “ The Unitarian Universalist United Nations Office to continue to
 515 monitor and advocate for CEDAW as part of follow-up to the 2007 Annual Intergenerational Spring Seminar, ‘Stop
 516 Modern Day Slavery: Breaking the Web of Human Trafficking’; and...”
 517 and, The Alien Tort Claims Act And Accountability For Multinational Corporations—2004: “The Alien Tort Claims
 518 Act is the only United States law permitting multinational corporations with significant assets in the United States
 519 to be held accountable for their unethical behavior elsewhere in the world. Passed in 1789 by the First Congress of
 520 the United States, it enables victims of torture, slavery, ethnic cleansing, and other crimes against humanity to put
 521 the corporations that are responsible on trial in American courts.”) a Business Resolution (Women’s Rights
 522 Anniversary—1998: “Therefore be it resolved that the Unitarian Universalist Association shall within this two-year
 523 period 1. Make effort to note the milestones in the critical anti-slavery efforts of women and the women’s rights
 524 struggle, from the 1848 Convention to the present...”) and a Responsive Resolution (Truth, Repair, and
 525 Reconciliation—2007: “President Sinkford asked, ‘What are our truths? To whom must we be reconciled?’ We
 526 have many stories to uncover—genocide, slavery, oppression. Only by knowing our truths can we act boldly on our
 527 spiritual journey of healing.”) that express our opposition to slavery.

Contact

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Santa Cruz County, CA

Proposed Bylaw Amendments

Underlining indicates insertion; brackets indicate deletion.

These Bylaw amendments broaden the definition of the word "congregation." If these Bylaws are amended, corresponding Rules will be amended by the Board of Trustees. **These proposed changes were given first-year approval at the 2011 General Assembly and, if approved this year, will change the bylaws.**

The Mini-Assembly for this item is Thursday 3:15 pm - 4:30 pm in Room 121

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

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

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

533 A [church or fellowship may become a member congregation] congregation becomes a member upon
534 acceptance by the Board of Trustees of the Association of its written application for membership in
535 which it subscribes to the principles of and pledges to support the Association. The Board of Trustees
536 shall adopt rules to carry out the intent of this Section.

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

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

- 542 (a) the [local] congregation in question, whenever possible; and
- 543 (b) the President of the district in which the congregation is located or such other authorized official
544 as the district designates in writing to the Association. ; **and]**
- 545 **[(c) the trustee representing the district in which the congregation is located.]**

This proposed Bylaw amendment corresponds to new Ministerial Fellowship Committee Rules that have eliminated the category of "Associate Ministerial Fellowship." **The proposed change was given first-year approval at the 2011 General Assembly and, if approved this year, will change the bylaws.**

The Mini-Assembly for this item is Thursday 3:15 pm - 4:30 pm in Room 121

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

547 The Association shall establish and maintain a pension system for ministers in [full] fellowship with the
548 Association.

Proposed Bylaw Amendments

Following the 2009 defeat of a proposal to amend Article II of the UUA Bylaws, the Principles and Purposes, General Assembly delegates passed a resolution calling on the UUA Board to review the bylaws that govern the amendment process. The proposed amendment to Article XV retains the current process for amending Article II, with a study commission followed by votes at two General Assemblies. However, the new process lets the first GA 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. **These proposed changes were given first-year approval at the 2011 General Assembly and, if approved this year, will change the bylaws.**

The Mini-Assembly for this item is Thursday 3:15 pm - 4:30 pm in Room 121

549 Article XV Amendment

550 Section C-15.1. Amendment of Bylaws.

551 (a) **Amendments to Bylaws.** These Bylaws may be amended by a two-thirds vote at
552 a regular General Assembly if a proposed amendment has been placed on the
553 agenda; provided, however, that proposals to amend[**or**], repeal, **or add a new**
554 section of these Bylaws whose section number is preceded by a "C" (hereinafter
555 a "C Bylaw"), **or to add a new such section,**] shall be governed by subsections
556 (b) or (c) hereof.

557 (b) **[(1)] Amendments to C Bylaws Other Than in Article II.** A proposal to amend,
558 repeal or add a new C Bylaw, other than those C Bylaws in Article II of these
559 Bylaws, shall be subject to a two-step approval process.

560 **(1)** Such proposals must be placed on the agenda of a regular General
561 Assembly and approved preliminarily by a majority vote at such regular
562 General Assembly. Following such preliminary approval, the proposal to
563 amend, repeal or add a new C Bylaw shall be placed on the agenda of the
564 next regular General Assembly for final adoption. Final adoption shall
565 require a two-thirds vote.

566 (2) The text of a proposed amendment **[to a C Bylaw, other than those**
567 **bylaws in Article II,]** which has been approved by one General Assembly,
568 may be amended at any time prior to final adoption. If the Moderator
569 rules that the amendment to the proposal is substantive, final adoption
570 shall only be by a subsequent General Assembly. **Any] except that any**
571 such proposal that has been under consideration for final approval at
572 three successive regular General Assemblies shall not be subject to
573 substantive amendment **and shall be submitted to a vote for final**
574 **approval** at the third such regular General Assembly.

575 (3) **Such a [A]** proposal **[to amend a C Bylaw, other than those Bylaws in**
576 **Article II,]** which, on any vote for final adoption, receives a majority but
577 not a two-thirds vote, shall be placed on the agenda of the next regular
578 General Assembly, at which it may be finally adopted if it receives the
579 requisite approval. If the proposal is not passed by a two-thirds vote at
580 the third regular General Assembly at which it is considered for final
581 approval, neither the proposal nor another proposal that is substantively
582 similar shall be placed on the agenda of **[a] the next regular** General
583 Assembly **[for two years].**

584 (c) **[(1)] Amendments to C Bylaws in Article II.** A proposal to amend, repeal or
585 add a new C Bylaw in Article II of these Bylaws shall be **[admitted to the] subject**
586 **to the following process.**

587 (1) Such a proposal shall be admitted to the agenda of a regular General
 588 Assembly for the [sole] purpose of determining whether the proposal
 589 shall be referred to a commission appointed by the Board of Trustees for
 590 [review and] study. Such a [review] study shall involve member congregations. A
 591 majority vote at a regular General Assembly shall be required to refer
 592 such a proposal to the study commission. Once the [review and] study of
 593 the proposal is complete, which shall be completed in no more than
 594 [three] two years, the study commission shall submit to the [Planning
 595 Committee] Board of Trustees for inclusion on the agenda of the next
 596 regular General Assembly [following completion of the review and study
 597 process the proposal in the form originally presented to the regular
 598 General Assembly and] any amendments to [the proposal] Article II that
 599 the study commission recommends [as a result of the review and study
 600 process]. The Board of Trustees shall also include on the agenda any
 601 amendments that it recommends to the study commission proposal.
 602 [All proposals regarding Article II of the Bylaws that are placed on the
 603 agenda after review and study (including amendments to such
 604 proposals recommended by the study commission) shall require a two-
 605 thirds vote for adoption. If the proposal does not receive the requisite
 606 approval at the General Assembly following the completion of the
 607 review and study process, neither the proposal nor another proposal
 608 that is substantively similar shall be placed on the agenda of a General
 609 Assembly for two years.]

610 (2) A motion to dispense with the [review and] study process and give
 611 preliminary approval [with respect] to a proposal to amend, repeal or
 612 add a new C Bylaw in Article II shall be in order during [at] the General
 613 Assembly at which consideration of a motion to refer the proposal to
 614 the [review and] study process is authorized. A motion to dispense with the
 615 [review and] study process shall require a four-fifths vote for passage. Such
 616 a proposal shall then be placed on the agenda of the next regular General
 617 Assembly for final adoption without amendment. Final adoption shall require
 618 a two-thirds vote.

619 (3) [After completion of the review and study process, proposals regarding
 620 Article II of the Bylaws shall not be subject to substantive amendment.
 621 The Moderator shall determine whether an amendment to such a
 622 proposal is substantive.] At the first General Assembly following the
 623 completion of the study process, amendments to the Article II proposal
 624 may be considered only as follows:

625 (i) During the General Assembly there shall be a mini-assembly
 626 held during which amendments to the Article II proposal
 627 recommended by the study commission shall be considered.

628 (ii) A delegate may submit in writing at the mini-assembly an
 629 amendment to an Article II proposal. All such amendments
 630 shall be made available in writing to the General Assembly. The
 631 Moderator, in consultation with the chair of the study
 632 commission, the parliamentarian and legal counsel shall
 633 prioritize proposed amendments for consideration by the
 634 General Assembly. A majority vote of the General Assembly is
 635 required for approval of any amendment proposed in the mini-
 636 assembly.

Proposed Bylaw Amendments

- 637 (iii) Following the vote on any amendments proposed in the
638 mini-assembly, the General Assembly shall vote on any
639 amendments proposed by the Board of Trustees. A majority
640 vote is required to adopt such amendments. Following the vote
641 on all amendments, the General Assembly shall vote on
642 preliminary approval of the Article II proposal. A majority vote
643 is required for preliminary approval.
- 644 (iv) If no amendments proposed in the mini-assembly are
645 adopted by the General Assembly pursuant to subsection
646 (c)(3)(ii) above, the Article II proposal shall be submitted for
647 final approval to the next regular General Assembly. Final
648 approval requires a two-thirds vote of the General Assembly.
649 No amendments may be considered.
- 650 (v) If one or more amendments proposed in the mini-assembly
651 are adopted by the General Assembly, the Article II proposal
652 shall be referred to the study commission. Within six months
653 after the close of the General Assembly, the study commission,
654 taking into account the decisions of the General Assembly, shall
655 prepare the proposal to amend Article II. The Board of Trustees
656 shall put this proposal on the agenda of the next regular General
657 Assembly.
- 658 (4) At the next regular General Assembly following the process described in
659 subsection (c)(3)(v), above, the Article II proposal is subject to
660 amendment only by a three-fourths vote in favor of an amendment
661 submitted to the General Assembly in writing by the Board of Trustees,
662 a district, or a minimum of fifteen (15) certified congregations, as
663 described in Section 15.2 of these Bylaws. Final approval of the Article
664 II proposal requires a two-thirds vote of the General Assembly.
- 665 (5) If the Article II proposal does not receive the requisite approval at the
666 General Assembly following the completion of the study process
667 described in subsection (c)(3)(iv) or subsection (c)(4), above, neither the
668 proposal nor another proposal that is substantively similar shall be
669 placed on the agenda of the next regular General Assembly.
- 670 ([4]6) If no [review and] study process of Article II has occurred for a period of
671 fifteen years, the Board of Trustees shall appoint a commission to
672 [review and] study Article II for not more than two years and to
673 recommend appropriate revisions, if any, thereto to the Board of
674 Trustees]. The Board of Trustees shall review the recommendations of
675 the study commission and, in its discretion, may submit the
676 recommendations of the study commission to the Planning Committee]
677 for inclusion on the agenda of the next regular General Assembly. The
678 Board of Trustees shall also include on the agenda any amendments
679 that it recommends to the study commission proposal. Notwithstanding
680 anything to the contrary contained herein, proposals to amend Article II
681 which are promulgated by a study commission in accordance with this
682 paragraph shall be subject to a two-step approval process as described in
683 subsections (c)(3) and (c)(4), above. [Such proposals must be approved
684 preliminarily by a majority vote at a regular General Assembly.
685 Following such preliminary approval, the proposal shall be placed on
686 the agenda of the next regular General Assembly for final adoption.
687 Final adoption shall require a two-thirds vote.]

Motion from the Right Relationship Monitoring Committee for the UUA Board of Trustees meeting January 2012

Moved: That the following section entitled “Report from the Board on the Doctrine of Discovery” be added to the 2012 Board report to the congregations of our Association, that the responsive resolution that follows it be placed on the agenda for the 2012 General Assembly, and that both this section of our report and the resolution be sent out to congregations with the Tentative General Assembly Agenda.

Report from the Board on the Doctrine of Discovery

In September of 2011, the UUA Board was asked by partner organizations with whom the UUA is working in Arizona to educate UU congregations about the Doctrine of Discovery and to ask the delegates of the 2012 General Assembly to repudiate this doctrine. We believe that the Doctrine of Discovery, as conceived in the 15th century and enforced to this day in U.S. law, is contrary to Unitarian Universalist principles, theology and values. Because of this, we recommend to our member congregations that they engage in education about the Doctrine of Discovery and we endorse the repudiation of the Doctrine of Discovery by the 2012 General Assembly. We further endorse measures that will help the United States be in full compliance with the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People, an agreement seen as reparative to the centuries of damage caused by the Doctrine of Discovery.

Background Information

The Doctrine of Discovery (DOD, also called the Doctrine of Christian Discovery) is a principle of law developed in a series of 15th century Papal bulls and 16th century charters by Christian European monarchs on the basis of which much of the rest of the world was explored and colonized by Europeans. It contained a theological justification of colonization that later became a nationalistic one. In an article in *Yes!* magazine, Gale Courey Toensing writes, “it was essentially a racist philosophy that gave white, Christian Europeans the green light to go forth and claim the lands and resources of non-Christian peoples and kill and enslave them—if other Christian Europeans had not yet already done so.”

For more than five centuries, the interpretive framework of the DOD has been institutionalized and used to assert a presumed right of dominance over originally free and independent indigenous peoples. The DOD was used by European nations to justify their conquest of Africa, Asia, Australia, New Zealand, and the Americas. It was the justification—theological and political—for the appropriation of the lands and resources of indigenous peoples and efforts to dominate native nations and undermine the sovereignty of indigenous nations and peoples. Among other things, it formed the basis for the slave trade, the partition and colonization of the Near East, the colonization of the Americas, and the genocides of the indigenous peoples of Africa and the Americas.

The DOD is the basis for United States policy regarding native peoples. After the American Revolution, the tenets of Christian Discovery were continued by the new United States. In the U.S. Supreme Court ruling in *Johnson v. M’Intosh* (1823), Chief Justice John Marshall wrote that “Christian people” who had “discovered” the lands of “heathens” had assumed the right of “ultimate dominion to be in themselves” and that this presumption of “dominion” had “diminished” the Indians’ rights to complete sovereignty as independent nations, and had resulted in the Indians having a mere right of occupancy to their lands. Unlike many regretful decisions of the past, this decision has never been overturned, and is still referred to in legal decisions on a regular basis (as recently as 2010 in the Federal courts).

The DOD is also foundational in the ways in which our nation’s policies on migration and immigration are formed and enforced. Preventing indigenous peoples from crossing the U.S.-Mexico border to inhabit lands that are historically theirs is justified in U.S. law by the DOD.

Report from the Board on the Doctrine of Discovery

The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People, overwhelmingly passed in 2007 after two decades of work, repudiates the DOD and calls upon the nations of the world to respect the land claims of their indigenous peoples and treaties made with indigenous peoples. It is a positive and comprehensive international human rights instrument addressing the economic, social, cultural, political spiritual and environmental rights of indigenous peoples. Among other things, it recognizes the right of indigenous peoples to migrate in their own lands, even when national borders have been drawn by colonial powers through them.

The United States is one of only four countries in the world that voted against the declaration (the others being Canada, Australia and New Zealand). Since then, all four have claimed to endorse the Declaration without taking steps to implement it. In the United States, the Declaration has not been submitted as a treaty to the Senate, giving it no force in law. While the rights addressed in the Declaration are similar to the rights guaranteed for other groups through other international human rights agreements that the United States has ratified and is implementing, none of these existing agreements extend rights of self-determination and equality to the indigenous peoples of this continent.

Indigenous peoples from around the world are asking all religious faiths and their respective national and international organizations to repudiate the Doctrine of Discovery and related documents, and to call for the United States to fully implement the U.N. Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples without qualifications. As the Declaration is described in its own preamble as “as a standard of achievement to be pursued in a spirit of partnership and mutual respect,” implementation of its standards needs to be done in accountable relationship with the indigenous peoples of our continent.

Unitarian Universalist Theologies and the DOD

The Unitarian and Universalist religious movements were born in the midst of revolution. “We the people” established the state and federal governments of the United States. The notion that human communities could be established on a democratic and intentional basis had a profound impact on our religious heritage. The American values of equality and justice were directly tied to the Universalist and Unitarian theologies that declared everyone equal in the eyes of God and possessing of sparks of divinity within.

But the United States did not come into being with an inclusive understanding of who constituted “we the people.” Women, People of Color, working people, people of diverse sexual and gender orientations still have to struggle for equity and inclusion. Unitarian Universalists have joined in these struggles. This work of equality and justice continues and there is much to do before our country can call itself inclusive, equitable and genuine in its commitment to justice for all.

Unitarian Universalists have long been guided by the radical notion that the truth will make us free. But we are not free of the past, our nation lives a lie, and our people are taught a history based in denial. A theology of mutuality and equality rather than of privilege and dominance means challenging ourselves to understand this history. The indigenous people of this land were conquered by vicious force and the land was taken from them. These actions were rationalized with the arrogant notion that the natives were savages and the invaders were civilizing Christians. The first people of this land have contributed much to our national culture, our food, our music, and most notably to our impatience with hierarchy and patriarchy. Benjamin Franklin credited the Haudenosaunee Confederacy for the idea that a federal union could be created out of self governing states. Yet these contributions are forgotten and even denied and it offends the presumption of white privilege to admit how much the nation has been influenced by People of Color.

Unitarian Universalist congregations covenant to affirm and promote “respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part”. This, our seventh principle, has profound theological implications. It calls us to a deeply rooted relationship with all that is, realizing that we belong to this world and that the world does not belong to us. Once we take this stance, we realize that the dominant culture of Europe and North America propagates a fundamentally different orientation, one based on exploiting our planet and using it for immediate gratification. We hear claims that the land is a “resource” and the people of the land should “be employed” for “productive purposes” by enterprising people of privilege and power. More and more people are learning that the world view of domination is profoundly alienating, estranging us from our essential human nature and from each other.

Unitarian Universalism is grounded in theologies that value relationship and reconciliation. We are taught that each of us has creative power that can be used to foster right relationship and build the beloved community. Conversely, that power can be used to dominate, oppress and harm others and make the beloved community that much further away from reality. 2010 Ware Lecturer Winona LaDuke, among others, teaches us that the continued domination of the indigenous people of North America is fundamentally in opposition to a theology of right relationship. By perpetuating centuries of injustice rooted in theologies of domination, we keep our culture alienated from the indigenous nations with whom we share the Earth.

There is a profound brokenness deeply embedded in our national identity that calls to us for healing and reconciliation. The Doctrine of Discovery is central to many painful legacies of American history, including the legacies of slavery, the forcible relocation and genocide of Native American peoples and the colonial partitioning of the continent. It is also central to the painful relationship that European-Americans have with their history. Healing is needed. We believe this resolution is a beginning step in the healing of this brokenness, a step toward restoring right relationship among the peoples of this land.

Why We Are Offering This Resolution at General Assembly 2012

This resolution has been placed on the General Assembly agenda in keeping with our charge to be accountable to migrant communities and partner organizations in Arizona. In preparing for General Assembly, some of the partner organizations with whom we are working in Arizona asked us specifically to take up this resolution.

Coalitions of indigenous peoples and their allies (including many Unitarian Universalists) have been working for many years to get religious groups to repudiate the DOD and to ask the United States to fully implement the tenets of the U.N. Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. The Episcopal Church of the United States did so in 2009.

The DOD—and the legal ramifications of it to this day—have profound effects on the issues of migration, racial and economic justice, the focus issues of this Justice General Assembly. For example, laws restricting the migration of indigenous peoples across national borders are a direct consequence of a legal system that allowed European colonizers the right to draw those borders through the lands of others. The DOD is also central to the construction of the category of race—and thus the development of racism—in the Western world.

This resolution is being offered as a Responsive Resolution because the UUA By-Laws prevent us from making justice statements through normal business resolutions (and because the 2011 General Assembly passed by-law amendments to remove Actions of Immediate Witness from the General Assembly agenda in 2012). The Board feels that this is an issue that our congregations will need to study and discuss prior to General Assembly, so we are taking the unusual step of submitting it to you in advance for this consideration.

A Responsive Resolution to the Report of the Board

The Mini-Assembly for this item is Thursday 5:00 pm - 6:15 pm in Room 121

688 WHEREAS the delegates of the 2010 General Assembly instructed the UUA Board to create a “Justice
689 General Assembly” in 2012, whose business is accountable to partner organizations doing human rights
690 work in Arizona; and

691 WHEREAS the Unitarian Universalist Association has been asked by partner organizations working with
692 the Arizona Immigration Ministry to educate our member congregations about the Doctrine of Discovery
693 and to pass a resolution repudiating it; and

694 WHEREAS the UUA Board of Trustees has submitted to the member congregations a report explaining
695 the Doctrine of Discovery and why the Board believes it to be contrary to Unitarian Universalist
696 principles;

697 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that we, the delegates of the 2012 General Assembly of the Unitarian
698 Universalist Association, repudiate the Doctrine of Discovery as a relic of colonialism, feudalism, and of
699 religious, cultural, and racial biases having no place in the modern day treatment of indigenous peoples
700 globally, and American Indians nationally; and

701 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we call on the leadership of the Unitarian Universalist Association to make
702 a clear and concise statement repudiating the Doctrine of Discovery and its current use in U.S. laws and
703 regulations, and

704 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we encourage other religious bodies to reject the use of the Doctrine of
705 Discovery to dominate indigenous peoples, and

706 BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that we call upon the United States to fully implement the standards of the U.N.
707 Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples in U.S. law and policy without qualifications. In doing so,
708 we support the establishment of commissions that include accountable representatives of American Indian
709 nations.

UUA BYLAWS

TABLE OF CONTENTS

As amended through July 1, 2011

ARTICLE I NAME	1	SECTION 5.7. PRESIDENTIAL SEARCH COMMITTEE	6
SECTION C-1.1. NAME	1	SECTION 5.8. GENERAL ASSEMBLY PLANNING COMMITTEE	6
ARTICLE II PRINCIPLES AND PURPOSES	1	SECTION 5.9. COMMISSION ON APPRAISAL	6
SECTION C-2.1. PRINCIPLES	1	SECTION 5.10. COMMISSION ON SOCIAL WITNESS	6
SECTION C-2.2. PURPOSES	1	SECTION 5.11. BOARD OF REVIEW	7
SECTION C-2.3. NON-DISCRIMINATION	1	SECTION 5.12. ADDITIONAL COMMITTEES	7
SECTION C-2.4. FREEDOM OF BELIEF	1	SECTION 5.13. PRESIDING OFFICER	7
ARTICLE III MEMBERSHIP	1	SECTION 5.14. TIME AND PLACE OF MEETINGS	7
SECTION C-3.1. MEMBER CONGREGATIONS	1	SECTION 5.15. CALL AND NOTICE OF MEETINGS	7
SECTION C-3.2. CONGREGATIONAL POLITY	1	SECTION 5.16. TRANSITION PROVISION	7
*SECTION C-3.3. ADMISSION TO MEMBERSHIP	1	ARTICLE VI BOARD OF TRUSTEES	7
SECTION 3.4. CHURCH OF THE LARGER FELLOWSHIP	1	SECTION C-6.1. RESPONSIBILITY	7
*SECTION C-3.5. CERTIFICATION OF MEMBERSHIP	1	SECTION 6.2. POWERS	7
SECTION C-3.6. TERMINATION OF MEMBERSHIP	2	SECTION 6.3. MEMBERSHIP	7
*SECTION C-3.7. ASSOCIATE MEMBER QUALIFICATIONS	2	*SECTION 6.4. ELECTION OF TRUSTEES	7
*SECTION C-3.8. INDEPENDENT AFFILIATE ORGANIZATIONS	2	SECTION 6.5. TERM	7
SECTION C-3.9. AUTONOMY OF ASSOCIATE MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS AND INDEPENDENT AFFILIATE ORGANIZATIONS	2	*SECTION 6.6. QUALIFICATIONS OF TRUSTEES	7
SECTION C-3.10 MEMBERS OF MEMBER CONGREGATIONS	2	SECTION 6.7. RESIGNATION AND REMOVAL OF TRUSTEES	8
ARTICLE IV GENERAL ASSEMBLY	2	SECTION 6.8. VACANCIES	8
SECTION C-4.1. MEETINGS OF THE ASSOCIATION	2	SECTION 6.9. PLACE OF MEETING	8
SECTION C-4.2. POWERS AND DUTIES	2	SECTION 6.10. REGULAR MEETINGS	8
SECTION 4.3. REGULAR GENERAL ASSEMBLY	2	SECTION 6.11. SPECIAL MEETINGS	8
SECTION 4.4. SPECIAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY	2	SECTION 6.12. WAIVER OF NOTICE	8
SECTION 4.5. PLACE OF MEETING	2	SECTION 6.13. QUORUM	8
*SECTION 4.6. NOTICE OF MEETINGS	2	SECTION 6.14. COMPENSATION	8
*SECTION C-4.7. VOTING	2	SECTION 6.15. ANNUAL REPORT	8
SECTION 4.8. DELEGATES	2	ARTICLE VII COMMITTEES OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES	8
*SECTION C-4.9. ACCREDITATION OF DELEGATES	3	SECTION 7.1. COMMITTEES OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES	8
SECTION 4.10. QUORUM	3	SECTION 7.2. APPOINTMENT AND TERM OF OFFICE	8
SECTION 4.11. TENTATIVE AGENDA FOR REGULAR GENERAL ASSEMBLIES	3	SECTION 7.3. REMOVAL OF COMMITTEE MEMBER	8
*SECTION 4.12. UUA STATEMENTS OF CONSCIENCE	3	SECTION 7.4. VACANCIES	8
SECTION 4.13. REVISION OF UUA STATEMENTS OF CONSCIENCE PROCESS SCHEDULE	5	SECTION 7.5. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE	8
SECTION 4.14. FINAL AGENDA FOR REGULAR GENERAL ASSEMBLIES	5	SECTION 7.6. MINISTERIAL FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE	8
SECTION 4.15. AGENDA FOR SPECIAL GENERAL ASSEMBLIES	5	SECTION 7.7. FINANCE COMMITTEE	9
*SECTION 4.16. ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA OF REGULAR GENERAL ASSEMBLIES	5	SECTION 7.8. INVESTMENT COMMITTEE	9
SECTION 4.17. ITEMS ADMITTED TO SPECIAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY AGENDA	6	SECTION 7.9. ADDITIONAL COMMITTEES	9
*SECTION 4.18. AGENDA RULES	6	SECTION 7.10. PRESIDING OFFICER	9
*SECTION 4.19. RULES OF PROCEDURE	6	SECTION 7.11. TIME AND PLACE OF MEETINGS	9
ARTICLE V COMMITTEES OF THE ASSOCIATION ..	6	SECTION 7.12. CALL AND NOTICE OF MEETINGS	9
SECTION 5.1. COMMITTEES OF THE ASSOCIATION	6	SECTION 7.13. RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CREDENTIALING COMMITTEE	9
SECTION 5.2. ELECTION AND TERMS OF OFFICE	6	SECTION 7.14. AUDIT COMMITTEE	9
SECTION 5.3. QUALIFICATIONS OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS	6	ARTICLE VIII OFFICERS OF THE ASSOCIATION	9
SECTION 5.4. REMOVAL OF COMMITTEE MEMBER	6	*SECTION 8.1. OFFICERS ENUMERATED	9
SECTION 5.5. VACANCIES	6	SECTION C-8.2. CONTROL BY BOARD OF TRUSTEES	9
SECTION 5.6. NOMINATING COMMITTEE	6	SECTION 8.3. TERM OF OFFICE	9
		SECTION 8.4. QUALIFICATION OF OFFICERS	10
		SECTION 8.5. REMOVAL OF OFFICERS	10
		SECTION 8.6. RESIGNATION	10
		SECTION 8.7. VACANCIES	10
		SECTION 8.8. MODERATOR	10

SECTION 8.9. PRESIDENT.....	10	SECTION 12.2. RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CREDENTIALING	
SECTION 8.10. FINANCIAL ADVISOR.....	10	COMMITTEE.....	14
*SECTION 8.11. EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT.....	10	SECTION 12.3. ACHIEVEMENT OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION	
SECTION 8.12. VICE MODERATORS.....	10	CREDENTIALING STATUS.....	14
SECTION 8.13. VICE PRESIDENTS.....	10	SECTION 12.4. RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CREDENTIALING LEVELS....	14
SECTION 8.14. SECRETARY.....	10	SECTION 12.5. RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CREDENTIALING RECORDS.	14
SECTION 8.15. TREASURER.....	10	SECTION 12.6. TERMINATION OR ADMINISTRATIVE SUSPENSION OF	
SECTION 8.16. RECORDING SECRETARY.....	10	RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CREDENTIALING STATUS.....	15
SECTION 8.17. OTHER APPOINTED OFFICERS.....	10	SECTION 12.7. REINSTATEMENT OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION	
SECTION 8.18. COMPENSATION.....	10	CREDENTIALING STATUS.....	15
SECTION 8.19. REPORTS BY OFFICERS.....	10	SECTION 12.8. APPEAL.....	15
ARTICLE IX NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS.....	10	SECTION 12.9. PROCEDURE ON APPEAL.....	15
SECTION 9.1. ELECTIVE POSITIONS.....	10	ARTICLE XIII REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS.....	15
SECTION 9.2. NOMINATION PROCEDURES.....	11	SECTION C-13.1. DISTRICTS.....	15
SECTION 9.3. NOTICE BY NOMINATING COMMITTEE.....	11	*SECTION C-13.2. ESTABLISHMENT.....	15
SECTION 9.4. NOMINATION BY NOMINATING COMMITTEE.....	11	SECTION 13.3. MEMBERS.....	15
SECTION 9.5. NOMINATION OF PRESIDENT AND MODERATOR.....	11	SECTION C-13.4. AUTONOMY.....	15
SECTION 9.6. NOMINATION BY PETITION.....	11	SECTION 13.5. DISTRICT BYLAWS.....	15
SECTION 9.7. QUALIFICATIONS OF NOMINEES.....	11	ARTICLE XIV RULES.....	15
SECTION 9.8. VACANCY IN NOMINATIONS.....	11	SECTION 14.1. ADOPTION AND AMENDMENT OF RULES BY	
SECTION 9.9. SUPERVISION OF ELECTIONS.....	11	GENERAL ASSEMBLIES.....	15
SECTION 9.10. CONDUCT OF ELECTIONS AT LARGE.....	11	SECTION 14.2. ADOPTION AND AMENDMENT OF RULES BY THE	
*SECTION 9.11. COUNTING OF BALLOTS.....	11	BOARD OF TRUSTEES.....	15
*SECTION 9.12. NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS OF TRUSTEES		SECTION 14.3. RULES OF ORDER.....	15
REPRESENTING DISTRICTS.....	12	ARTICLE XV AMENDMENT.....	15
*SECTION 9.13. RULES FOR NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS.....	12	SECTION C-15.1. AMENDMENT OF BYLAWS.....	15
SECTION 9.14. TRANSITION PROVISION.....	12	*SECTION 15.2. SUBMISSION OF PROPOSED AMENDMENT.....	16
ARTICLE X FINANCE AND CONTRACTS.....	12	RULE I NAME.....	16
*SECTION 10.1. ANNUAL BUDGET.....	12	RULE II PRINCIPLES AND PURPOSES.....	16
SECTION 10.2. DUTIES OF FINANCE COMMITTEE.....	13	Rule G-2.1. Democratic Process.....	16
SECTION 10.3. DUTIES OF FINANCIAL ADVISOR.....	13	RULE III MEMBERSHIP.....	17
SECTION 10.4. DUTIES OF TREASURER AND ASSISTANT		SECTION C-3.3. ADMISSION TO MEMBERSHIP.....	17
TREASURERS.....	13	Rule 3.3.1. New Congregations.....	17
SECTION C-10.5. RAISING OF FUNDS.....	13	Rule 3.3.2. Procedure for Admission.....	17
SECTION C-10.6. FUNDS HELD FOR OTHERS.....	13	Rule 3.3.3. Membership Requirements for Admission.....	17
SECTION C-10.7. RESPONSIBILITY FOR INVESTMENTS.....	13	Rule 3.3.4. Multiple Local Congregations.....	17
*SECTION 10.8. CONTRACTS AND SECURITIES.....	13	Rule 3.3.5. Rules and Regulations for New Congregations.....	17
SECTION C-10.9. PENSION SYSTEM.....	13	Rule 3.3.6. Order of Administrative Procedure.....	17
SECTION 10.10. FISCAL YEAR.....	13	SECTION C-3.5. CERTIFICATION OF MEMBERSHIP.....	17
SECTION C-10.11. CORPORATE SEAL.....	13	Rule 3.5.1. Required Annual Report.....	17
SECTION 10.12. INDEMNIFICATION OF TRUSTEES, OFFICERS,		Rule 3.5.2. Inactive Congregations.....	18
EMPLOYEES, AND VOLUNTEERS.....	13	SECTION C-3.7. ASSOCIATE MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS.....	18
SECTION 10.13. DUTIES OF THE AUDIT COMMITTEE.....	14	Rule 3.7.1. Limitation of Associate Membership.....	18
ARTICLE XI MINISTRY.....	14	Rule 3.7.2. Non-Segregation.....	18
SECTION C-11.1. MINISTERIAL FELLOWSHIP.....	14	Rule 3.7.3. Application for Associate Membership.....	18
*SECTION 11.2. MINISTERIAL FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE.....	14	Rule 3.7.4. Annual Report.....	18
SECTION 11.3. ADMISSION TO FELLOWSHIP.....	14	Rule 3.7.5. Report of Changes.....	18
SECTION 11.4. FELLOWSHIP RECORDS.....	14	Rule 3.7.6. Representation of Associate Membership.....	18
SECTION 11.5. TERMINATION OF FELLOWSHIP AND		Rule 3.7.7. Mailing List.....	18
ADMINISTRATIVE SUSPENSION.....	14	Rule 3.7.8. Additional Criteria for Admission.....	18
SECTION 11.6. REINSTATEMENT TO FELLOWSHIP.....	14	Rule 3.7.9. Yearly Grant of Associate Membership.....	18
SECTION 11.7. APPEAL.....	14	Rule 3.7.10. Associate Member Contributions.....	18
SECTION 11.8. PROCEDURE ON APPEAL.....	14	SECTION C-3.8. INDEPENDENT AFFILIATE ORGANIZATIONS.....	19
ARTICLE XII RELIGIOUS EDUCATION		Rule 3.8.1. Application for Independent Affiliate Status.....	19
CREDENTIALING.....	14	Rule 3.8.2. Non-Segregation.....	19
SECTION 12.1. RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CREDENTIALING.....	14		

Rule 3.8.3. Annual Contribution and Report.....	19	SECTION 8.11. EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT.....	22
Rule 3.8.4. Report of Changes.....	19	Rule 8.11.1. Executive Vice President.....	22
Rule 3.8.5. Representation of Independent Affiliate Status.....	19	SECTION 8.17. OTHER APPOINTED OFFICERS.....	22
Rule 3.8.6. Mailing List.....	19	Rule 8.17. Other Appointed Officers.....	22
Rule 3.8.7. Additional Criteria for Admission.....	19	RULE IX NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS	22
Rule 3.8.8. Yearly Grant of Independent Affiliate Status.....	19	SECTION 9.10. COUNTING OF BALLOTS.....	22
Rule 3.8.9. Independent Affiliate Contributions.....	19	Rule G-9.10.1. Tie Votes.....	22
RULE IV GENERAL ASSEMBLY.....	19	Rule G-9.10.2. Tie Vote-Moderator.....	22
SECTION 4.6. NOTICE OF MEETINGS.....	19	Rule G-9.10.3. Tie Vote-President.....	22
Rule 4.6.1. Mailing of Notice.....	19	SECTION 9.12. RULES FOR NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS.....	22
Rule 4.6.2. Time of Notice.....	19	Rule G-9.12.1. Preparation and Mailing of Ballot.....	22
Rule 4.6.3. Content of Notice.....	19	Rule G-9.12.2. Order of Names on Ballot.....	22
SECTION C-4.7. VOTING.....	20	Rule G-9.12.3. Write-ins Prohibited.....	23
Rule G-4.7.1. Recording the Vote on Resolutions.....	20	Rule G-9.12.4. Absentee Ballots.....	23
SECTION C-4.9. ACCREDITATION OF DELEGATES.....	20	Rule G-9.12.5. Balloting at General Assembly.....	23
Rule G-4.9.1. Number of Delegates.....	20	Rule G-9.12.6. Campaigns for Elective Office.....	23
Rule 4.9.1A. Merged, Consolidated, or Dissolved Congregations.....	20	Rule G-9.12.7. Length of Campaigns for President and Moderator.....	23
Rule 4.9.2. Settled Ministers.....	20	Rule G-9.12.8. Campaign Finances Disclosure.....	23
Rule G-4.9.3. Mailing of Credential Cards.....	20	Rule G-9.12.9. Separation of Campaigns from Conduct of Official	
Rule 4.9.4. Issuance of Duplicate Credential Card.....	20	Business.....	23
Rule 4.9.5. Alternate Delegates.....	20	Rule G-9.12.10. Election Campaign Practices Committee.....	23
Rule G-4.9.6. Delegate Status.....	20	RULE X FINANCE AND CONTRACTS	24
Rule 4.9.7. Issuance of Alternate Credentials.....	20	SECTION 10.1. ANNUAL BUDGET.....	24
Rule G-4.9.8. Payment of Registration Fee.....	20	Rule G-10.1.1. Presentation of Association Budget.....	24
Rule 4.9.9. Amount of Fees.....	20	Rule G-10.1.2. Expense Categories.....	24
SECTION 4.12. UUA STATEMENTS OF CONSCIENCE AND		Rule G-10.1.3. Estimated Income.....	24
STUDY/ACTION ISSUES FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE.....	20	Rule G-10.1.4. Procedures for Budget Consideration.....	24
Rule G-4.12.1. Report of Comments on UUA Statements of		Rule G-10.1.5. Board of Trustees Report.....	24
Conscience.....	20	SECTION 10.8. CONTRACTS AND SECURITIES.....	24
Rule G-4.12.2. Study/Action Issues for Social Justice.....	20	Rule 10.8.1. Contracts and Securities.....	24
Rule G-4.12.3. Report on Implementation of UUA Statements of		RULE XI MINISTRY.....	24
Conscience.....	21	SECTION 11.2. MINISTERIAL FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE.....	24
Rule 4.12.4. Mini-Assembly on UUA Statement of Conscience.....	21	Rule 11.2. Ministerial Fellowship Committee.....	24
SECTION 4.16. ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA OF REGULAR GENERAL		SECTION 11.8. PROCEDURE ON APPEAL.....	24
ASSEMBLIES.....	21	Rule 11.8. Procedure on Appeal.....	24
Rule G-4.16.1. General Assembly Actions of Immediate Witness,		RULE XII RELIGIOUS EDUCATION	
and Responsive Resolutions.....	21	CREDENTIALING.....	24
SECTION 4.18. AGENDA RULES.....	21	RULE XIII REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS	24
Rule G-4.18.1. Notice to Member Congregations and Districts.....	21	SECTION C-13.2. ESTABLISHMENT.....	24
Rule G-4.18.2. Business Resolutions and Study/Action Issues for		Rule G-13.2.1. Establishing Districts.....	24
Social Justice.....	21	RULE XIV RULES	25
Rule G-4.18.3. Congregational Poll.....	21	SECTION 14.4. MISCELLANEOUS RULES.....	25
Rule 4.18.4. Matters Submitted by Districts.....	21	Rule G-14.4.1. Performance of Acts.....	25
SECTION 4.19. RULES OF PROCEDURE.....	21	Rule G-14.4.2. Receipt of Documents.....	25
Rule G-4.19.1. Adoption of Rules of Procedure.....	21	RULE XV AMENDMENTS	25
RULE V COMMITTEES OF THE ASSOCIATION	22	SECTION 15.2. SUBMISSION OF PROPOSED AMENDMENTS.....	25
RULE VI BOARD OF TRUSTEES.....	22	Rule G-15.2.1. Form of Submission.....	25
SECTION 6.4. ELECTION OF TRUSTEES.....	22		
Rule 6.4.1. Division of Districts for Election Purposes.....	22		
Rule 6.6.1. Multiple Memberships.....	22		
Rule 6.6.2. Implementation of Section 6.6.....	22		
RULE VII COMMITTEES OF THE BOARD OF			
TRUSTEES.....	22		
RULE VIII OFFICERS OF THE ASSOCIATION.....	22		
SECTION 8.1. OFFICERS ENUMERATED.....	22		
Rule 8.1.1. Officers Enumerated.....	22		

ARTICLE I Name

Section C-1.1. Name.

The name of this Association shall be Unitarian Universalist Association. It is the successor to the American Unitarian Association, which was founded in 1825 and incorporated in 1847, 6 and the Universalist Church of America, which was founded in 1793 7 and incorporated in 1866.

ARTICLE II Principles and Purposes

Section C-2.1. Principles.

We, the member congregations of the Unitarian Universalist Association, covenant to affirm and promote

- The inherent worth and dignity of every person;
- Justice, equity and compassion in human relations;
- Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations;
- A free and responsible search for truth and meaning;
- The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large;
- The goal of world community with peace, liberty and justice for all;
- Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.

The living tradition which we share draws from many sources:

- Direct experience of that transcending mystery and wonder, affirmed in all cultures, which moves us to a renewal of the spirit and an openness to the forces which create and uphold life;
- Words and deeds of prophetic women and men which challenge us to confront powers and structures of evil with justice, compassion and the transforming power of love;
- Wisdom from the world's religions which inspires us in our ethical and spiritual life;
- Jewish and Christian teachings which call us to respond to God's love by loving our neighbors as ourselves;
- Humanist teachings which counsel us to heed the guidance of reason and the results of science, and warn us against idolatries of the mind and spirit;
- Spiritual teachings of Earth-centered traditions which celebrate the sacred circle of life and instruct us to live in harmony with the rhythms of nature.

Grateful for the religious pluralism which enriches and ennobles our faith, we are inspired to deepen our understanding and expand our vision. As free congregations we enter into this covenant, 42 promising to one another our mutual trust and support.

Section C-2.2. Purposes.

The Unitarian Universalist Association shall devote its resources to 45 and exercise its corporate powers for religious, educational and 46 humanitarian purposes. The primary purpose of the Association is 47 to serve the needs of its member congregations, organize new 48 congregations, extend and strengthen Unitarian Universalist 49 institutions and implement its principles.

Section C-2.3. Non-discrimination.

The Association declares and affirms its special responsibility, and 52 that of its member congregations and organizations, to promote the 53 full participation of persons in all of its and their activities and in the 54 full range of human endeavor without regard to race, ethnicity, 55 gender, disability, affectional or sexual orientation, age, language, 56 citizenship status, economic status, or national origin and without 57 requiring adherence to any particular interpretation of religion or to 58 any particular religious belief or creed.

Section C-2.4. Freedom of Belief.

Nothing herein shall be deemed to infringe upon the individual 60 freedom of belief which is inherent in the Universalist and Unitarian 61 heritages or to conflict with any statement of purpose, covenant, or 62 bond of union used by any congregation unless such is used as a 63 64 creedal test.

ARTICLE III Membership

Section C-3.1. Member Congregations.

The Unitarian Universalist Association is a voluntary association of 67 autonomous, self-governing local churches and fellowships, 68 referred to herein as member congregations, which have freely 69 chosen to pursue common goals together.

Section C-3.2. Congregational Polity.

Nothing in these Bylaws shall be construed as infringing upon the 72 congregational polity or internal self-government of member 73 congregations, including the exclusive right of each such 74 congregation to call and ordain its own minister or ministers, and to 75 control its own property and funds. Any action by a member 76 congregation called for by these Bylaws shall be deemed to have 77 been taken if certified by an authorized officer of the congregation 78 as having been duly and regularly taken in accordance with its own 79 procedures and the laws which govern it.

*Section C-3.3. Admission to Membership.

A church or fellowship may become a member congregation upon 82 acceptance by the Board of Trustees of the Association of its written 83 application for membership in which it subscribes to the principles of 84 and pledges to support the Association. The Board of Trustees 85 shall adopt rules to carry out the intent of this Section.

Section 3.4. Church of the Larger Fellowship.

The Church of the Larger Fellowship, Unitarian Universalist, shall 88 be a member congregation which is not considered to be located in 89 any particular district.

*Section C-3.5. Certification of Membership.

A member congregation shall be recognized as certified during the 92 fiscal year of the Association in which it becomes a member and 93 during each subsequent fiscal year in which it established that 94 during the immediately preceding fiscal year it:

- (a) conducted regular religious services;
- (b) held at least one business meeting of its members, elected its 98 own officers and maintained adequate records of 99 membership; and
- (c) made a financial contribution to the Association.

Member congregations must furnish the Association with a report of 102 their activities showing compliance with subsection (a) and (b) 103 above.

Compliance with subsection (c) above shall be determined by 104 appropriate financial records of the Association. A member 105 congregation shall also be considered to be certified for that part of 106 any particular current fiscal year which precedes the deadline 107 established by the Board of Trustees for submitting proof of 108 compliance with subsection (a) and (b) above if during the next 109 preceding fiscal year such a congregation made a financial 110 contribution to the Association and filed the report required by this 111 section during that year.

A member congregation which has not been certified for three 113 consecutive fiscal years shall be deemed inactive and placed in an 114 "inactive congregation" category.

The Board of Trustees shall make rules to carry out the intent of this 116 section and shall determine which member congregations meet the 117 requirements set forth herein for any fiscal year of the Association. 118

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

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

- 126 (a) the local congregation in question, whenever possible;
- 127 (b) the President of the district in which the congregation is
 128 located or such other authorized official as the district
 129 designates in writing to the Association; and
- 130 (c) the trustee representing the district in which the congregation
 131 is located.

132 ***Section C-3.7. Associate Member Qualifications.**

133 The Board of Trustees may admit to associate membership in the
 134 Association any major organization whose membership or
 135 constituency consists of individuals located throughout the
 136 Association and whose purposes and programs it finds to be
 137 auxiliary to and supportive of the principles of the Association and
 138 which pledges itself to support the Association. The Board of
 139 Trustees may terminate such associate membership upon a finding
 140 that the organization no longer meets the foregoing qualifications.

141 The Board of Trustees may adopt rules governing the requirements
 142 for admission to and retention of associate membership. An
 143 associate member organization shall be recognized as certified
 144 during the fiscal year in which it becomes a member, and during
 145 each subsequent fiscal year if it has made a financial contribution to
 146 the Association during the immediately preceding fiscal year. The
 147 Association shall neither exercise control over nor assume
 148 responsibility for the programs, activities or finances of any
 149 associate member.

150 ***Section C-3.8. Independent Affiliate Organizations.**

151 The Board of Trustees may admit to affiliated status those
 152 independently constituted and operated organizations whose
 153 purposes and intentions it finds to be in sympathy with the principles
 154 of the Association, and may terminate such status upon finding that
 155 the organization no longer meets the foregoing qualifications or is
 156 not in compliance with the rules relating to such organizations. The
 157 status granted is that of independent affiliate. The Board of
 158 Trustees shall adopt rules governing the requirements for admission
 159 to and retention of affiliated status. The requirements shall include
 160 financial support of the Association by payment of an annual
 161 contribution. The Association shall neither exercise control over nor
 162 assume responsibility for the programs, activities, or finances of any
 163 independent affiliate.

164 **Section C-3.9. Autonomy of Associate Member
 165 Organizations and Independent Affiliate
 166 Organizations.**

167 Nothing in these Bylaws shall be construed as infringing upon the
 168 control of associate member organizations and independent affiliate
 169 organizations by their own membership.

170 **Section C-3.10 Members of Member Congregations.**

171 For the purposes of these Bylaws, a member of a member
 172 congregation is any individual who pursuant to its procedures has
 173 full or partial voting rights at business meetings of the congregation
 174 and who is certified as such by an authorized officer of the
 175 congregation.

176 **ARTICLE IV General Assembly**

177 **Section C-4.1. Meetings of the Association.**

178 Each meeting of the Association for the conduct of business shall
 179 be called a General Assembly.

180 **Section C-4.2. Powers and Duties.**

181 General Assemblies shall make overall policy for carrying out the
 182 purposes of the Association and shall direct and control its affairs.

183 **Section 4.3. Regular General Assembly.**

184 A regular General Assembly shall be held at such time during each
 185 fiscal year of the Association as the Board of Trustees shall
 186 determine.

187 **Section 4.4. Special General Assembly.**

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

193 **Section 4.5. Place of Meeting.**

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

200 ***Section 4.6. Notice of Meetings.**

201 Notice of each regular and special General Assembly shall be given
 202 not less than sixty days before the date thereof in such form and
 203 manner as the Board of Trustees shall determine. Such notice shall
 204 state the place, date, and hour of the meeting. Notice of each
 205 special General Assembly shall indicate at whose direction it is
 206 being called.

207 ***Section C-4.7. Voting.**

208 Voting at each regular and special General Assembly shall be by
 209 accredited delegates from certified member congregations, certified
 210 associate member organizations, and trustees.

211 Each delegate and trustee shall have only one vote, even if present
 212 in more than one capacity. Proxy voting is prohibited except when
 213 the amendment being processed is an amendment of the articles of
 214 organization.

215 **Section 4.8. Delegates.**

216 (a) Member Delegates. Each certified member congregation is
 217 entitled to be represented at each General Assembly by
 218 delegates who are members of such congregation, selected
 219 in accordance with its bylaws or procedures. The Church of
 220 the Larger Fellowship is entitled to 22 such delegates. Other
 221 certified member congregations are entitled to that number of
 222 such delegates determined as follows: the number of
 223 delegates of a certified member congregation shall be equal
 224 to the number of members of the congregation divided by
 225 fifty, plus one delegate for any fraction remaining; provided
 226 that each certified member congregation shall be entitled to at
 227 least two delegates.

228 Membership of	Member
229 Member Congregation	Delegates
230 1-100	2
231 101-150	3
232 151-200	4
233 201-250	5
234 251-300	6
235 301-350	7
236 351-400	8
237 401-450	9
238 451-500	10
239 Over 500	One for each additional 50
240	members or fraction thereof.

241 The number of members of a certified member congregation
242 which is a member of more than one denomination shall be
243 determined for the purposes of this section either (i) by
244 dividing the number of members of the federated church by
245 the number of denominations included in the federation, or, at
246 the option of the federated church, (ii) by reporting the actual
247 number of members who identify themselves as Unitarian
248 Universalists.

249 (b) Minister Delegates and Religious Education Director
250 Delegates. Each certified member congregation is also
251 entitled to be represented at each General Assembly by the
252 ordained minister or ministers in ministerial fellowship with the
253 Association settled in such congregation, and by the director
254 or directors of religious education having achieved
255 Credentialed Religious Educator – Masters Level status by
256 the Association and employed in such congregation. In
257 addition, each certified member congregation is also entitled
258 to be represented at each General Assembly by any minister
259 emeritus or minister emerita of such congregation in
260 ministerial fellowship with the Association and by any director
261 of religious education emeritus or emerita having achieved
262 Credentialed Religious Educator – Masters Level status by
263 the Association designated as such by a vote at a meeting of
264 the member congregation not less than six months prior to
265 the General Assembly, provided that any such minister has
266 been settled previously in such congregation, and any such
267 director of religious education who has been previously
268 employed in such congregation.

269 (c) Associate Member Delegates. Each certified associate
270 member organization is entitled to be represented at each
271 General Assembly by two delegates who are members of a
272 certified congregation.

273 *Section C-4.9. Accreditation of Delegates.

274 The Board of Trustees shall make rules for the accreditation of
275 delegates and voting procedures. Such rules may include the
276 requirements of payment of a registration fee, a travel fund fee, or
277 both, in order to vote at a General Assembly, except that these
278 requirements shall not apply to the right to cast a ballot for any
279 elective position at large.

280 Section 4.10. Quorum.

281 Not less than 300 accredited delegates representing not less than
282 100 certified member congregations located in not less than 10
283 states or provinces shall constitute a quorum at any regular or
284 special General Assembly.

285 Section 4.11. Tentative Agenda for Regular General 286 Assemblies.

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

289 (a) reports and other matters required by these Bylaws to be
290 submitted to the General Assembly;

291 (b) proposed amendments to these Bylaws which are submitted
292 as prescribed in Article XV, Section 15.2;

293 (c) items referred by the preceding General Assembly;

294 (d) Business Resolutions and proposed amendments to Bylaws
295 and Rules submitted by the Commission on Appraisal;

296 (e) all proposed amendments to Rules and all Business
297 Resolutions as defined in Rule G-4.18.2, submitted by:

298 (1) the Board of Trustees or the Executive Committee;

299 (2) not less than fifteen certified member congregations by
300 action of their governing boards or their congregations;
301 or

302 (3) a petition by not less than 250 members of certified
303 member congregations with no more than 10 members
304 of any one member congregation counted as part of the
305 250;

306 (f) proposed amendments to Rules and Business Resolutions
307 submitted by a district by official action at a duly called
308 meeting at which a quorum is present but not in excess of
309 three Business Resolutions per district; and

310 (g) Proposed Congregational Study/Action Issues submitted by
311 the Commission on Social Witness pursuant to Section
312 4.12(a).

313 Resolutions submitted under (d), (e)(2), (e)(3) and (f) must be
314 received by the Board of Trustees by February 1 whenever the
315 regular General Assembly opens in June. If the General Assembly
316 opens in a month other than June, the Business Resolutions
317 submitted under (d), (e)(2), (e)(3) and (f) must be received no later
318 than 110 days before the date set for the opening of that General
319 Assembly. The UUA Statements of Conscience process deadlines
320 are established by Sections 4.12(a) and (c) and by the Board of
321 Trustees pursuant to Section 4.13 whenever one or more regular
322 General Assembly is scheduled to begin in a month other than
323 June. The Board of Trustees shall include on the Tentative Agenda
324 all items so submitted. It may submit alternative versions of
325 Business Resolutions in addition to the original ones submitted if in
326 its judgment such alternatives clarify the resolutions and may make
327 such changes in the Business Resolutions as are necessary to
328 make each conform to a standard format. It may also submit one or
329 more alternative versions for the purpose of combining two or more
330 Business Resolutions. Adoption of Business Resolutions by a
331 General Assembly shall be by two-thirds vote. The Tentative
332 Agenda shall be mailed to each member congregation, associate
333 member organization and trustee by March 1 if the General
334 Assembly opens in June, otherwise, not less than 90 days before
335 the opening of the General Assembly.

336 *Section 4.12. UUA Statements of Conscience.

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

345 (a) First Cycle Year

346 (1) Each member congregation, district, and sponsored
347 organization (as designated by the Board of Trustees),
348 may submit to the Commission on Social Witness by
349 October 1 in the year preceding a General Assembly one
350 proposed Congregational Study/Action Issue, such
351 proposed Congregational Study/Action Issue to be
352 approved at a duly called meeting of its members or its
353 governing board at which a quorum is present. This
354 commences the process of a four year UUA Statement of
355 Conscience cycle ("the Cycle"). A Cycle year ends at the
356 close of General Assembly.

357 (2) The Commission on Social Witness shall by November 1
358 of that year submit to the Board of Trustees for inclusion
359 on the Tentative Agenda of the regular General Assembly
360 not more than ten proposed Congregational Study/Action
361 Issues, each of which shall be based in whole or in part
362 on the issues submitted to it as described in the previous
363 subsection. The Commission on Social Witness shall
364 verify with the proposing congregation, district, or
365 sponsored organization that the proposed Study/Action

366 Issue reflects the intent of the proposer prior to being
367 included in the poll ballot. The ten proposed
368 Congregational Study/Action Issues shall be included for
369 approval by the congregations on the Congregational Poll
370 ballot, such ballot to be available and congregations
371 notified of its availability by November 15 of the same
372 year. Congregational Poll ballots concerning the proposed
373 Congregational Study/Action Issue shall be due by
374 February 1 of the following year (the first Cycle year).

375 (3) For the proposed Congregational Study/Action Issue to be
376 placed on the Final Agenda of the General Assembly,
377 twenty-five percent (25%) of all certified congregations
378 must participate in the ballot vote concerning the
379 proposed Congregational Study/Action Issues.

380 (4) The proposed Congregational Study/Action Issue shall be
381 ranked in the order of the votes received in the
382 Congregational Poll. The Study/Action Issues receiving
383 the most votes (not to exceed five in number) shall be
384 submitted to the General Assembly as follows:

385 (i) Each of the Proposed Congregational Study/Action
386 Issues shall be presented to the General Assembly by
387 a delegate, and one such proposed Congregational
388 Study/Action Issue shall be referred for study by virtue
389 of having received the highest number of votes
390 among all proposed Congregational Study/Action
391 votes cast by the General Assembly, provided,
392 however, that if no proposed Congregational
393 Study/Action Issue receives a majority of the votes
394 cast, then a second vote shall be taken between the
395 two issues receiving the highest number of votes cast
396 in the initial election.

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

407 (5) If a UUA Statement of Conscience has been adopted in
408 the previous year, the regular meeting of the General
409 Assembly shall also conduct workshops on the
410 implementation of such UUA Statement of Conscience.

411 (6) If no proposed Congregation Study/Action Issues are on
412 the Final Agenda in the first Cycle year, or if no
413 Congregational Study/Action Issue is referred for study by
414 the General Assembly, then following the regular meeting
415 of the General Assembly, the Cycle shall begin again as
416 set forth in this subsection.

417 (b) Second Cycle Year

418 (1) Member congregations and the districts shall submit by
419 not later than March 1 of the second Cycle year
420 comments regarding the Congregational Study/Action
421 Issue and the related resource guide to the Commission
422 on Social Witness.

423 (2) During the meeting of the General Assembly in the
424 second Cycle year the Commission on Social Witness
425 shall conduct workshops on the Congregational
426 Study/Action Issue.

427 (c) Third Cycle Year

428 (1) Member congregations and the districts shall submit by
429 not later than March 1 of the third Cycle year comments
430 regarding the Congregational Study/Action Issue and the
431 related resource guide to the Commission on Social
432 Witness.

433 (2) During the General Assembly in the third Cycle year, the
434 Commission on Social Witness shall conduct workshops
435 on the Congregational Study/Action Issue. Following the
436 General Assembly, the Commission on Social Witness
437 shall then compose a draft UUA Statement of
438 Conscience.

439 (3) The draft UUA Statement of Conscience, a draft
440 Statement of Conscience congregational comment form,
441 and a ballot to place the draft UUA Statement of
442 Conscience on the Final Agenda shall be included in the
443 Congregational Poll, to be made available and
444 congregations notified of its availability by November 15,
445 following the General Assembly. Notice of the availability
446 of these items shall be given to the congregations.
447 Congregational Poll ballots and the congregational
448 comment forms concerning the draft UUA Statement of
449 Conscience shall be due by February 1 of the following
450 year (the fourth Cycle year).

451 (4) The Commission on Social Witness shall then prepare a
452 revised draft of the UUA Statement of Conscience taking
453 into consideration comments received by the member
454 congregations and districts and place this revised draft
455 of the UUA Statement of Conscience on the Final Agenda.

456 (5) For a draft UUA Statement of Conscience to be placed on
457 the Final Agenda of the General Assembly, twenty-five
458 percent (25%) of all certified congregations must
459 participate in the ballot vote concerning such draft UUA
460 Statement of Conscience.

461 (d) Fourth Cycle Year

462 (1) If the draft UUA Statement of Conscience is placed on the
463 Final Agenda for the next regular meeting of the General
464 Assembly, then the next General Assembly must debate
465 and vote on the proposed UUA Statement of Conscience.
466 Adoption of the UUA Statement of Conscience shall
467 require a two-thirds vote.

468 (2) If (i) the proposed UUA Statement of Conscience is not
469 placed on the Final Agenda for the next regular meeting of
470 the General Assembly; or (ii) the General Assembly
471 chooses, by a two-thirds vote, to refer the proposed UUA
472 Statement of Conscience to the Commission on Social
473 Witness for one additional year of study/action, then the
474 Commission of Social Witness shall continue the study
475 and revision of the proposed UUA Statement of
476 Conscience for one more year. The revised UUA
477 Statement of Conscience may be placed on the Final
478 Agenda for the next regular meeting of the General
479 Assembly pursuant to subsections (c)(3), (c)(4) and (c)(5)
480 above. If by the regular meeting of the General Assembly
481 following the additional year the Commission on Social
482 Witness has been unable to find support to generate an
483 acceptable UUA Statement of Conscience, the
484 Congregational Study/Action Issue may be placed on the
485 Final Agenda with a proposal to drop such Congregational
486 Study/Action Issue.

487 (3) Following the regular meeting of the General Assembly in
488 the fourth Cycle year, the Cycle shall begin again as set
489 forth in Section 4.12(a) above.

490 (e) The Cycle may begin again, as set forth in Section 4.12(a), only
491 after the General Assembly in the second Cycle year of a
492 Congregational Study/Action Issue, and as provided in
493 Sections 4.12(a)(6) and 4.12(d)(3).

**494 Section 4.13. Revision of UUA Statements of
495 Conscience Process Schedule.**

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

**503 Section 4.14. Final Agenda for Regular General
504 Assemblies.**

505 The Board of Trustees shall prepare a Final Agenda for each
506 General Assembly which shall include:

- 507 (a) all reports and other matters required by these Bylaws to be
508 submitted to the General Assembly and all proposed
509 amendments to Bylaws and Rules appearing on the Tentative
510 Agenda that meet the requirements of Rule G-4.18.3;
- 511 (b) those Business Resolutions, including alternative versions, on
512 the Tentative Agenda which meet the requirements of Rule
513 G-4.18.3;
- 514 (c) Business Resolutions, amendments to Rules or Bylaws or
515 other items submitted by the Board of Trustees or the
516 Executive Committee, which did not originally appear on the
517 Tentative Agenda, provided, however, that any such items
518 appear on the Final Agenda accompanied by an explanation
519 for the delayed submission;
- 520 (d) additional proposed amendments to Bylaws submitted by the
521 Commission on Appraisal;
- 522 (e) those proposed Congregational Study/Action Issues on the
523 Tentative Agenda which meet the requirements of Rule G-
524 4.18.3, and if applicable pursuant to Sections 4.12(a); and
- 525 (f) the UUA Statement of Conscience submitted by the
526 Commission on Social Witness pursuant to Section 4.12 (c)
527 and (d), if applicable.

528 The Board of Trustees shall mail the Final Agenda to each member
529 congregation, associate member organization and trustee not less
530 than 30 days before the General Assembly.

531 Section 4.15. Agenda for Special General Assemblies.

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

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

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

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

- 546 (a) Non-substantive items related to greetings and similar
547 matters may be admitted to the agenda by a regular General
548 Assembly.
- 549 (b) Prior to 2013, there will be no General Assembly Actions of
550 Immediate Witness on the agenda.
- 551 (c)
- 552 (1) A General Assembly Action of Immediate Witness is
553 one concerned with a significant action, event or
554 development, the timing or specificity of which makes it

- 555 inappropriate to be addressed by a UUA Statement of
556 Conscience pursuant to the Study/Action process.
- 557 (2) Beginning with General Assembly 2013, no more than
558 three General Assembly Actions of Immediate Witness
559 may be admitted to the agenda of a regular General
560 Assembly.
- 561 (3) A petition to admit an Action of Immediate Witness to
562 the agenda must be submitted by a delegate and
563 signed by 150 delegates from at least 25 congregations
564 in at least five districts. If six petitions or fewer are
565 received, all petitions received that have the requisite
566 level of delegate and congregation support are eligible
567 to be considered for possible admission to the agenda.
568 In the event more than six petitions are submitted that
569 satisfy the sponsorship requirement, the Commission
570 on Social Witness shall select six from among those
571 which meet the criteria for a General Assembly Action
572 of Immediate Witness, and shall submit those six
573 actions to the agenda of the General Assembly for
574 possible admission. The Commission on Social Witness
575 shall prepare summaries of no more than six petitions
576 and present those summaries to the General Assembly
577 for a vote to rank the petitions in order of delegate
578 support. The three petitions receiving the most votes
579 are eligible for admission to the agenda. If there are
580 submitted three or fewer petitions meeting the criteria
581 for a General Assembly Action of Immediate Witness,
582 each of the petitions is eligible for admission to the
583 agenda.
- 584 (4) The motion to admit each General Assembly Action of
585 Immediate Witness ruled eligible is not debatable, but
586 an opportunity for a two-minute statement of advocacy
587 to the General Assembly for each eligible action by one
588 of its sponsors prior to any such motion shall be
589 provided. Admission of a General Assembly Action of
590 Immediate Witness shall be by a two-thirds vote.
- 591 (5) During the General Assembly, a mini-assembly shall
592 be held during which each admitted action shall be
593 discussed and amendments shall be accepted in
594 writing. All such amendments shall be made available
595 in writing to the General Assembly. The Commission
596 on Social Witness shall finalize each General
597 Assembly Action of Immediate Witness, and the
598 chairperson of the Commission on Social Witness, in
599 consultation with the moderator of the General
600 Assembly, the parliamentarian, and legal counsel, shall
601 prioritize unincorporated amendments for consideration
602 by the General Assembly.
- 603 (6) Adoption of a General Assembly Action of Immediate
604 Witness shall be by a two-thirds vote.
- 605 (7) Actions submitted pursuant to this Section 4.16(c) must
606 be in writing and filed with the Chair of the Commission
607 on Social Witness or the Commission's designee by
608 the deadline established by the Commission and
609 announced at the opening session of the General
610 Assembly.
- 611 (d) Responsive Resolutions may be admitted to the agenda of a
612 regular General Assembly and acted upon.
- 613 (1) A Responsive Resolution is a resolution made in
614 response to a substantive portion of a report by an
615 officer or committee reporting to a regular General
616 Assembly.
- 617 (2) Adoption of a Responsive Resolution shall be by two-
618 thirds vote.

619 **Section 4.17. Items Admitted to Special General**
620 **Assembly Agenda.**

621 Except for non-substantive items related to greetings and similar
622 matters, no item not on the agenda for a Special General Assembly
623 shall be admitted to the agenda of that Assembly.

624 ***Section 4.18. Agenda Rules.**

625 General Assemblies shall adopt rules relating to the agenda.

626 ***Section 4.19. Rules of Procedure.**

627 Rules of procedure for the conduct of the meeting shall be adopted
628 at each General Assembly.

629 **ARTICLE V Committees of the Association**

630 **Section 5.1. Committees of the Association.**

631 The standing committees of the Association shall be:

- 632 (a) the Nominating Committee;
- 633 (b) the Presidential Search Committee;
- 634 (c) the General Assembly Planning Committee;
- 635 (d) the Commission on Appraisal;
- 636 (e) the Commission on Social Witness; and
- 637 (f) the Board of Review.

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

639 Elected members of all Section 5.1 committees shall take office at
640 the close of the General Assembly at which they are elected and
641 shall serve until their successors are elected and qualified except as
642 otherwise provided herein. One-half as nearly as possible of the
643 elected members of the General Assembly Planning Committee and
644 the Commission on Social Witness shall be elected at the regular
645 General Assembly held in each odd-numbered year. The elected
646 members of the General Assembly Planning Committee and the
647 Commission on Social Witness shall serve for terms of four years.
648 One-third of the members of the Commission on Appraisal shall be
649 elected at the regular General Assembly held in each odd-
650 numbered year. One third of the members of the Nominating
651 Committee shall be elected at the regular General Assembly held in
652 each year. The elected members of the Commission on Appraisal
653 shall serve for single terms of six years. Members of the Nominating
654 Committee shall serve no more than two terms of three years. Any
655 member of the Commission on Appraisal in office for a period of
656 more than three years shall be deemed to have completed a six-
657 year term for the purposes of re-election. Any member of the
658 Nominating Committee in office for a period of more than 18 months
659 shall be deemed to have completed a three-year term for the
660 purposes of re-election. The elected members of the Presidential
661 Search Committee shall be elected at the regular General Assembly
662 held four years before the General Assembly at which there is to be
663 a presidential election at the expiration of a President's term. The
664 elected members of the Presidential Search Committee shall serve
665 for terms of six years.

666 **Section 5.3. Qualifications of Committee Members.**

667 In order to qualify to be appointed or to continue as a member of a
668 standing committee of the Association, a person must be a member
669 of a member congregation.

670 **Section 5.4. Removal of Committee Member.**

671 A member of any standing committee of the Association
672 may be removed by a three-fourths vote of the Board of
673 Trustees at a meeting at which not less than three-fourths
674 of the Board is present, if in the opinion of the Board the
675 member is incapacitated or unable to carry out the duties
676 of the office or otherwise for good cause.

677 **Section 5.5. Vacancies.**

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

683 **Section 5.6. Nominating Committee.**

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

691 **Section 5.7. Presidential Search Committee.**

692 The Presidential Search Committee shall consist of five members
693 elected by the General Assembly, and two members appointed by
694 the Board of Trustees. The election and appointment of members
695 shall occur at the regular General Assembly held four years before
696 the General Assembly at which there is to be a presidential election
697 at the expiration of a President's term. Each appointment and
698 election of a member shall be for a term of six years. The
699 Committee shall nominate candidates for the office of President.

700 **Section 5.8. General Assembly Planning Committee.**

701 The General Assembly Planning Committee shall consist of eight
702 elected members and two members appointed by the Board of
703 Trustees at its first meeting following the regular General Assembly
704 in each odd-numbered year. No elected member shall serve on the
705 Committee for more than two four-year terms in succession. The
706 appointed members shall serve for terms of two years and until their
707 successors are appointed and qualified. The Committee shall be
708 responsible for arrangements for General Assembly and programs
709 and meetings to be held in connection therewith. It may establish
710 subcommittees of its members and may delegate part or all of its
711 powers to them.

712 **Section 5.9. Commission on Appraisal.**

713 The Commission on Appraisal shall consist of nine elected
714 members. A member shall not during the term of office serve as a
715 trustee or officer or hold a salaried position in the Association. The
716 Commission on Appraisal shall:

- 717 (a) review any function or activity of the Association which in its
718 judgment will benefit from an independent review and report
719 its conclusions to a regular General Assembly;
- 720 (b) study and suggest approaches to issues which may be of
721 concern to the Association; and
- 722 (c) report to a regular General Assembly at least once every four
723 years on the program and accomplishments of the
724 Association.

725 **Section 5.10. Commission on Social Witness.**

726 The Commission on Social Witness shall consist of three members
727 elected by the General Assembly and two members appointed by
728 the Board of Trustees. The election and appointment of members
729 shall occur only at regular General Assemblies held in odd
730 numbered years.

- 731 (a) Each appointment and election of a member to the
732 Commission will be for a term of four years;
- 733 (b) One member shall be appointed each odd-numbered year;
734 and
- 735 (c) No fewer than one nor more than two members shall be
736 elected each odd-numbered year, as is required to insure a
737 full complement of elected members.

738 No member shall serve on the Commission for more than two four-
739 year terms in succession. In the case of a vacancy in an appointed
740 position by reason of death, disqualification, resignation or removal,
741 the vacancy shall be filled at any time for the remainder of the term
742 by appointment by the Board of Trustees for the balance of the
743 term. The duties of the Commission are described in Section 4.12
744 and Section 4.16 of the Bylaws and Rules G-4.12.1, G-4.12.2, and
745 G-4.18.2.

746 **Section 5.11. Board of Review.**

747 (a) Members. The Board of Review shall consist of eight
748 members as follows:

- 749 (1) Three members who are ministers, each of whom at the
750 time of election is in final ministerial fellowship with the
751 Association and has held such fellowship continuously
752 for the preceding seven years; and
- 753 (2) One member who is a Credentialed Religious Educator
754 – Master Level; and
- 755 (3) Four members who are not ministers or credentialed
756 religious educators, each of whom at the time of
757 election is a member of a certified member
758 congregation and has been a member of one or more
759 such congregations for not less than three years as an
760 officer or a member of the governing bodies of one or
761 more such congregations.

762 (b) Election and Term. At each regular General Assembly held in
763 an odd-numbered year one person who is neither a minister
764 nor a credentialed religious educator shall be elected and
765 shall serve for a term of eight years and until a successor is
766 elected and qualified. At each regular General Assembly held
767 in an odd-numbered year there shall be elected either a
768 minister, as described in subsection (a)(1) above, or a
769 Credentialed Religious Educator – Master Level as described
770 in section (a)(2) above, who shall serve for a term of eight
771 years and until a successor is elected and qualified.

772 (c) Qualifications. No member of the Board of Review shall
773 during the term of office be a member of the Ministerial
774 Fellowship Committee, the Religious Education Credentialing
775 Committee, or hold any salaried position in the Association.

776 (d) Removal. A member of the Board of Review may be removed
777 without hearing by the vote of six other members.

778 **Section 5.12. Additional Committees.**

779 Additional committees may be created by any General Assembly by
780 adoption of a resolution which shall state the membership, terms,
781 qualification, method of selection, and duties thereof.

782 **Section 5.13. Presiding Officer.**

783 Each committee shall elect a presiding officer from among its
784 members at its first meeting following the regular General Assembly
785 in each odd-numbered year. In the absence of such election the
786 Board of Trustees may designate a temporary presiding officer from
787 among members of the committee.

788 **Section 5.14. Time and Place of Meetings.**

789 Each committee shall hold meetings at such times and places as it
790 may determine.

791 **Section 5.15. Call and Notice of Meetings.**

792 Meetings of committees may be called by the presiding officer and
793 shall be called by the presiding officer at the request of a majority of
794 the members of the entire committee. Notice of committee
795 meetings shall be given in writing not less than ten nor more than
796 sixty days before the meeting and shall state the time and place of
797 the meeting.

798 **Section 5.16. Transition Provision.**

799 Notwithstanding the provisions of Sections 5.2 and 5.6:

800 (a) Members of the Nominating Committee elected at the regular
801 General Assembly in 2013 shall be elected to three-year
802 terms.

803 (b) Members of the Nominating Committee elected prior to the
804 regular General Assembly in 2013 may serve their full six-
805 year terms.

806 (c) For elections at any regular General Assembly before 2018,
807 no person shall be eligible for nomination for a term on the
808 Nominating Committee that would result in more than six
809 years of continuous service.

810 (d) This transition provision shall automatically be deleted from
811 the bylaws following the regular General Assembly in 2017.

812 **ARTICLE VI Board of Trustees**

813 **Section C-6.1. Responsibility.**

814 The Board of Trustees shall conduct the affairs of the Association
815 and, subject to these Bylaws, shall carry out the Association's
816 policies and directives as provided by law.

817 **Section 6.2. Powers.**

818 The Board of Trustees shall act for the Association between
819 General Assemblies.

820 **Section 6.3. Membership.**

821 The Board of Trustees shall consist of:

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

824 (b) Three trustees elected at large, and a youth trustee at large;

825 (c) one trustee representing each district.

826 ***Section 6.4. Election of Trustees.**

827 The youth trustee at large and one-half of the other number of
828 trustees at large shall be elected at the regular General Assembly
829 held in each odd-numbered year. One-half, as nearly as possible,
830 of the trustees representing districts shall be elected prior to each
831 such General Assembly. The Board of Trustees shall divide the
832 districts into two groups for purposes of electing trustees.

833 **Section 6.5. Term.**

834 Trustees shall take office immediately after the close of the General
835 Assembly at or prior to which they are elected and, with the
836 exception of the youth trustee at large, shall serve for terms of four
837 years or until their successors are elected and qualified. The youth
838 trustee at large shall serve for a term of two years or until his or her
839 successor is elected and qualified. Any partial term of more than
840 two years shall be considered a full term for purposes of this
841 section. No trustee may serve more than two successive full terms.
842 However, a trustee may at any time become one of the elected
843 officers of the Association and serve as long in that office as if such
844 trustee had not previously been a trustee. No person who has
845 served as elected officer for a full term shall thereafter be elected a
846 trustee without an interim of four years.

847 ***Section 6.6. Qualifications of Trustees.**

848 Each elected trustee shall be a member of a member congregation.
849 An elected trustee representing a district shall reside in that district
850 and shall be a member of a member congregation located in the
851 district. A trustee who ceases to meet these qualifications shall be
852 disqualified and the office declared vacant. The youth trustee at
853 large shall be an individual aged 14 to 20 inclusive years at the time
854 of election. Not more than one trustee shall be a member of the
855 same member congregation. If a trustee becomes a member of a
856 member congregation in which another trustee is already a
857 member, such trustee shall be disqualified and the office declared

858 vacant. The Board of Trustees shall adopt rules for the application
859 of this section to persons holding membership in more than one
860 member congregation.

861 **Section 6.7. Resignation and Removal of Trustees.**

862 A trustee may at any time resign by giving written notice to the
863 Board of Trustees. Such resignation shall take effect at the time
864 specified therein, or, if no time is specified, then on delivery. A
865 trustee may be removed by a three-fourths vote of the entire Board
866 at a meeting at which not less than three-fourths of the entire Board
867 is present if in the opinion of the Board such trustee is incapacitated
868 or unable to carry out the duties of the office or otherwise for good
869 cause.

870 **Section 6.8. Vacancies.**

871 (a) Trustee at Large. A vacancy created by the death,
872 disqualification, resignation, or removal of a trustee at large
873 shall be filled by majority vote of the remaining trustees until
874 the next regular General Assembly at which an election can
875 be held. The vacancy shall then be filled by election for the
876 balance of the unexpired term, if any.

877 (b) Trustee Representing District. A vacancy created by death,
878 disqualification, resignation, or removal of a trustee
879 representing a district or by the creation of a new district
880 entitled to be represented by a trustee shall be governed by
881 the bylaws of the district and Section 9.12 of these Bylaws
882 subject to the following limitations:

883 (1) If fewer than two regular General Assemblies have met
884 and adjourned since the General Assembly at which
885 the trustee took office, the governing body of the district
886 shall make an interim appointment until the position is
887 filled by a special election within one year from the date
888 the vacancy occurs;

889 (2) If the vacancy occurs at any other point in the term,
890 either the governing body of the district shall fill the
891 vacancy for the remainder of the term or the District
892 shall provide for an interim appointment by its
893 governing body until the position is filled by a special
894 election.

895 An invalid election does not create a vacancy for purposes of this
896 section.

897 **Section 6.9. Place of Meeting.**

898 The Board of Trustees shall hold its meetings at such places as the
899 Board may determine.

900 **Section 6.10. Regular Meetings.**

901 Regular meetings of the Board of Trustees shall be held at such
902 times as the Board may determine. No fewer than three regular
903 meetings of the Board shall be held during each fiscal year of the
904 Association.

905 **Section 6.11. Special Meetings.**

906 Special meetings of the Board of Trustees may be called by the
907 Moderator or President, and shall be called by the Moderator at the
908 request of eight trustees. Notice of special meetings shall be given
909 in writing not less than five nor more than sixty days before the
910 meeting and shall state the agenda, time and place of the meeting.

911 **Section 6.12. Waiver of Notice.**

912 Notice of a meeting need not be given to any trustee who submits a
913 signed waiver of notice whether before or after the meeting, or who
914 attends the meeting without protesting, prior thereto or at its
915 commencement, the lack of notice.

916 **Section 6.13. Quorum.**

917 A majority plus one of the entire voting membership of the Board of
918 Trustees shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.

919 **Section 6.14. Compensation.**

920 Except for the President, members of the Board of Trustees shall
921 not receive compensation for their services but shall be reimbursed
922 as determined by the Board of Trustees for the expenses
923 reasonably incurred by them in the performance of their duties.

924 **Section 6.15. Annual Report.**

925 The Secretary shall on behalf of the Board of Trustees present an
926 annual report of its activities to the member congregations and at
927 each regular General Assembly.

928 **ARTICLE VII Committees of the Board of Trustees**

929 **Section 7.1. Committees of the Board of Trustees.**

930 The standing committees of the Board of Trustees shall be:

931 (a) the Executive Committee;

932 (b) the Ministerial Fellowship Committee;

933 (a) the Finance Committee;

934 (b) the Investment Committee;

935 (c) the Religious Education Credentialing Committee; and

936 (d) the Audit Committee.

937 **Section 7.2. Appointment and Term of Office.**

938 Members of the Executive Committee, Finance Committee,
939 Investment Committee, Religious Education Credentialing
940 Committee, and board-appointed members of the Ministerial
941 Fellowship Committee and Audit Committee shall be appointed by
942 the Board at its first meeting following the regular General Assembly
943 in each odd-numbered year except as otherwise provided herein.
944 Members of such committees shall serve for terms of two years and
945 until their successors are appointed and qualified.

946 **Section 7.3. Removal of Committee Member.**

947 Standing committee members appointed by the Board of Trustees
948 serve at the pleasure of the Board and may be removed by it at any
949 time.

950 **Section 7.4. Vacancies.**

951 A vacancy on any committee of the Board among members
952 appointed by the Board of Trustees shall be filled by it.

953 **Section 7.5. Executive Committee.**

954 The Executive Committee shall consist of the Moderator, the First
955 Vice Moderator, the Secretary, the Financial Advisor, and the Chair
956 of the Finance Committee. The position on the committee occupied
957 by the First Vice Moderator shall be filled by the Second Vice
958 Moderator at any meeting of the committee from which the First
959 Vice Moderator is absent or at which the First Vice Moderator is
960 presiding in the absence of the Moderator. The position on the
961 committee occupied by the Secretary shall be filled by the Assistant
962 Secretary at any meeting of the committee from which the Secretary
963 is absent. The Executive Committee shall conduct the current and
964 ordinary business of the Association between meetings of the Board
965 of Trustees. If between meetings of the Board of Trustees, matters
966 arise which (1) in the opinion of the Executive Committee are not
967 current and ordinary business but in the best interests of the
968 Association must nevertheless be acted upon, or (2) the Executive
969 Committee has been authorized by the Board to be acted upon,
970 then the Executive Committee may act thereon for the Board of
971 Trustees, but only if four or more members vote the action.

972 **Section 7.6. Ministerial Fellowship Committee.**

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

975 (a) at least six members who are not ministers appointed by the
976 Board;

977

978 (b) at least eight members who are ministers in final fellowship
979 with the Association, four appointed by the Unitarian
980 Universalist Ministers Association and the remainder by the
981 Board.

982 The committee shall have jurisdiction over ministerial fellowship with
983 the Association as provided in Article XI hereof. The Board of
984 Trustees shall designate a person who is not a member of the
985 committee to be its Executive Secretary and keep its records.

986 **Section 7.7. Finance Committee.**

987 The Finance Committee shall consist of the Financial Advisor, the
988 Treasurer, five trustees who shall not be members of the
989 Investment Committee, and the Moderator without vote. The duties
990 of the Finance Committee are set forth in Article X.

991 **Section 7.8. Investment Committee.**

992 The Investment Committee shall consist of the Financial Advisor,
993 the Treasurer, and five other persons, at least one of whom shall be
994 a trustee and none of whom shall be members of the Finance
995 Committee. The duties of the Investment Committee are set forth in
996 Article X.

997 **Section 7.9. Additional Committees.**

998 The Board of Trustees may appoint additional committees to serve
999 at its pleasure and shall determine the membership, qualifications,
1000 and duties thereof.

1001 **Section 7.10. Presiding Officer.**

1002 The Board of Trustees shall appoint one member of each standing
1003 committee of the Board to be its presiding officer.

1004 **Section 7.11. Time and Place of Meetings.**

1005 Each standing committee of the Board shall hold meetings at such
1006 times and places as it may determine.

1007 **Section 7.12. Call and Notice of Meetings.**

1008 Meetings of standing committees of the Board may be called by the
1009 presiding officer and shall be called by the presiding officer at the
1010 request of a majority of the members of the entire committee.
1011 Unless the Board of Trustees otherwise provides, notice of
1012 meetings of each standing committee shall be given in such a
1013 manner and within such time as the standing committee
1014 determines.

1015 **Section 7.13. Religious Education Credentialing 1016 Committee.**

1017 The Religious Education Credentialing Committee shall consist of
1018 seven members as follows:

- 1019 (a) three members, none of whom is a parish minister,
1020 minister of religious education, community minister, a
1021 credentialed religious educator, or a director of religious
1022 education, appointed by the Board;
- 1023 (b) one member who is a parish minister or community
1024 minister, appointed by the Board;
- 1025 (c) one member who is a minister of religious education,
1026 appointed by the Board;
- 1027 (d) one member who is a Credentialed Religious Educator –
1028 Master Level, appointed by the Board; and
- 1029 (e) one member nominated by the Board of the Liberal
1030 Religious Educators Association and appointed by the
1031 Board of Trustees.

1032 The Committee shall have jurisdiction over religious education
1033 credentialing with the Association as provided in Article XII thereof.
1034 The Board of Trustees shall designate a person who is not a
1035 member of the committee to be its Executive Secretary and keep its
1036 records.

1037 **Section 7.14. Audit Committee.**

1038 The Audit Committee shall consist of five members as follows:

- 1039 (a) three persons appointed by the Board, none of whom are
1040 members of the Board or hold a salaried position with the
1041 Association;
- 1042 (b) the Financial Advisor; and
- 1043 (c) a member of the Finance Committee, who shall be
1044 appointed by the Board.

1045 No member of the Audit Committee shall serve for more than four
1046 terms on the Audit Committee.

1047 The duties of the Audit Committee are set forth in Article X.

1048 **ARTICLE VIII Officers of the Association**

1049 ***Section 8.1. Officers Enumerated.**

- 1050 (a) Elected Officers. The elected officers of the Association shall
1051 be a Moderator, a President, and a Financial Advisor.
- 1052 (b) Appointed Non-salaried Officers. The appointed non-
1053 salaried officers of the Association shall include one or more
1054 Vice Moderators, a Secretary, and a Recording Secretary and
1055 may include such other officers as the Board of Trustees may
1056 appoint.
- 1057 (c) Appointed Salaried Officers. The appointed salaried officers
1058 of the Association shall include a Treasurer, and may include
1059 one or more vice presidents, assistant treasurers, and such
1060 other officers as the Board of Trustees may determine.

1061 **Section C-8.2. Control by Board of Trustees.**

1062 All officers shall be subject to the direction and control of the Board
1063 of Trustees. All appointed officers shall be appointed by the Board
1064 of Trustees and shall serve at its pleasure.

1065 **Section 8.3. Term of Office.**

- 1066 (a) Elected Officers. The elected officers shall be elected at a
1067 regular General Assembly in an odd-numbered year and shall
1068 take office immediately after the close of such General
1069 Assembly.
 - 1070 (1) President. The President shall serve for a term of six
1071 years and until his or her successor is elected and
1072 qualified. No President shall serve more than one term;
1073 and any partial term of more than two years served by
1074 reason of appointment and/or election to office pursuant
1075 to subsection 8.7(a) below shall be considered a full
1076 term for purposes of this subsection.
 - 1077 (2) Moderator. The Moderator shall serve for a term of six
1078 years and until his or her successor is elected and
1079 qualified. No Moderator shall serve more than one term;
1080 and any partial term of more than two years served by
1081 reason of appointment and/or election to office pursuant
1082 to subsection 8.7(a) below shall be considered a full
1083 term for purposes of this subsection.
 - 1084 (3) Financial Advisor. The Financial Advisor shall serve for
1085 a term of four years and until his or her successor is
1086 elected and qualified. No Financial Advisor shall serve
1087 more than two successive terms; and any partial term
1088 of more than two years served by reason of
1089 appointment and/or election to office pursuant to
1090 subsection 8.7(a) below shall be considered a full term
1091 for purposes of this subsection.
- 1092 (b) Appointed Non-salaried Officers. The appointed non-salaried
1093 officers shall serve for one or more terms of two years and
1094 until their successors are appointed and qualified.
- 1095 (c) Transition Provision. The bylaw amendment changing the
1096 term of office of the President from four years to a single term
1097 of six years shall become effective for the election of the

1098 President at the regular General Assembly in 2017. The
1099 President elected at the regular General Assembly in 2013
1100 shall not be eligible for election in 2017. The bylaw
1101 amendment changing the term of office of the Moderator from
1102 four years to a single term of six years shall become effective
1103 for the election of the Moderator at the regular General
1104 Assembly in 2013. The bylaw amendment calling for the
1105 election of a Presidential Search Committee (Section 5.2)
1106 shall become effective for the election of members of the
1107 Presidential Search Committee at the regular General
1108 Assembly in 2013. The first two sentences of this transition
1109 provision shall automatically be deleted from the bylaws
1110 following the regular General Assembly in 2017. The third,
1111 fourth and last sentences of this transition provision shall
1112 automatically be deleted from the bylaws following the regular
1113 General Assembly in 2013.

1114 **Section 8.4. Qualification of Officers.**

1115 Each officer of the Association shall be a member of a member
1116 congregation. If an officer ceases to be a member of any member
1117 congregation, such officer shall be disqualified and the office
1118 declared vacant.

1119 **Section 8.5. Removal of Officers.**

1120 (a) **Elected Officers.** An elected officer may be removed by a
1121 three-fourths vote of the entire Board of Trustees at a meeting
1122 at which not less than three-fourths of the entire Board is
1123 present if in the opinion of the Board such officer is
1124 incapacitated or unable to carry out the duties of the office.
1125 The President may also be removed by such a vote of the
1126 Board if it determines that such removal is in the best
1127 interests of the Association.

1128 (b) **Appointed Officers.** An appointed officer may be removed by
1129 the Board of Trustees at any time.

1130 **Section 8.6. Resignation.**

1131 An officer may resign at any time by giving written notice to the
1132 Moderator, who shall immediately forward copies to the Board of
1133 Trustees. Any such resignation shall take effect at the time
1134 specified therein, or, if no time is specified, then upon delivery.

1135 **Section 8.7. Vacancies.**

1136 (a) **Elected Officers.** A vacancy created by the death,
1137 disqualification, resignation, or removal of an elected officer
1138 shall be filled by the Board of Trustees until the next regular
1139 General Assembly at which an election can be held. The
1140 vacancy shall then be filled by election for the balance of the
1141 unexpired term, if any.

1142 (b) **Appointed Non-salaried Officers.** A vacancy created by the
1143 death, disqualification, resignation, or removal of an
1144 appointed non-salaried officer may be filled by the Board of
1145 Trustees for the balance of the unexpired term.

1146 **Section 8.8. Moderator.**

1147 The Moderator shall preside at General Assemblies and meetings
1148 of the Board of Trustees and the Executive Committee. The
1149 Moderator shall represent the Association on special occasions and
1150 shall assist in promoting its welfare. The Moderator shall serve as
1151 Chief Governance Officer of the Association.

1152 **Section 8.9. President.**

1153 The President shall be the chief executive officer of the Association
1154 and shall be a member, ex-officio, without vote, of all standing
1155 committees of the Association, except the Nominating Committee
1156 and the Board of Review, and of all standing committees of the
1157 Board except the Ministerial Fellowship Committee and the
1158 Religious Education Credentialing Committee.

1159 **Section 8.10. Financial Advisor.**

1160 The duties of the Financial Advisor are set forth in Article X.

1161 ***Section 8.11. Executive Vice President.**

1162 In the event an Executive Vice President should be appointed, the
1163 Board of Trustees shall describe his or her duties.

1164 **Section 8.12. Vice Moderators.**

1165 The Vice Moderator or Moderators shall be elected from among the
1166 members of the Board of Trustees by its members. In the absence
1167 of the Moderator a Vice Moderator shall preside at meetings and
1168 perform the duties of the Moderator. A Vice Moderator shall
1169 perform such other duties as may be assigned by the Board. In the
1170 event that more than one Vice Moderator is elected, one of the Vice
1171 Moderators shall be designated First Vice Moderator.

1172 **Section 8.13. Vice Presidents.**

1173 Any Vice President appointed shall have such powers and shall
1174 perform such duties as may be assigned by the Board of Trustees
1175 or as assigned by the President in conformity with any provisions of
1176 the Board appointment.

1177 **Section 8.14. Secretary.**

1178 The Secretary shall be appointed from among the members of the
1179 Board of Trustees and shall perform all duties usually pertaining to
1180 the office, except those of a Clerk under Massachusetts law. The
1181 Secretary shall represent the Association on special occasions and
1182 shall assist in promoting the welfare of the Association.

1183 **Section 8.15. Treasurer.**

1184 The duties of the Treasurer are set forth in Article X.

1185 **Section 8.16. Recording Secretary.**

1186 The Recording Secretary shall at all times be a resident of the
1187 Commonwealth of Massachusetts and upon being appointed shall
1188 be sworn to the faithful performance of the duties of the office. If
1189 the Recording Secretary ceases to be a resident of the
1190 Commonwealth of Massachusetts, such person shall be disqualified
1191 and the office declared vacant. The Recording Secretary shall keep
1192 an accurate record of all meetings of the Association and the Board
1193 of Trustees, shall perform such other duties as may be assigned by
1194 the Board, and shall perform the duties of a Clerk under
1195 Massachusetts law.

1196 **Section 8.17. Other Appointed Officers.**

1197 The Board of Trustees may appoint such other officers as it deems
1198 necessary and shall fix their powers and duties.

1199 **Section 8.18. Compensation.**

1200 The Moderator, the Financial Advisor, and the appointed non-
1201 salaried officers shall not receive compensation for their services
1202 but shall be reimbursed as determined by the Board of Trustees for
1203 expenses reasonably incurred by them in the performance of their
1204 duties.

1205 **Section 8.19. Reports by Officers.**

1206 The Moderator, the President, the Financial Advisor, and the
1207 Treasurer shall each make an annual report to the member
1208 congregations and to each regular General Assembly.

1209 **ARTICLE IX Nominations and Elections**

1210 **Section 9.1. Elective Positions.**

1211 The elective positions of the Association include the elective
1212 positions at large and those trustee positions where the election
1213 occurs at the district level. The elective positions at large of the
1214 Association are those of the elected officers, those trustees not
1215 elected at the district level, and the elected members of the
1216 standing committees of the Association. No person shall hold more
1217 than one elective position at a time whether by election or
1218 appointment. Ex officio positions for the purposes of this Bylaw

1219 provision shall be deemed part of the elected position from which
1220 the ex officio position is derived.

1221 **Section 9.2. Nomination Procedures.**

1222 The nomination procedures set forth in these Bylaws and the Rules
1223 adopted hereunder are exclusive, and no person who is not
1224 nominated in accordance with such procedures can be elected to
1225 any elective position.

1226 **Section 9.3. Notice by Nominating Committee.**

1227 On or before August 1 of each even-numbered year, the
1228 Nominating Committee shall notify all certified member
1229 congregations in writing of the elective positions at large and
1230 vacancies to be filled at the next regular General Assembly.

1231 **Section 9.4. Nomination by Nominating Committee.**

1232 The Nominating Committee shall submit one or more nominations
1233 for each elective position at large to be filled, except Moderator and
1234 President, including those to fill any vacancies occurring prior to
1235 October 1 of the year before the election. Only one person from
1236 any one member congregation shall be thus nominated to serve on
1237 the Nominating Committee. The report of the Nominating
1238 Committee shall be filed with the Secretary of the Association and
1239 be mailed to all certified member congregations, associate member
1240 organizations, and trustees on or before December 10 of each
1241 even-numbered year.

1242 **Section 9.5. Nomination of President and Moderator.**

1243 (a) President. The Presidential Search Committee shall submit
1244 no fewer than two nominations for the office of President for
1245 an election at the end of a presidential term or when a
1246 vacancy occurs in the office prior to October of the year
1247 before the election. The report of the Presidential Search
1248 Committee shall be announced by February 1 of the year
1249 before the General Assembly at which there is to be a
1250 presidential election, except in the case of an election to fill a
1251 vacancy occurring after that date.

1252 (b) Moderator. The Board of Trustees shall submit one or more
1253 nominations for the office of Moderator for an election at the
1254 end of a moderator term or when a vacancy occurs in the
1255 office prior to October of the year before the election. The
1256 report of the Board of Trustees shall be announced by
1257 February 1 of the year before the General Assembly at which
1258 there is to be a moderator election, except in the case of an
1259 election to fill a vacancy occurring after that date.

1260 **Section 9.6. Nomination by Petition.**

1261 (a) For Moderator and President. A nomination for the office of
1262 Moderator or President, or to fill a vacancy in an unexpired
1263 term occurring prior to December 1 of the year before the
1264 election may be by petition signed by no fewer than twenty-
1265 five certified member congregations, including no fewer than
1266 five certified member congregations located in each of no
1267 fewer than five different districts. A certified member
1268 congregation may authorize the signing of a petition only by
1269 vote of its governing board or by vote at a duly called meeting
1270 of its members. Such a petition shall be filed with the
1271 Secretary of the Association, only in such form as the
1272 Secretary may prescribe, not later than February 1 of the year
1273 of the election and not earlier than the preceding March 1.

1274 (b) For other Elective Position at Large. A nomination for any
1275 elective position at large or to fill a vacancy in an unexpired
1276 term occurring prior to December 1 of the year before the
1277 election may be by petition signed by not less than fifty
1278 members of certified member congregations, with no more
1279 than ten signatures of members of any one congregation
1280 counted toward the required fifty. A separate petition, in form
1281 prescribed by the Secretary, shall be filed for each nomination

1282 not later than February 1 of the year of the election and not
1283 earlier than the preceding October 1. Nominations for youth
1284 trustee at large shall be so designated.

1285 **Section 9.7. Qualifications of Nominees.**

1286 Each person nominated for an elective position at large shall be a
1287 member of a member congregation. No person shall be nominated
1288 for more than one such elective position. If a person is nominated
1289 for more than one such elective position, the Secretary of the
1290 Association shall so notify such person in writing and such person
1291 shall have twenty days from the date of the notice to select one
1292 nomination which is acceptable. In the absence of a timely
1293 selection, all such nominations shall be void and the person shall be
1294 so notified in writing by the Secretary.

1295 **Section 9.8. Vacancy in Nominations.**

1296 If all persons nominated for an elective position at large die, decline
1297 to serve or are disqualified after the time has expired for making any
1298 further nominations, or if no valid and timely nomination is made,
1299 the position shall be filled after the final adjournment of the regular
1300 General Assembly at which the election would have been held in
1301 the same manner as if the position had been filled by election and
1302 had then become vacant.

1303 **Section 9.9. Supervision of Elections.**

1304 The Secretary shall supervise all elections for elective positions at
1305 large. The Secretary may appoint a committee of tellers to count
1306 ballots and perform other routine duties. The Secretary shall decide
1307 any question arising during such an election concerning:

1308 (a) the interpretation of any provision of these Bylaws or of Rules
1309 made hereunder relating to election procedures;

1310 (b) any procedural problem relating to the election which is not
1311 covered by these Bylaws or by the Rules; or

1312 (c) the interpretation of the intent of a voter in marking the ballot.

1313 The Secretary's decision shall be final. The Secretary shall remain
1314 neutral in the election and shall not engage in electioneering, except
1315 for advocacy of his or her own candidacy for offices for which he or
1316 she is nominated.

1317 **Section 9.10. Conduct of Elections at Large.**

1318 (a) Election by Ballot. Voting shall be by written ballot, except that
1319 if only one person has been validly nominated for each elective
1320 position at large the persons so nominated shall be declared
1321 elected and no ballots shall be required.

1322 (b) Persons Entitled to Vote. Ballots shall be cast only by
1323 accredited delegates from certified member congregations and
1324 certified associate member organizations to the regular
1325 General Assembly at which the election is held and by
1326 trustees. No person shall cast more than one ballot.

1327 (c) Absentee Voting. Those entitled to cast ballots in an election
1328 may cast their ballots by mail. Absentee ballots shall be
1329 mailed at least forty five days prior to the General Assembly at
1330 which the election is being held. An absentee ballot must be
1331 received by the Secretary not less than seven calendar days
1332 before the General Assembly in order to be counted.

1333 ***Section 9.11. Counting of Ballots.**

1334 (a) For President. If there are no more than two duly nominated
1335 candidates for President, the candidate receiving the greater
1336 number of votes is elected. If there are more than two duly
1337 nominated candidates for President, the ballot shall be
1338 designed to permit the designation of first, second, third, etc.
1339 choice. If no candidate receives a majority of the first-choice
1340 votes cast, the candidate receiving the lowest first choice vote
1341 shall be eliminated and the ballots cast for such candidate
1342 shall be redistributed in accordance with the second choice
1343 indicated thereon. This process shall be repeated until one

1344 candidate receives a majority of all votes cast or until only two
 1345 candidates remain, at which time the one receiving the
 1346 greater number of votes is elected.

1347 (b) For Other Elective Positions at Large. If there is one elective
 1348 position at large to be filled, the candidate receiving the
 1349 greatest number of votes is elected. If there is more than one
 1350 such elective position of the same kind to be filled, the
 1351 candidates respectively receiving the greatest number of
 1352 votes are elected.

1353 ***Section 9.12. Nominations and Elections of Trustees**
 1354 **Representing Districts.**

1355 (a) District Bylaws. Each district shall in its bylaws set forth the
 1356 method by which the certified member congregations of the
 1357 Association within that district shall nominate and elect a
 1358 trustee. Where two or more districts are required to share a
 1359 single trustee, each such district shall adopt compatible bylaw
 1360 provisions. In the absence of valid district bylaw provisions,
 1361 the trustee representing that district or group of districts shall
 1362 be elected in accordance with the Bylaws and Rules of the
 1363 Association.

1364 (b) Time of Election. The election of a district trustee, except an
 1365 election to fill a vacancy pursuant to Section 6.8(b), shall be
 1366 held not less than 45 nor more than 300 days before the
 1367 regular General Assembly following which such trustee is to
 1368 take office.

1369 (c) Method of Nominations. The district bylaws shall provide that
 1370 nominations may be made by a specific number of certified
 1371 member congregations.

1372 (d) Method of Election. If a district's bylaws do not include a
 1373 provision for the election of the trustee representing that
 1374 district or the group of districts of which that district is a part,
 1375 the trustee for that district or the group of districts of which
 1376 that district is a part shall be elected using one of the
 1377 following methods:

1378 (1) at large within the district, with each member of a
 1379 certified member congregation casting a ballot by mail;

1380 (2) by delegates at a district meeting at which each
 1381 certified member congregation is entitled to the same
 1382 number of voting delegates as specified in Section
 1383 4.8(a) of these Bylaws, with absentee ballots by the
 1384 delegates permitted;

1385 (3) by each certified member congregation, acting at a
 1386 legal meeting of such congregation, casting that
 1387 number of votes equal to the number of delegates
 1388 specified in Section 4.8(a) of these Bylaws, allocated
 1389 among the candidates as it shall determine;

1390 (4) by delegates at a district meeting at which each
 1391 certified member congregation is entitled to the same
 1392 number and kind of voting delegates as specified in
 1393 Section 4.8(a) and (b) of these Bylaws with absentee
 1394 ballots by the delegates permitted; or

1395 (5) by each certified member congregation, acting at a
 1396 legal meeting of such congregation, casting that
 1397 number of votes equal to the number of delegates
 1398 specified in Section 4.8(a) of these Bylaws, with the
 1399 votes of the congregation allocated among the
 1400 candidates as it shall determine and by each minister
 1401 and Director of Religious Education, who meets the
 1402 criteria for delegate status set forth in Section 4.8(b) of
 1403 these Bylaws, casting a vote.

1404 (e) Certification of Election. The secretary of the district or such
 1405 other district officer as may be designated in the district
 1406 bylaws shall certify the results of the election to the Secretary

1407 of the Association as soon as they are available. Such
 1408 certificate shall be conclusive that the person so certified has
 1409 been duly elected if the district has adopted bylaws
 1410 conforming to the requirements of this section. A trustee
 1411 elected to fill a vacancy shall take office immediately upon
 1412 such certification.

1413 (f) Invalid Election. If the procedures for the nomination or
 1414 election of a district trustee violate the provisions of these
 1415 Bylaws, the election shall be invalid and a new election shall
 1416 be held not more than twelve months after the invalid
 1417 election.

1418 ***Section 9.13. Rules for Nominations and Elections.**

1419 Rules relating to nomination and election procedures shall be
 1420 adopted by a General Assembly. Such rules shall be applicable to
 1421 elections held after the close of the General Assembly at which they
 1422 are adopted.

1423 **Section 9.14. Transition Provision.**

1424 (a) The amendments to Sections 6.3, 6.4(a) 6.5, 6.6, 6.8, 8.3,
 1425 8.7, 9.1, 9.3, and 9.6(a) shall become effective at the close of
 1426 the regular General Assembly in 2013.

1427 (b) The amendments to section 6.4(b), 9.4, 9.6(b), 9.11, 9.12,
 1428 and Rule G-9.12.2 shall become effective at the close of the
 1429 regular General Assembly in 2012.

1430 (c) The terms of all trustees shall expire at the close of the
 1431 regular General Assembly in 2013.

1432 (d) Notwithstanding the provisions of Section 9.4., for elections at
 1433 the regular General Assembly in 2013:

1434 (1) The Board of Trustees shall appoint, not later than
 1435 October 31, 2012, from among its current members,
 1436 four members, for specified numbered seats, to each
 1437 serve a two-year term beginning immediately after the
 1438 close of the regular General Assembly in 2013. No
 1439 member whose service on the Board of Trustees began
 1440 prior to June 2009 shall be eligible for selection for such
 1441 a term.

1442 (2) The Nominating Committee shall nominate one or more
 1443 candidates to run for election to each of seven
 1444 additional positions: four positions with a one-year term
 1445 and three positions with a three-year term. These
 1446 candidates may or may not be current members of the
 1447 Board of Trustees.

1448 (3) The Nominating Committee shall nominate one or more
 1449 candidates for election to a three-year term as Financial
 1450 Advisor.

1451 (4) Candidates may be nominated by petition for the Board
 1452 of Trustees or the Financial Advisor, as specified in
 1453 Section 9.6.

1454 (5) A report of the Nominating Committee shall be filed with
 1455 the Secretary of the Association and be mailed to all
 1456 certified member congregations, associate member
 1457 organizations, and trustees on or before December 10,
 1458 2012.

1459 (e) For elections at any regular General Assembly before 2019,
 1460 no trustee shall be eligible for nomination for a term that
 1461 would result in more than six years of continuous service.

1462 (f) This transition provision shall automatically be deleted from
 1463 the bylaws following the regular General Assembly in 2018.

1464 **ARTICLE X Finance and Contracts**

1465 ***Section 10.1. Annual Budget.**

1466 The annual budget of the Association shall be adopted and may
 1467 subsequently be amended by the Board of Trustees. A budget or

1468 budgets for the coming year or years shall be presented to each
1469 regular General Assembly for its consideration and such
1470 recommendation of financial priorities as the General Assembly
1471 may wish to make.

1472 **Section 10.2. Duties of Finance Committee.**

1473 The Finance Committee shall submit proposed annual budgets for
1474 the Association to the Board of Trustees and make
1475 recommendations to the Board with respect to major financial
1476 policies of the Association other than those pertaining to
1477 investments. It shall review the use made of specific funds held by
1478 the Association and shall also recommend long-range financial
1479 plans.

1480 **Section 10.3. Duties of Financial Advisor.**

1481 The Financial Advisor shall advise the President and the Board of
1482 Trustees on financial policy and shall assist the Board in long-range
1483 planning by reviewing the sources of funds, the application of funds
1484 designated for specific purposes, the balance between foreseeable
1485 income and proposed expenditures, and the overall financial
1486 welfare of the Association. From time to time the Financial Advisor
1487 shall report to the President and the Board findings and
1488 recommendations respecting the current financial affairs of the
1489 Association and long-range planning.

1490 **Section 10.4 Duties of Treasurer and Assistant
1491 Treasurers.**

1492 The Treasurer shall have custody of the corporate seal and the
1493 funds and other properties of the Association and shall have the
1494 usual duties of the Treasurer of a corporation. The Treasurer or the
1495 Board of Trustees may from time to time delegate or assign to each
1496 Assistant Treasurer specified duties and authority; and any person,
1497 firm, organization or corporation dealing with the Association may
1498 assume that any act performed by an Assistant Treasurer, including
1499 the execution, sealing and delivery of any document, has been
1500 performed pursuant to an effective delegation or assignment of
1501 authority as aforesaid, and the Association shall be bound
1502 accordingly.

1503 **Section C-10.5. Raising of Funds.**

1504 The Association shall raise capital and operating funds to carry out
1505 its purposes. It may also raise capital and operating funds for
1506 associate member organizations and independent affiliate
1507 organizations.

1508 **Section C-10.6. Funds Held for Others.**

1509 With the approval of the Board of Trustees, the Association may
1510 hold for investment and distribution funds belonging to or given for
1511 the benefit of a member congregation, associate member
1512 organization, independent affiliate organization, or other
1513 organizations. Such funds may be invested in the General
1514 Investment Fund of the Association unless they are subject to
1515 specific restrictions which require some other form of investment.

1516 **Section C-10.7. Responsibility for Investments.**

1517 (a) Board of Trustees. The Board of Trustees shall have ultimate
1518 responsibility for investing the funds belonging to or held by
1519 the Association.

1520 (b) Investment Committee. The Investment Committee shall
1521 supervise the investments of the Association subject to
1522 control by the Board of Trustees.

1523 ***Section 10.8. Contracts and Securities.**

1524 The President, Secretary, Recording Secretary, Treasurer, and
1525 Assistant Treasurer may sign and attest deeds, mortgages,
1526 contracts, and other documents to which the Association is a party.

1527 **Section C-10.9. Pension System.**

1528 The Association shall establish and maintain a pension system for
1529 ministers in full fellowship with the Association.

1530 **Section 10.10. Fiscal Year.**

1531 The fiscal year of the Association shall be from July 1 to June 30.

1532 **Section C-10.11. Corporate Seal.**

1533 The seal of the Association shall be in such form as the Board of
1534 Trustees shall approve.

1535 **Section 10.12. Indemnification of Trustees, Officers,
1536 Employees, and Volunteers.**

1537 The Association, to the extent legally permissible, shall indemnify
1538 any trustee, officer, employee of the Association or volunteer
1539 elected by a General Assembly or appointed by the Board of
1540 Trustees of the Association to serve the Association, or persons
1541 formerly holding such positions, against all liabilities and expenses
1542 (including court costs, attorney's fees, and the amount of any
1543 judgment or reasonable settlement, fines and penalties) actually
1544 and necessarily incurred by any such person, subsequent to the
1545 adoption hereof, in connection with the defense of any claim
1546 asserted or threatened to be asserted against any such person, or
1547 any action, suit or proceeding in which any such person may be
1548 involved as a party, by reason of being or having been such trustee,
1549 officer, employee or volunteer or by reason of any action alleged to
1550 have been taken or omitted by any such person as such trustee,
1551 officer, employee or volunteer, except with respect to any matter as
1552 to which he or she shall have been adjudicated in any proceeding
1553 not to have acted in good faith in the reasonable belief that his or
1554 her action was in the best interests of the Association provided,
1555 however, that as to any matter disposed of by a compromise
1556 payment by such person, pursuant to a consent decree or
1557 otherwise, no indemnification either for said payment or for any
1558 other expenses shall be provided unless such compromise and
1559 indemnification therefore shall be approved:

1560 (a) by a majority vote of a quorum consisting of disinterested
1561 trustees;

1562 (b) if such quorum cannot be obtained, then by a majority vote of
1563 a committee of the Board of Trustees consisting of all the
1564 disinterested trustees;

1565 (c) if there are not two or more disinterested trustees in office,
1566 then by a majority of the trustees then in office, provided they
1567 have obtained a written finding by independent legal counsel
1568 appointed by a majority of the trustees to the effect that,
1569 based upon a reasonable investigation of the relevant facts
1570 as described such opinion, the person to be indemnified
1571 appears to have acted in good faith and in the reasonable
1572 belief that his or her action was in the best interests of the
1573 Association;

1574 (d) if not resolved by (a), (b) or (c), above, by a court of
1575 competent jurisdiction.

1576 If authorized in the same manner specified above for compromise
1577 payments, expenses, including attorney's fees actually and
1578 necessarily incurred by any such person in connection with the
1579 defense or disposition of any such action, suit or other proceeding
1580 may be paid from time to time by the Association in advance of the
1581 final disposition thereof upon receipt of (a) an affidavit of such
1582 individual of his or her good faith belief that he or she has met the
1583 standard of conduct necessary for indemnification under this
1584 Section and (b) an undertaking by such individual to repay the
1585 amount so paid to the Association if such person shall be
1586 adjudicated to be not entitled to indemnification under this Section,
1587 which undertaking may be accepted without reference to the
1588 financial ability of such person to make repayment. The right of
1589 indemnification herein provided shall inure to the benefit of the
1590 heirs, executors and administrators of each such trustee, [or] officer,
1591 employee or volunteer and shall not be deemed exclusive of any
1592 other rights to which any such person may be entitled under any
1593 statute, bylaw, agreement, vote of members or otherwise or to

1594 which any such person might have been entitled were it not for this
1595 provision. As used in this Section, an "interested" trustee or officer
1596 is one against whom in such capacity the proceeding in question, or
1597 other proceeding on the same or similar grounds, is then pending.

1598 **Section 10.13. Duties of the Audit Committee.**

1599 The Audit Committee shall oversee the annual audit of the financial
1600 statements of the Association by an independent certified public
1601 accounting firm and monitor the establishment and implementation
1602 of accounting policies and internal controls. Specific duties of the
1603 Audit Committee shall be set forth in a charter adopted by the Board
1604 which may be amended by the Board from time to time.

1605 **ARTICLE XI Ministry**

1606 **Section C-11.1. Ministerial Fellowship.**

1607 Each member congregation has the exclusive right to call and
1608 ordain its own minister or ministers, but the Association has the
1609 exclusive right to admit ministers to ministerial fellowship with the
1610 Association. Fellowship may be for the purposes of parish, religious
1611 education and/or community ministry as determined by action of the
1612 Ministerial Fellowship Committee.

1613 No minister shall be required to subscribe to any particular creed,
1614 belief, or interpretation of religion in order to obtain and hold
1615 fellowship.

1616 ***Section 11.2. Ministerial Fellowship Committee.**

1617 The Ministerial Fellowship Committee shall have exclusive
1618 jurisdiction over ministerial fellowship except as otherwise provided
1619 in these bylaws. It shall make rules governing ministerial fellowship,
1620 subject to the approval of the Board of Trustees.

1621 **Section 11.3. Admission to Fellowship.**

1622 A minister may be admitted to fellowship by the Ministerial
1623 Fellowship Committee, upon complying with the requirements of
1624 these Bylaws and the rules, policies, procedures and requests of
1625 the Committee. A minister who is admitted to fellowship shall be
1626 admitted to preliminary fellowship for a period of at least three
1627 years, be evaluated in ministry, and may thereafter be admitted to
1628 final fellowship.

1629 **Section 11.4. Fellowship Records.**

1630 The Executive Secretary of the Ministerial Fellowship Committee
1631 shall maintain up-to-date records of all ministers in fellowship with
1632 the Association. These records shall be available only to members
1633 of the committee, persons designated by the Committee, and, in
1634 cases of appeals, the Board of Review.

1635 **Section 11.5. Termination of Fellowship and 1636 Administrative Suspension.**

1637 The fellowship of a minister may be terminated by the Ministerial
1638 Fellowship Committee for unbecoming conduct, incompetence or
1639 other specified cause. Final fellowship may be terminated only after
1640 notice by the Committee and opportunity for a Fellowship Review
1641 before the Committee. During an investigation or the pending of a
1642 complaint, the Ministerial Fellowship Committee may suspend a
1643 minister until a final determination can be made on the minister's
1644 fellowship status.

1645 **Section 11.6. Reinstatement to Fellowship.**

1646 The Ministerial Fellowship Committee may reinstate in or readmit to
1647 fellowship a minister who has previously resigned from fellowship or
1648 whose fellowship has been suspended or terminated.

1649 **Section 11.7. Appeal.**

1650 A minister in final ministerial fellowship whose fellowship is
1651 terminated may appeal the determination of the Ministerial
1652 Fellowship Committee to the Board of Review. The Board of
1653 Review shall have exclusive jurisdiction to hear and decide such

1654 appeals. No other appeal shall be allowed from any decision of the
1655 Ministerial Fellowship Committee.

1656 **Section 11.8. Procedure on Appeal.**

1657 An appeal to the Board of Review may be heard by a panel of the
1658 Board selected as provided in its rules. The Board of Review or its
1659 panel hearing an appeal shall limit its review to an examination of
1660 the Ministerial Fellowship Committee's decision, and the information
1661 presented to the Committee, including the documents and other
1662 evidence compiled during the Fellowship Review, and the reasons
1663 articulated by the Ministerial Fellowship Committee for its decision
1664 terminating the minister's fellowship. If the minister requests
1665 consideration of newly discovered evidence, not previously
1666 presented to the Ministerial Fellowship Committee, then the matter
1667 shall be returned to the Ministerial Fellowship Committee for
1668 consideration of that evidence before the Board proceeds with the
1669 appeal. These Bylaws and the rules of the Ministerial Fellowship
1670 Committee shall be binding upon the Board of Review or its panel.
1671 The Ministerial Fellowship Committee's determination of fact and/or
1672 credibility will not be overturned unless no reasonable fact finder
1673 could have reached such determination, and disputes of fact are to
1674 be resolved in favor of the Ministerial Fellowship Committee's
1675 determination. The Board of Review or its panel may set aside the
1676 decision of the Ministerial Fellowship Committee only where
1677 necessary to correct or prevent manifest injustice. The Board of
1678 Review or its panel may remand the case in whole or in part to the
1679 Committee or take such other action as may be just. The Board of
1680 Review or its panel shall set forth its finding and conclusions and
1681 will serve upon the affected minister and the Ministerial Fellowship
1682 Committee. The decision shall be entered in the fellowship records
1683 and shall be final and binding upon all parties. No appeal shall be
1684 allowed from the decision of the Board of Review. The Board of
1685 Review shall make rules to carry out the intent of this section.

1686 **ARTICLE XII Religious Education Credentialing**

1687 **Section 12.1. Religious Education Credentialing.**

1688 Each member congregation has the exclusive right to employ its
1689 own religious educator, but the Association has the exclusive right
1690 to confer on religious educators a religious education credentialing
1691 status with the Association. No religious educator shall be required
1692 to subscribe to any particular creed, belief, or interpretation of
1693 religion in order to obtain and hold religious education credentialing
1694 status.

1695 **Section 12.2. Religious Education Credentialing 1696 Committee.**

1697 The Religious Education Credentialing Committee shall have
1698 exclusive jurisdiction over religious education credentialing except
1699 as otherwise provided herein. It shall make rules governing religious
1700 education credentialing, subject to the approval of the Board of
1701 Trustees.

1702 **Section 12.3. Achievement of Religious Education 1703 Credentialing Status.**

1704 A religious educator may achieve a religious education credentialing
1705 status by action of the Religious Education Credentialing
1706 Committee, upon complying with the requirements of these Bylaws
1707 and the rules, policies, procedures and requests of the committee.

1708 **Section 12.4. Religious Education Credentialing Levels.**

1709 The Religious Education Credentialing Committee shall adopt rules
1710 related to levels of religious education credentialing as follows:
1711 religious education credentialing includes Credentialed Religious
1712 Educator – Associate Level status, credentialed religious educator
1713 status, and Credentialed Religious Educator – Master Level status
1714 as determined by action of the Religious Education Credentialing
1715 Committee.

1716 **Section 12.5. Religious Education Credentialing 1717 Records.**

1718 The Executive Secretary of the Religious Education Credentialing
1719 Committee shall maintain up-to-date records of all religious
1720 educators who have achieved a status as a religious educator as

1721 described in Section 12.4 of these bylaws. These records shall be
1722 available only to members of the committee, persons designated by
1723 the Committee, and, in cases of appeals, the Board of Review.

1724 **Section 12.6. Termination or Administrative Suspension**
1725 **of Religious Education Credentialing Status.**

1726 The religious education credentialing status of a religious educator
1727 may be terminated by the Religious Education Credentialing
1728 Committee for unbecoming conduct, incompetence or other
1729 specified cause. Credentialing status may be terminated only after
1730 notice by the Committee and opportunity for a Religious Education
1731 Credentialing Status Review before the Committee. During an
1732 investigation or the pending of a complaint, the Religious Education
1733 Credentialing Committee may suspend a religious educator's
1734 credentialing status until a final determination can be made.

1735 **Section 12.7. Reinstatement of Religious Education**
1736 **Credentialing Status.**

1737 The Religious Education Credentialing Committee may reinstate in
1738 or readmit to religious education credentialing status a religious
1739 educator who has previously resigned from religious education
1740 credentialing status or whose religious education credentialing
1741 status has lapsed, been suspended or terminated.

1742 **Section 12.8. Appeal.**

1743 A religious educator with a religious education credentialing status
1744 whose status is terminated may appeal the determination of the
1745 Religious Education Credentialing Committee to the Board of
1746 Review. The Board of Review shall have exclusive jurisdiction to
1747 hear and decide such appeals. No other appeal shall be allowed
1748 from any decision of the Religious Education Credentialing
1749 Committee.

1750 **Section 12.9. Procedure on Appeal.**

1751 An appeal to the Board of Review shall be heard by a panel of the
1752 Board selected as provided in its rules. The Board of Review or its
1753 panel hearing an appeal shall limit its review to an examination of
1754 the Religious Education Credentialing Committee's decision,
1755 including the documents and other evidence compiled during the
1756 Religious Education Credentialing Status Review, and the reasons
1757 articulated by the Religious Education Credentialing Committee for
1758 its decision terminating the religious educator's credentialing status.
1759 If the religious educator requests consideration of newly discovered
1760 evidence, not previously presented to the Religious Education
1761 Credentialing Committee, then the matter shall be returned to the
1762 Religious Education Credentialing Committee for consideration of
1763 that evidence before the Board proceeds with the appeal. These
1764 Bylaws and the rules of the Religious Education Credentialing
1765 Committee shall be binding upon the Board of Review or its panel.
1766 The Religious Education Credentialing Committee's determination
1767 of fact and/or credibility will not be overturned unless no reasonable
1768 fact finder could have reached such determination, and disputes of
1769 fact are to be resolved in favor of the Religious Education
1770 Credentialing Committee's determination.

1771 The Board of Review or its panel may set aside the decision of the
1772 Religious Education Credentialing Committee only where necessary
1773 to correct or prevent manifest injustice. The Board of Review or its
1774 panel may remand the case in whole or part to the Religious
1775 Education Credentialing Committee or take such other action as
1776 may be just. The Board of Review or its panel shall set forth its
1777 finding and conclusions and shall be communicated to the affected
1778 religious educator and the Religious Education Credentialing
1779 Committee. The decision shall be entered in the religious education
1780 credentialing records and shall be final and binding upon all parties.
1781 No appeal shall be allowed from the decision of the Board of
1782 Review. The Board of Review shall make rules to carry out the
1783 intent of this section.

1784 **ARTICLE XIII Regional Organizations**

1785 **Section C-13.1. Districts.**

1786 The Association shall support areas of regional responsibility known
1787 as districts.

1788 ***Section C-13.2. Establishment.**

1789 The establishment of districts and the manner of determining which
1790 congregations are included in each district shall be in accordance
1791 with rules adopted by the General Assembly.

1792 **Section 13.3. Members.**

1793 All member congregations of the Association located within the
1794 district shall be entitled to be member congregations of that district.

1795 **Section C-13.4. Autonomy.**

1796 Each district shall be autonomous and shall be controlled by its own
1797 member congregations to the extent consistent with the promotion of
1798 the welfare and interests of the Association as a whole and of its
1799 member congregations.

1800 **Section 13.5. District Bylaws.**

1801 Each district shall adopt bylaws which are not in conflict with these
1802 Bylaws.

1803 **ARTICLE XIV Rules**

1804 **Section 14.1. Adoption and Amendment of Rules by**
1805 **General Assemblies.**

1806 A General Assembly may adopt Rules not inconsistent with these
1807 Bylaws. Adoption or amendment of Rules by a General Assembly
1808 shall be by two-thirds vote. Each Rule adopted by a General
1809 Assembly shall be identified by a "G" preceding its Rule number. A
1810 General Assembly may amend or repeal Rules adopted by prior
1811 General Assemblies or by the Board of Trustees, if the proposed
1812 Rules or amendments have been placed on the agenda. Rules and
1813 amendments thereto shall be submitted for inclusion on the agenda
1814 in the same manner as other resolutions. The provisions of this
1815 Section 14.1 do not apply to the Rules of Procedure contemplated
1816 by Section 4.19.

1817 **Section 14.2. Adoption and Amendment of Rules by the**
1818 **Board of Trustees.**

1819 The Board of Trustees may adopt Rules not inconsistent with these
1820 Bylaws and with Rules adopted by General Assemblies and may
1821 amend or repeal its Rules.

1822 **Section 14.3. Rules of Order.**

1823 The Rules contained in the current edition of *Robert's Rules of*
1824 *Order Newly Revised* shall govern the Association in all cases to
1825 which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent
1826 with these Bylaws and any Rules that may be adopted hereunder.

1827 **ARTICLE XV Amendment**

1828 **Section C-15.1. Amendment of Bylaws.**

1829 (a) These Bylaws may be amended by a two-thirds vote at a
1830 regular General Assembly if a proposed amendment has
1831 been placed on the agenda; provided, however, that
1832 proposals to amend or repeal a section of these Bylaws
1833 whose section number is preceded by a "C" (hereinafter a "C
1834 Bylaw"), or to add a new such section, shall be governed by
1835 subsections (b) or (c) hereof.

1836 (b) (1) A proposal to amend, repeal or add a new C Bylaw, other
1837 than those C Bylaws in Article II of these Bylaws, shall be
1838 subject to a two-step approval process. Such proposals
1839 must be placed on the agenda of a regular General
1840 Assembly and approved preliminarily by a majority vote at
1841 such regular General Assembly. Following such
1842 preliminary approval, the proposal to amend, repeal or
1843 add a new C Bylaw shall be placed on the agenda of the
1844 next regular General Assembly for final adoption. Final
1845 adoption shall require a two-thirds vote.

1846 (2) The text of a proposed amendment to a C Bylaw, other
1847 than those bylaws in Article II, which has been approved

1848 by one General Assembly, may be amended at any time
 1849 prior to final adoption. If the Moderator rules that the
 1850 amendment to the proposal is substantive, final adoption
 1851 shall only be by a subsequent General Assembly. Any
 1852 such proposal that has been under consideration for final
 1853 approval at three successive regular General Assemblies
 1854 shall not be subject to substantive amendment at the third
 1855 such regular General Assembly.

1856 (3) A proposal to amend a C Bylaw, other than those Bylaws
 1857 in Article II, which on any vote for final adoption receives
 1858 a majority but not a two-thirds vote, shall be placed on the
 1859 agenda of the next regular General Assembly, at which it
 1860 may be finally adopted if it receives the requisite
 1861 approval. If the proposal is not passed by a two-thirds
 1862 vote at the third regular General Assembly at which it is
 1863 considered for final approval, neither the proposal nor
 1864 another proposal that is substantively similar shall be
 1865 placed on the agenda of a General Assembly for two
 1866 years.

1867 (c) (1) A proposal to amend, repeal or add a new C Bylaw in
 1868 Article II of these Bylaws shall be admitted to the agenda
 1869 of a regular General Assembly for the sole purpose of
 1870 determining whether the proposal shall be referred to a
 1871 commission appointed by the Board of Trustees for
 1872 review and study. Such a review shall involve member
 1873 congregations. A majority vote at a regular General
 1874 Assembly shall be required to refer such a proposal to the
 1875 study commission. Once the review and study of the
 1876 proposal is complete, which shall be completed in no
 1877 more than three years, the study commission shall submit
 1878 to the Planning Committee for inclusion on the agenda of
 1879 the next regular General Assembly following completion
 1880 of the review and study process the proposal in the form
 1881 originally presented to the regular General Assembly and
 1882 any amendments to the proposal that the study
 1883 commission recommends as a result of the review and
 1884 study process. All proposals regarding Article II of the
 1885 Bylaws that are placed on the agenda after review and
 1886 study (including amendments to such proposals
 1887 recommended by the study commission) shall require a
 1888 two-thirds vote for adoption. If the proposal does not
 1889 receive the requisite approval at the General Assembly
 1890 following the completion of the review and study process,
 1891 neither the proposal nor another proposal that is
 1892 substantively similar shall be placed on the agenda of a
 1893 General Assembly for two years.

1894 (2) A motion to dispense with the review and study process
 1895 with respect to a proposal to amend Article II shall be in
 1896 order at the General Assembly at which the review and
 1897 study process is authorized. A motion to dispense with
 1898 the review and study process shall require a four-fifths
 1899 vote for passage.

1900 (3) After completion of the review and study process,
 1901 proposals regarding Article II of the Bylaws shall not be
 1902 subject to substantive amendment. The Moderator shall
 1903 determine whether an amendment to such a proposal is
 1904 substantive.

1905 (4) If no review and study process of Article II has occurred
 1906 for a period of fifteen years, the Board of Trustees shall
 1907 appoint a commission to review and study Article II and to
 1908 recommend appropriate revisions, if any, thereto to the
 1909 Board of Trustees. The Board of Trustees shall review
 1910 the recommendations of the study commission and, in its
 1911 discretion, may submit the recommendations of the study
 1912 commission to the Planning Committee for inclusion on

1913 the agenda of the next regular General Assembly.
 1914 Notwithstanding anything to the contrary contained
 1915 herein, proposals to amend Article II which are
 1916 promulgated by a study commission in accordance with
 1917 this paragraph shall be subject to a two-step approval
 1918 process. Such proposals must be approved preliminarily
 1919 by a majority vote at a regular General Assembly.
 1920 Following such preliminary approval, the proposal shall
 1921 be placed on the agenda of the next regular General
 1922 Assembly for final adoption. Final adoption shall require
 1923 a two-thirds vote.

1924 ***Section 15.2. Submission of Proposed Amendment.**

1925 Proposed amendments to these Bylaws may be submitted only by:

1926 (a) the Board of Trustees;

1927 (b) the General Assembly Planning Committee;

1928 (c) the Commission on Appraisal;

1929 (d) not less than fifteen certified member congregations by action
 1930 of their governing boards or their congregations; such
 1931 proposed amendments to Bylaws must be received by the
 1932 Board of Trustees on February 1 whenever the regular
 1933 General Assembly opens in June; otherwise, not less than
 1934 110 days before the General Assembly; or

1935 (e) a district by official action at a duly called district meeting at
 1936 which a quorum is present, such proposed amendment to be
 1937 received by the Board of Trustees on February 1 whenever
 1938 the regular General Assembly opens in June; otherwise, not
 1939 less than 110 days before the next General Assembly.

1940 **RULES* of the UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST**
 1941 **ASSOCIATION**

1942 *Rules whose section number is preceded by a "G" are those
 1943 adopted by a General Assembly and may be amended or repealed
 1944 only by a General Assembly, as provided in Section 14.1 of the
 1945 Bylaws.

1946 **RULE I Name**

1947 No existing rules applicable to Article I.

1948 **RULE II Principles and Purposes**

1949 **Rule G-2.1. Democratic Process.**

1950 Because the Association is committed to the use of the democratic
 1951 process, because its governing institutions are accountable to our
 1952 congregations, because accessibility is critical to countering
 1953 systemic and institutional oppression and because openness and
 1954 trust are characteristics of a healthy religious community, the UUA
 1955 Board shall establish policies to allow for the maximum
 1956 transparency of its proceedings and of the proceedings of all UUA
 1957 committees, commissions and task forces, consistent with their
 1958 effective functioning. These policies shall include:

- 1959 (a) providing advance notice of dates and locations of regular
 1960 business meetings, and making agendas, reports and
 1961 minutes available promptly;
- 1962 (b) providing avenues for comment on issues on the
 1963 meetings' agendas;
- 1964 (c) accommodating observers at regular business meetings,
 1965 with the exception of executive sessions.

1966

1967 Implementing this rule shall be the responsibility of the Board of
 1968 Trustees. The Board shall designate a specific person or
 1969 committee to whom comments about adherence to this rule may be

1970 addressed. The Board shall report to the General Assembly
1971 annually for the next three years on its implementation.

1972

RULE III Membership

1973 Section C-3.3. Admission to Membership.

1974 Rule 3.3.1. New Congregations.

1975 It is the policy of the Unitarian Universalist Association to encourage
1976 and assist the development of new congregations as well as to
1977 support and aid existing member congregations as stated in the
1978 purposes of the Association.

1979 Rule 3.3.2. Procedure for Admission.

1980 A church or fellowship may become a member of the Association
1981 upon approval by the Board of Trustees of the Association of a
1982 written application for membership.

1983 The application shall include:

1984 (a) a statement that the applicant subscribes to the principles of
1985 the Association and pledges itself to support the Association;

1986 (b) a copy of the articles of incorporation or other organizing
1987 documents and the bylaws of the applicant;

1988 (c) the names and addresses of the charter members sufficient in
1989 number to satisfy the minimum membership requirements;
1990 and

1991 (d) an initial payment in an amount of no less than the Fair Share
1992 contribution to the Association's Annual Program Fund, pro-
1993 rated for the portion of the Association's fiscal year remaining
1994 as of the date of application.

1995 Rule 3.3.3. Membership Requirements for Admission.

1996 A new congregation, to be recognized as a member of the
1997 Association, must have thirty (30) of its adult members be members
1998 solely of the new congregation.

1999 Rule 3.3.4. Multiple Local Congregations.

2000 In many communities the liberal religious movement may be better
2001 served by the establishment of two or more member congregations.

2002 (a) It is ordinarily desirable that a new congregation should have
2003 the active support and sponsorship of any member
2004 congregation or congregations located in the same
2005 geographic area.

2006 (b) The Association will neither initiate nor recognize such a new
2007 congregation until after the Association has consulted by mail
2008 or by interview with any member congregation or
2009 congregations located in the same geographic area. Such
2010 consultation shall include a request for letters from the
2011 presiding officer of the congregation's governing board and
2012 minister of such congregation(s) stating judgment regarding
2013 the establishment and/or recognition of the new congregation.
2014 The Association may proceed to assist in organizing or
2015 recognizing the new congregation despite local protest or
2016 objection if the Association believes that such action is in the
2017 best interests of the entire movement and that it will
2018 strengthen the total Unitarian Universalist position in the
2019 community.

2020 Rule 3.3.5. Rules and Regulations for New 2021 Congregations.

2022 It is essential that Unitarian Universalist congregations be
2023 affirmative in spirit, inclusive in fellowship, and mutually supportive
2024 in their relationships with other congregations. The following
2025 statements represent the Association's best judgment as to the
2026 meaning of this general statement and shall be used by staff and
2027 the Board in determining action upon applications for membership.

2028 (a) In receiving the application of a new congregation for
2029 membership in the Association, the Congregational Services

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staff shall satisfy itself that the group is making its application
in good faith and that it will make a sincere effort to carry out
the purposes of the Association. (See specifically Article II of
the Bylaws.)

2034 (b)
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The Association interprets its statements of purpose to mean
that no congregation may be accepted into membership if its
bylaws exclude from its local membership any person
because of race, ethnicity, gender, disability, affectional or
sexual orientation, language, citizenship status, economic
status, or national origin.

2040 (c)
2041
2042

All member congregations must be congregational in polity;
the final authority to make decisions must be vested in the
legal membership of the congregation.

2043 (d)
2044
2045
2046

Member congregations shall project and embark upon a
balanced program of religious activity including adult worship
and/or discussion and when feasible establishment of a
church school in the Unitarian Universalist tradition.

2047 (e)
2048
2049

New congregations are expected to establish and maintain
cooperative relations with Unitarian Universalist agencies, as
appropriate and feasible.

2050 (f)
2051
2052

A congregation should be incorporated when possible under
the laws of the state in which it exists. A congregation shall
include in its articles of incorporation or other organizing
documents a clause providing that the assets of the
congregation will be transferred upon dissolution to the
Association. Notwithstanding the foregoing, if a congregation
obtains the prior written consent of the Association's Board of
Trustees, the congregation may name an organization that is
affiliated with the Association (such as a district, camp,
conference center or other congregation) as the recipient of
the congregation's assets upon dissolution.

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2061 Rule 3.3.6. Order of Administrative Procedure.

2062 The order of administrative procedure:

2063 (a)
2064

Application for congregational membership in the Association
will first be referred to UUA staff.

2065 (b)
2066

UUA staff will seek information and advice with respect to all
applications as follows:

2067

U.S. Congregations – District President

2068

Other Congregations – Executive Officer of appropriate
Unitarian or Universalist or Unitarian Universalist
international group, if any.

2069

2070

2071 (c)
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2074

UUA staff will make its recommendation to the President of
the Association, and the President shall then make
recommendations to the Board of Trustees of the UUA for its
final action.

2075 Section C-3.5. Certification of Membership.

2076 Rule 3.5.1. Required Annual Report.

2077 In each fiscal year of the Association (July 1 to June 30), each
2078 member congregation shall file with the Secretary of the Association
2079 an Annual Report on the form and in the manner provided by the
2080 Association. The Annual Report shall include a certification by a
2081 minister or principal officer of the member congregation stating (a)
2082 whether or not the member congregation complied with the
2083 conditions set forth in Section C-3.5 of the Bylaws during the
2084 Association's prior fiscal year and (b) that the information provided
2085 to the Association in the Annual Report is true and correct to the
2086 best of the minister's or principal officer's knowledge.

2087 For purposes of determining compliance with Section C-3.5 of the
2088 Bylaws, a member congregation shall be deemed to have
2089 conducted 'regular religious services' if it has held at least 10
2090 services during the fiscal year.

2091 A member congregation's Annual Report for a particular fiscal year
2092 and, if submitted separately, the related certification must be
2093 received by the Association on or before February 1 following the
2094 close of that fiscal year whenever the regular General Assembly
2095 opens in June and otherwise on or before the close of business on
2096 the last business day which is at least 110 days before the date of
2097 the General Assembly next following the close of that fiscal year. If
2098 a member congregation's related certification is not received by the
2099 applicable deadline, it will still be deemed timely filed if the member
2100 congregation submits to the Association proof that it was mailed in
2101 accordance with the provisions of Rule G-13.4.2. Such proof may
2102 be in the form of a stamped or validated receipt for Registered or
2103 Certified Mail or a sworn statement attesting to the proper
2104 submission of the certification signed by the person responsible for
2105 its mailing.

2106 **Rule 3.5.2. Inactive Congregations**

2107 In September of each year UUA staff shall initiate the process of
2108 contacting congregations in the inactive category to determine their
2109 status.

2110 This process includes:

- 2111 (a) requesting a list of congregations that have failed to submit
2112 an annual report for three consecutive fiscal years
- 2113 (b) forwarding this list to the UUA's District Staff with copies to
2114 District Presidents and District Trustees for their information
- 2115 (c) upon receipt of the annual inactive congregations list and
2116 pursuant to the UUA's by-laws section C-3.6, the UUA's
2117 District staff shall follow up with any congregation in their
2118 district
- 2119 (d) after follow up the District staff shall make a recommendation
2120 about each congregation's status to the UUA Board for action
2121 at its April meeting.

2122 **Section C-3.7. Associate Member Organizations.**

2123 **Rule 3.7.1. Limitation of Associate Membership.**

2124 It shall be the policy of the Board of Trustees to limit admissions to
2125 associate membership to major continent-wide organizations.

2126 **Rule 3.7.2. Non-Segregation.**

2127 Each associate member organization shall in all aspects of its work
2128 refrain from the practice of segregation based on race, ethnicity,
2129 gender, disability, affectional or sexual orientation, language,
2130 citizenship status, economic status, or national origin. This rule is
2131 not intended to preclude associate member organizations designed
2132 to benefit groups organized to ensure their fuller participation in the
2133 larger society and to fulfill their unique spiritual needs.

2134 **Rule 3.7.3. Application for Associate Membership.**

2135 Each applicant for membership shall submit with its application:

- 2136 (a) an attested copy of its charter and, unless it is included in the
2137 charter, an attested copy of its purposes, objectives, and
2138 bylaws;
- 2139 (b) the approximate number of members in the organization;
- 2140 (c) a list of principal officers with their personal mail addresses
2141 and the principal mail address of the organization;
- 2142 (d) a financial statement showing income and expenses for the
2143 latest fiscal year preceding the date of filing and showing
2144 assets, liabilities and net worth as of the end of such fiscal
2145 year;
- 2146 (e) the dates upon which its governing board met during the
2147 twelve months immediately preceding the date of filing;
- 2148 (f) any yearly reports of its governing body and its principal
2149 officers sent to members during the twelve months
2150 immediately preceding the date of filing;
- 2151 (g) evidence that it enjoys tax exempt status:

- 2152 (1) under Section 501(c)(3) of the U.S. Internal Revenue
2153 Code of 1954;
- 2154 (2) as a registered charity as provided for in the Income
2155 Tax Act (Canada); or
- 2156 (3) under the laws of the country governing the applicant's
2157 tax status;
- 2158 (h) if the applicant does not enjoy tax exempt status, the reason
2159 or reasons it does not;
- 2160 (i) a statement outlining the intended use of associate
2161 membership, if granted, and the goals and objectives of the
2162 organization that will be served by such use;
- 2163 (j) a statement outlining what advantage it is believed there
2164 would be to the Association and to the furtherance of the
2165 principles of the Association outlined in Bylaw Section C-
2166 2.2; and
- 2167 (k) any other information which the Board of Trustees of the
2168 Association shall require.
- 2169 (l) The contribution contemplated by Rule 3.7.10.

2170 **Rule 3.7.4. Annual Report.**

2171 Except in the year when it is admitted to membership, each
2172 associate member shall send to the Association on or before April
2173 30 (i) an annual report which shall include the data required by
2174 subsections (b), (c), (d), (e) and (f) of Rule 3.7.3 and any other
2175 information which the Board of Trustees shall require and (ii) the
2176 contribution contemplated by Rule 3.7.10. If an associate member
2177 fails to comply with the provisions of this Rule, the Board of
2178 Trustees shall at its next regular meeting consider a finding of non-
2179 compliance and the termination of the associate membership status
2180 of such organization.

2181 **Rule 3.7.5. Report of Changes.**

2182 Each associate member shall send the Association an attested
2183 copy of any changes in its charter, purposes, objectives, or bylaws
2184 as soon as any such changes are made, and shall notify the
2185 Association immediately of any change in its tax exempt status.

2186 **Rule 3.7.6. Representation of Associate Membership.**

2187 No organization shall claim or represent in any manner that it is an
2188 associate member of the Association until such membership is
2189 voted by the Board of Trustees; and if and when any organization's
2190 associate membership expires or it is terminated, that organization
2191 shall immediately cease to claim, represent or imply in any manner
2192 that it is an associate member of the Association.

2193 **Rule 3.7.7. Mailing List.**

2194 Each associated member shall place the Association on its regular
2195 mailing list.

2196 **Rule 3.7.8. Additional Criteria for Admission.**

2197 Before granting associate membership, the Board of Trustees shall
2198 determine that the granting of such associate membership is likely
2199 to be of substantial benefit to the Unitarian Universalist movement.

2200 **Rule 3.7.9. Yearly Grant of Associate Membership.**

2201 Associate membership for all new or existing associate members
2202 shall be granted by the Board of Trustees for a designated one year
2203 period or portion thereof.

2204 **Rule 3.7.10. Associate Member Contributions.**

2205 The contribution required to be submitted with an application for
2206 associate membership is \$500 for any applicant whose budget for
2207 the 12 months preceding its application for associate membership
2208 was \$1,000,000 or more and \$250 for any applicant whose budget
2209 for the 12 months preceding its application for associate
2210 membership was less than \$1,000,000. The contribution required
2211 to be submitted with an associate member's annual report is \$500
2212 for any associate member whose budget for the 12 months

2213 preceding the due date of the annual report was \$1,000,000 or
2214 more and \$250 for any associate member whose budget for the 12
2215 months preceding the due date of the annual report was less than
2216 \$1,000,000.

2217 **Section C-3.8. Independent Affiliate Organizations.**

2218 **Rule 3.8.1. Application for Independent Affiliate Status.**

2219 Each applicant for independent affiliate status shall submit with its
2220 application:

2221 (a) an attested copy of its charter, and, unless it is included in the
2222 charter, an attested copy of its purposes, objectives, and
2223 bylaws;

2224 (b) the number of members or member groups in the organization;

2225 (c) a list of the principal officers with their personal mail addresses,
2226 congregation membership or congregation where settled if the
2227 officer is a fellowshipped minister serving a Unitarian
2228 Universalist congregation, and the principal mail address of the
2229 organization;

2230 (d) the contribution contemplated by rule 3.8.9;

2231 (e) a financial statement showing income and expenses for the
2232 latest fiscal year preceding the date of filing and showing
2233 assets, liabilities and net worth as of the end of such fiscal
2234 year;

2235 (f) the dates upon which its governing board met during the twelve
2236 months immediately preceding the date of filing;

2237 (g) any yearly reports of its governing body and its principal officers
2238 sent to members during the twelve months immediately
2239 preceding the date of filing;

2240 (h) evidence of whether it enjoys tax exempt status:

2241 (1) under Section 501(c)(3) of the U.S. Internal Revenue Code
2242 of 1954;

2243 (2) as a registered charity as provided for in the Income Tax
2244 Act (Canada); or

2245 (3) under the laws of the country governing the applicant's tax
2246 status;

2247 (i) if the applicant does not enjoy tax exempt status, the reason or
2248 reasons it does not;

2249 (j) a statement outlining how its purpose, mission and structure
2250 models interdependence through engagement with our
2251 member congregations, coordination or collaboration of effort
2252 and resources; and a statement outlining how the organization
2253 supports the transformation of institutions and our world to be
2254 aligned with those values expressed in our Principles; and

2255 (k) any other information which the Board of Trustees of the
2256 Association shall require.

2257 **Rule 3.8.2. Non-Segregation.**

2258 Each independent affiliate organization shall in all aspects of its
2259 work refrain from the practice of segregation based on race,
2260 ethnicity, gender, disability, affectional or sexual orientation,
2261 language, citizenship status, economic status, or national origin.
2262 This rule is not intended to preclude independent affiliate
2263 organizations designed to benefit groups organized to ensure their
2264 fuller participation in the larger society and to fulfill their unique
2265 spiritual needs.

2266 **Rule 3.8.3. Annual Contribution and Report.**

2267 Except in the year when it is admitted to independent affiliate status,
2268 each independent affiliate organization shall send the Association
2269 on or before April 30 (i) an annual report which shall include the
2270 data required by subsections (b), (c), (f), (g) and (h) of Rule 3.8.1
2271 and any other information which the Board of Trustees shall require
2272 and (ii) the contribution contemplated by Rule 3.8.9. If an
2273 independent affiliate organization fails to comply with the provisions
2274 of this Rule, the Board of Trustees shall at its next regular meeting
2275 consider a finding of non-compliance and the termination of the
2276 independent affiliate status of such organization.

2277

2278 **Rule 3.8.4. Report of Changes.**

2279 Each independent affiliate organization shall send the Association
2280 an attested copy of any changes in its charter, purposes, objectives,
2281 or bylaws as soon as any such changes are made and shall notify
2282 the Association immediately of any change in its tax exempt status.

2283

2284 **Rule 3.8.5. Representation of Independent Affiliate 2285 Status.**

2286 No organization shall claim or represent in any manner that it is an
2287 independent affiliate with the Association until such status is voted
2288 by the Board of Trustees; and if and when any organization's
2289 independent affiliate status expires or it is terminated, that
2290 organization shall immediately cease to claim, represent or imply in
2291 any manner that it is affiliated with the Association.

2292 **Rule 3.8.6. Mailing List.**

2293 Each independent affiliate organization shall place the Association
2294 on its regular mailing list.

2295 **Rule 3.8.7. Additional Criteria for Admission.**

2296 Before granting independent affiliate status, the Board of Trustees
2297 shall determine that such affiliation is likely to be of substantial
2298 benefit to the Unitarian Universalist movement.

2299 **Rule 3.8.8. Yearly Grant of Independent Affiliate Status.**

2300 Independent affiliate status for all new or existing independent
2301 affiliate organizations shall be granted by the Board of Trustees for
2302 a designated one year period or portion thereof.

2303 **Rule 3.8.9. Independent Affiliate Contributions.**

2304 The contribution required to be submitted with an application for
2305 independent affiliate status and with an independent affiliate's
2306 annual report is \$100.

2307 **RULE IV General Assembly**

2308 **Section 4.6. Notice of Meetings.**

2309 **Rule 4.6.1. Mailing of Notice.**

2310 Notice of each regular and special General Assembly shall be given
2311 not less than sixty days before the date thereof to each certified
2312 member congregation, associate member organization, and trustee.
2313 Such notice shall be given by the Secretary or the Recording
2314 Secretary.

2315 **Rule 4.6.2. Time of Notice.**

2316 Notice so sent shall be sufficient if mailed at Boston,
2317 Massachusetts, sixty days before any such General Assembly,
2318 addressed to the persons who according to the records of the
2319 Association are entitled thereto hereunder and sent to the
2320 addresses which appear on said records. When the Secretary in
2321 his or her absolute discretion finds it desirable and practicable, a
2322 copy of the notice shall be inserted in the denomination's
2323 publication most widely circulated within the denomination in the
2324 issue which will be circulated as nearly sixty days before the
2325 General Assembly as possible.

2326 **Rule 4.6.3. Content of Notice.**

2327 Such notice shall contain the date, time, and place where the
2328 General Assembly is to be held and shall state only that the
2329 business to be transacted will be set forth in the official agenda
2330 issued in accordance with the Bylaws. Such agenda need not
2331 accompany the notice. The original of such notice shall be signed
2332 by the Secretary or Recording Secretary and be made a part of the
2333 minutes of the General Assembly to which it pertains. The
2334 signature of the Secretary or Recording Secretary on copies of any
2335 such notice may be printed or typewritten.

2336 **Section C-4.7. Voting.**

2337 **Rule G-4.7.1. Recording the Vote on Resolutions.**

2338 The vote on resolutions shall be recorded as having been adopted:

- 2339 (a) unanimously; or
- 2340 (b) by a vote of two-thirds or more; or
- 2341 (c) by a specified vote for or against.

2342 When any resolution is reported by the Association, the recorded
2343 vote on each resolution shall be included.

2344 **Section C-4.9. Accreditation of Delegates.**

2345 **Rule G-4.9.1. Number of Delegates.**

2346 The Secretary of the Association shall, consistent with the Bylaws of
2347 the Association, determine the number of delegates to which each
2348 certified member congregation and associate member organization
2349 is entitled. The determinations of the Secretary may be appealed to
2350 the Board of Trustees.

2351 **Rule 4.9.1A. Merged, Consolidated, or Dissolved
2352 Congregations.**

2353 In the event a certified member congregation dissolves or merges
2354 or consolidates with another congregation subsequent to its filing
2355 the certified member certification form prescribed by Rule 3.5.1, any
2356 delegate credentials outstanding on the date of dissolution or
2357 merger or consolidation are thereby rendered null and void. In the
2358 event of merger or consolidation, the merged or consolidated
2359 certified member congregation shall be entitled during the current
2360 fiscal year of the Association to the number of delegate credentials
2361 that reflects the total membership of the merged or consolidated
2362 congregation or to the number of delegate credentials that the
2363 certified member congregations merging or consolidating would
2364 have been entitled to but for the merger or consolidation, whichever
2365 is less.

2366 **Rule 4.9.2. Settled Ministers.**

2367 A settled minister for the purpose of accreditation as a delegate
2368 pursuant to Bylaw Section 4.8 (b) is (a) a minister engaged by a
2369 certified member congregation in compensated ministerial activities
2370 which constitute fifty percent or more of a typical work schedule or
2371 (b) a community minister who (1) maintains active involvement in
2372 such congregation, (2) has written agreement with the
2373 congregation, (3) is in affiliation with the congregation; and (4) is
2374 compensated for community ministry work which constitutes fifty
2375 percent or more of a typical work schedule recognized by the
2376 congregation as ministry. A congregation is entitled to the number
2377 of accredited community minister delegates equal to the number of
2378 delegates to which it is entitled under Bylaw Section 4.8(a). A
2379 minister emeritus/a shall previously have settled in such
2380 congregation as described in this Rule. A certified member
2381 congregation shall certify in writing that its minister delegates meet
2382 the criteria for minister in accordance with this Rule.

2383 **Rule G-4.9.3. Mailing of Credential Cards.**

2384 Not less than forty-five days prior to each General Assembly, the
2385 Secretary of the Association shall send to each certified member
2386 congregation and associate member organization entitled to be
2387 represented by delegates the proper number of delegate
2388 credentials. The Secretary shall also furnish trustees with
2389 credentials.

2390 **Rule 4.9.4. Issuance of Duplicate Credential Card.**

2391 If a person who has been duly constituted a delegate arrives at a
2392 General Assembly without a properly executed Credential Card, the
2393 person may apply to the Secretary of the Association, or to one or
2394 more persons designated by the Secretary, for a special certificate
2395 of accreditation. The application shall be in writing on a form
2396 provided by the Secretary of the Association. It shall be signed by

2397 the applicant under the penalties of perjury. The certificate shall
2398 contain at least the following:

2399 (a) the name of the congregation or associate member
2400 organization involved;

2401 (b) in the case of a delegate representing a member congregation
2402 other than a settled minister or emerita/us minister or an
2403 accredited director of religious education, a statement that the
2404 applicant is a member of that congregation; or in the case of a
2405 delegate representing an associate member organization, a
2406 statement that the applicant is a member of a certified member
2407 congregation;

2408 (c) a statement that the person was designated as a delegate
2409 under established procedures of the congregation or is a
2410 settled minister or emerita/us minister thereof or is an
2411 accredited director of religious education employed in the
2412 congregation, or was designated as a delegate of an
2413 associate member organization; and

2414 (d) a brief statement as to why the applicant is not able to
2415 present an official and properly executed accrediting card.

2416 **Rule 4.9.5. Alternate Delegates.**

2417 Each certified member congregation may, in accordance with its
2418 own Bylaws or procedures, designate alternate delegates to any
2419 General Assembly in such number, not in excess of the number of
2420 delegates to which it is entitled, as it may determine. Alternate
2421 delegates shall be members of the certified member congregation
2422 they represent. All alternates appointed must be provided by the
2423 member congregation with a certification of their appointment
2424 signed by an officer of the congregation.

2425 **Rule G-4.9.6. Delegate Status.**

2426 Delegates and alternates may be designated to attend each
2427 General Assembly to be held in any fiscal year of the Association or
2428 only a particular General Assembly as each member congregation
2429 shall determine.

2430 **Rule 4.9.7. Issuance of Alternate Credentials.**

2431 In order to be issued credentials admitting the alternate as a
2432 delegate to the General Assembly, the alternate must present such
2433 certification and credential card and delegate badge of the delegate
2434 for whom such person is serving as alternate.

2435 **Rule G-4.9.8. Payment of Registration Fee.**

2436 All delegates, alternates and trustees must pay a registration fee in
2437 order to be admitted to the floor and vote at the General Assembly.

2438 **Rule 4.9.9. Amount of Fees.**

2439 The registration fee shall be set by the Board of Trustees.

2440 **Section 4.12. UUA Statements of Conscience and
2441 Study/Action Issues for Social Justice.**

2442 **Rule G-4.12.1. Report of Comments on UUA Statements
2443 of Conscience.**

2444 The Commission on Social Witness shall report to the General
2445 Assembly in summary fashion those comments on UUA Statements
2446 of Conscience submitted to it by member congregations and
2447 districts.

2448 **Rule G-4.12.2. Study/Action Issues for Social Justice.**

2449 The Commission on Social Witness shall prepare (and the Board of
2450 Trustees shall include with the Tentative Agenda) a report
2451 summarizing the numbers and topics of the proposed
2452 Congregational Study/Action Issues submitted by the certified
2453 member congregations districts, and sponsored organizations as
2454 defined in Section 4.12(a)(1), and the criteria which it used in
2455 selecting proposed Congregational Study/Action Issues included in
2456 the Congregational Poll. Each proposed Congregational
2457 Study/Action Issue that appears on the Tentative Agenda shall be

2458 accompanied by previous General Resolutions, actions and
2459 statements on related issues, with dates (if applicable), and the
2460 names or number of congregations submitting issues included
2461 within such proposed Congregational Study/Action Issue.

2462 **Rule G-4.12.3 Report on Implementation of UUA**
2463 **Statements of Conscience.**

2464 The UUA Administration shall report at each regular General
2465 Assembly regarding implementation of UUA Statements of
2466 Conscience with particular reference to the most recently adopted
2467 Statement of Conscience. Such report shall summarize
2468 implementation by member congregations, Districts, UUA staff and
2469 other Unitarian Universalist groups.

2470 **Rule 4.12.4 Mini-Assembly on UUA Statement of**
2471 **Conscience**

2472 During the regular General Assembly referred to in Section
2473 4.12(d)(1), a mini-assembly shall be held during which the proposed
2474 amendments to the revised UUA Statement of Conscience shall be
2475 accepted in writing. All such amendments shall be made available
2476 in writing to the General Assembly. The Commission on Social
2477 Witness shall finalize the UUA Statement of Conscience, and the
2478 chairperson of the Commission on Social Witness, in consultation
2479 with the moderator of the General Assembly, the parliamentarian
2480 and legal counsel, shall prioritize unincorporated amendments for
2481 consideration by the General Assembly.

2482 **Section 4.16. Additions to the Agenda of Regular**
2483 **General Assemblies.**

2484 **Rule G-4.16.1. General Assembly Actions of Immediate**
2485 **Witness, and Responsive Resolutions.**

2486 The Moderator shall take such steps as the Moderator considers
2487 practical to advise delegates and other persons or bodies as early
2488 as possible, preferably in writing, of the contents of any actions or
2489 resolutions presented to the General Assembly which are not on the
2490 final Agenda and which are admitted to the agenda pursuant to
2491 Article IV, Section 4.16 of the Bylaws; and some time shall be
2492 scheduled when the sponsor(s) of the action(s) or resolution(s) can
2493 discuss the action or resolution with those interested.

2494 **Section 4.18. Agenda Rules.**

2495 **Rule G-4.18.1. Notice to Member Congregations and**
2496 **Districts.**

2497 By November 1 whenever in the fiscal year the General Assembly
2498 opens in June, otherwise not less than two hundred and ten days
2499 before each regular General Assembly, each certified member
2500 congregation and district shall be notified of the dates for submitting
2501 items for the Tentative and Final Agenda, the procedure to be
2502 followed, and the forms to be used.

2503 **Rule G-4.18.2. Business Resolutions and Study/Action**
2504 **Issues for Social Justice.**

2505 A Study/Action Issue for Social Justice is one that deals with issues
2506 of public policy within the province of the Department of Faith in
2507 Action. A Business Resolution directly involves the administration
2508 and structure of the Association.

2509 Any resolution submitted which, taken as a whole, has as its
2510 purpose the making of a statement of social concern or principle
2511 shall be deemed to be a Study/Action Issue for Social Justice.

2512 A Study/Action Issue for Social Justice or a UUA Statement of
2513 Conscience appearing on the Final Agenda shall not be amended
2514 so as to become a Business Resolution.

2515 **Rule G-4.18.3. Congregational Poll.**

2516 At the time of the mailing of the Tentative Agenda each certified
2517 member congregation shall be requested to report by February 1,
2518 on a form provided whether it recommends or does not recommend
2519 for action by the General Assembly the Business Resolutions,

2520 proposed Congregational Study/Action Issues in the first Cycle
2521 year, and draft UUA Statements of Conscience in the Fourth Cycle
2522 year, or any additional years thereto pursuant to Section 4.12(d)(2)
2523 appearing on the Tentative Agenda, including the alternative
2524 versions of Business Resolutions (if any) submitted by the Board of
2525 Trustees. The recommendation with respect to each proposed
2526 resolution or issue must be certified by the minister, clerk or
2527 president of that congregation as being within the procedures of that
2528 congregation. Only a Business Resolution which a majority of the
2529 congregations voting on the resolution recommends for the action
2530 shall be eligible to be included on the Final Agenda from the
2531 Congregational Poll. If there is more than one version of a
2532 Business Resolution on the Tentative Agenda, the subject of the
2533 resolution shall be considered a single item on the Tentative
2534 Agenda and the Congregational Poll. All versions shall be listed
2535 consecutively within that item. An aye vote by a congregation for
2536 one or more versions shall be counted an aye vote for inclusion of a
2537 resolution on the subject in the Final Agenda. If support for the
2538 subject matter of the resolution is sufficient to make it eligible for
2539 inclusion on the Final Agenda, the version that receives the highest
2540 number of votes by the participating congregations shall be the one
2541 eligible for inclusion on the Final Agenda. From the Business
2542 Resolutions eligible from the Congregational Poll, the Board of
2543 Trustees shall include on the Final Agenda not more than the eight
2544 Business Resolutions receiving the highest number of
2545 "recommended for action" votes on the Congregational Poll. The
2546 Board of Trustees may also include on the Final Agenda alternative
2547 versions of Business Resolutions which are germane to those
2548 selected through the Congregational Poll. In the first Cycle year,
2549 the Board of Trustees also shall include on the Final Agenda not
2550 more than the five proposed Congregational Study/Action Issues
2551 receiving a majority of votes and the highest number of
2552 "recommended for action" votes on the Congregational Directives
2553 for General Assembly Action, provided that at least twenty-five
2554 percent (25%) of the congregations participated in the ballot vote for
2555 such proposed Congregational Study/Action Issues. If the number
2556 of proposed Congregational Study/Action Issues recommended for
2557 action in the Congregational Poll exceeds five and there is more
2558 than one such issue in fifth position as a result of a tie vote, all
2559 issues in fifth position shall be referred to the Final Agenda by the
2560 Commission on Social Witness. In the fourth Cycle year, or any
2561 additional years thereto pursuant to Section 4.12(d)(2), the Board of
2562 Trustees shall further include on the Final Agenda a proposed UUA
2563 Statement of Conscience, provided that at least twenty-five percent
2564 (25%) of the congregations participated in the ballot vote for such
2565 draft UUA Statement of Conscience. A report of the vote by which
2566 each resolution on the Tentative Agenda was or was not
2567 "recommended for action" shall be included on the Final Agenda.
2568 All Business Resolutions that are included on the Final Agenda
2569 shall be discussed during the General Assembly in a mini-
2570 assembly.

2571 **Rule 4.18.4. Matters Submitted by Districts**

2572 In the event that a proposed amendment to a Rule or to a Business
2573 Resolution that was submitted by a district is to be considered at a
2574 General Assembly, the district that submitted the proposed
2575 amendment or resolution may, in accordance with its own
2576 procedures, designate a representative to speak in support of the
2577 amendment or resolution at the General Assembly. The
2578 representative must be provided by the district with a certification of
2579 the representative's appointment signed by an officer of the district.

2580 **Section 4.19. Rules of Procedure.**

2581 **Rule G-4.19.1. Adoption of Rules of Procedure.**

2582 The Board of Trustees shall offer rules of procedure for adoption at
2583 the first session of each General Assembly.

2584 **RULE V Committees of the Association**

2585 No existing rules applicable to Article V.

2586 **RULE VI Board of Trustees**

2587 **Section 6.4. Election of Trustees.**

2588 **Rule 6.4.1. Division of Districts for Election Purposes.**

2589 The Trustees representing districts are divided into the following two
2590 groups:

2591	GROUP A	GROUP B
2592	Clara Barton	Ballou Channing
2593	Florida	Central Midwest
2594	Mid-South	Heartland
2595	Mountain Desert	Joseph Priestley
2596	Ohio Meadville	Massachusetts Bay
2597	Pacific Northwest	Metropolitan New York
2598	Pacific Southwest	Northern New England
2599	Southwest	Pacific Central
2600	St. Lawrence	Prairie Star
2601		Southeast

2602 **Section 6.6. Qualifications of Trustees.**

2603 **Rule 6.6.1. Multiple Memberships.**

2604 For purposes of applying the Bylaw provision that no more than one
2605 trustee shall be a member of the same member congregation, a
2606 person holding membership in more than one member congregation
2607 shall be treated as being a member only of that member
2608 congregation whose services such person most regularly attends.
2609 The Secretary shall make any determinations required by this rule,
2610 subject to appeal to the Board of Trustees, with the affected trustee
2611 or trustees not voting.

2612 **Rule 6.6.2. Implementation of Section 6.6.**

2613 If at the close of a General Assembly election, the results are such
2614 that, except for the provisions of Section 6.6, more than one person
2615 from the same congregation would serve at the same time on the
2616 Board of Trustees,

2617 (a) if the conflict arises solely from the election just held the
2618 Secretary of the Association shall thereupon declare that the
2619 persons so elected are disqualified and that the offices to
2620 which they have been so elected are vacant and are to be
2621 filled as provided in the Bylaws.

2622 (b) if the conflict arises because one person from a congregation
2623 is already serving on the Board of Trustees and another
2624 person from that congregation has just been so elected the
2625 Secretary of the Association shall declare that the person just
2626 elected is disqualified and the office to which such person has
2627 been elected is vacant and that the vacancy is to be filled as
2628 provided in the Bylaws.

2629 **RULE VII Committees of the Board of Trustees**

2630 No existing rules applicable to Article VII.

2631 **RULE VIII Officers of the Association**

2632 **Section 8.1. Officers Enumerated.**

2633 **Rule 8.1.1. Officers Enumerated.**

2634 The appointed salaried officers of the Association shall include an
2635 Executive Vice President.

2636 **Section 8.11. Executive Vice President.**

2637 **Rule 8.11.1. Executive Vice President.**

2638 The Executive Vice President shall have responsibility under the
2639 President for the administrative affairs of the Association and shall
2640 perform such other duties as may be assigned to such officer.

2641 **Section 8.17. Other Appointed Officers.**

2642 **Rule 8.17. Other Appointed Officers.**

2643 The members serving without pay on the Ministerial Fellowship
2644 Committee, Finance Committee, and Investment Committees are
2645 designated as officers of the Association for the purposes, only, of
2646 carrying out their duties as members of such committees. The
2647 powers and duties of such members are as defined in the Bylaws,
2648 Rules, and Policies adopted by the Board of Trustees.

2649 **RULE IX Nominations and Elections**

2650 **Section 9.10. Counting of Ballots.**

2651 **Rule G-9.10.1. Tie Votes.**

2652 Except in the election of a President, if a tie vote occurs in filling an
2653 office when only one person is to be elected, or occurs in filling a
2654 slate of officers when the slate cannot be completed without
2655 resolving the tie, then as soon as possible before the final
2656 adjournment of the General Assembly involved, additional ballots
2657 shall be cast by those present and entitled to vote, except that
2658 initially the Moderator shall not vote. The additional ballots shall
2659 contain only the names of the candidates who are tied. These
2660 ballots shall be counted along with a recounting of the ballots cast
2661 for the tied candidates by absentee ballots, and the result of the
2662 foregoing procedures shall determine the election, unless there is
2663 still a tie, in which case the Moderator shall then cast a ballot to
2664 resolve it.

2665 **Rule G-9.10.2. Tie Vote-Moderator.**

2666 If the tie involves the election of a Moderator, the proceedings to
2667 resolve the tie shall be presided over by the Secretary of the
2668 Association who in all matters involving the resolutions of the tie
2669 shall have the rights and duties of the Moderator.

2670 **Rule G-9.10.3. Tie Vote-President.**

2671 If, in the election of a President, in any particular counting of the
2672 preferential ballots, including absentee ballots, there is a tie vote
2673 among candidates having the least number of votes, then each
2674 such tied candidate shall be eliminated, and in the next counting,
2675 the ballots accumulated for said candidate shall be redistributed
2676 among the remaining candidates on the basis of the highest
2677 effective preferences marked on all the ballots that have been cast.
2678 However, if in this process, such elimination leaves only a single
2679 candidate who in that counting still does not have a majority of the
2680 counted votes, or if only two candidates remain in the contest and
2681 they are tied, then there shall be as many run-off election
2682 procedures, conducted under the provision of Rule G-9.10.1 as are
2683 necessary to result in the election of a President by at least a
2684 majority of the votes cast.

2685 **Section 9.12. Rules for Nominations and Elections.**

2686 **Rule G-9.12.1. Preparation and Mailing of Ballot.**

2687 Unless no ballot is required according to Section 9.9(a), prior to
2688 each regular General Assembly at which an election is to be held,
2689 the Secretary shall prepare ballots upon which shall appear the
2690 names of all persons who have been nominated for office in
2691 accordance with these Bylaws. One such ballot shall be sent with
2692 each credential card issued by the Secretary.

2693 **Rule G-9.12.2. Order of Names on Ballot.**

2694 On all ballots used in elections held by the Association the order of
2695 names shall be determined by the drawing of lots done by the
2696 Secretary and witnessed by two other persons. The Secretary shall

2697 certify the results of the drawing of lots, the certificate shall be
2698 attested by the witnesses, and the certificate shall be filed in the
2699 Secretary's office. This Rule shall be printed on all official ballots or
2700 on the instructions accompanying them.

2701 **Rule G-9.12.3. Write-ins Prohibited.**

2702 In any election, the use of stickers or the writing in of the name of
2703 any person on a ballot shall not be permitted and no vote so
2704 attempted shall be counted.

2705 **Rule G-9.12.4. Absentee Ballots.**

2706 An absentee ballot shall be counted only if accompanied by the
2707 signed and certified ballot stub of the credential card of the person
2708 casting the ballot.

2709 **Rule G-9.12.5. Balloting at General Assembly.**

2710 A person shall be qualified to cast a ballot at General Assembly only
2711 if that person presents to the Secretary of the Association or those
2712 employed by him or her at the polls a properly certified ballot stub
2713 plus a badge issued to that person and containing the same name
2714 as the name on the ballot stub.

2715 **Rule G-9.12.6. Campaigns for Elective Office.**

2716 Each candidate for an at-large elective position may submit to the
2717 Association a campaign statement. The Association will post
2718 electronically the statements of all candidates. Notice of the posting
2719 shall be distributed to the congregations with the absentee
2720 ballots and electronically, and to the delegates as a part of the final
2721 agenda.

2722 **Rule G-9.12.7. Length of Campaigns for President and
2723 Moderator.**

2724 (a) Campaigns for President and Moderator may appropriately
2725 begin with small campaign committee organizational
2726 meetings and mass mailing letters no earlier than November 1
2727 of the second year preceding the election.

2728 (b) Active campaigning and solicitation of endorsements shall not
2729 begin prior to January 1 of the year preceding these elections.

2730 (c) No electioneering (defined as publicly announced meetings,
2731 rallies or exploratory events) of any sort shall occur at the
2732 General Assembly two years preceding the elections for
2733 President and Moderator. Private meetings about campaign
2734 organization that take place outside of General Assembly-
2735 booked meeting spaces are permissible.

2736 **Rule G-9.12.8 Campaign Finances Disclosure.**

2737 All candidates for at-large elective positions shall keep detailed and
2738 accurate records of:

2739 (a) their campaign expenses (stated in United States dollars) by
2740 categories of travel, postage, telephone, printing and other
2741 such categories as seem appropriate;

2742 (b) the number of contributors to their campaigns, including the
2743 number of contributors in each of the following categories:

- 2744 (1) under \$50.00,
- 2745 (2) \$50.00 to \$100.00,
- 2746 (3) \$101.00 to \$250.00,
- 2747 (4) \$251.00 to \$500.00, and
- 2748 (5) over \$500.00, and

2749 (c) the number of contributions and the total amount of
2750 contributions received from each group or organization
2751 supporting the campaign.

2752 No candidate for any elective position shall solicit or knowingly
2753 accept any contribution that is given through a tax-exempt entity
2754 with the purpose of conferring tax-exempt status to the contribution
2755 to which it would not otherwise be entitled. Such exempt entities

2756 include but are not limited to member congregations, associate
2757 member organizations and independent UUA affiliates.

2758 The names of contributors shall be disclosed. Each such report
2759 shall identify by name any member congregation, associate
2760 member organization or independent affiliate of the Association and
2761 any other tax exempt organization (including specifically, but without
2762 limitation to, any minister's discretionary fund or similar account)
2763 that has made any contribution to the campaign and shall state the
2764 amount of each such contribution. Such reports shall be filed with
2765 the Secretary of the Association. A preliminary report shall be due
2766 at the close of the first day of the regular General Assembly at
2767 which the election occurs. A final report shall be due 60 days
2768 thereafter. The Secretary shall upon written request from a member
2769 of a member congregation furnish such information from these
2770 reports as requested. These reports shall be made available for
2771 inspection by any member of a member congregation at the
2772 principal offices of the Association and shall be brought by the
2773 Secretary to the next General Assembly and made available for
2774 inspection there by any delegate.

2775 **Rule G-9.12.9. Separation of Campaigns from Conduct
2776 of Official Business.**

2777 (a) When running for office, candidates shall be prohibited from
2778 engaging in any electioneering or campaigning during the
2779 conduct of official business of the Unitarian Universalist
2780 Association.

2781 (b) Financial accounting and bookkeeping procedures shall be
2782 established which make it explicit that no monies of the
2783 Association were used in the financing of a candidate's
2784 campaigning or electioneering activities.

2785 **Rule G-9.12.10 Election Campaign Practices
2786 Committee.**

2787 (a) An Election Campaign Practices Committee is hereby
2788 established and shall consist of three persons to be appointed
2789 by the Board of Trustees at its October meeting following
2790 those regular General Assemblies at which elections occur.
2791 Two members of the Committee shall be members of the
2792 Board of Trustees at the time of their appointment and one
2793 shall be a non-Board member. The non-Board member shall
2794 be the chair of the Committee. Persons appointed to the
2795 Election Campaign Practices Committee shall remain neutral
2796 in the election and not engage in electioneering. A person
2797 nominated pursuant to Bylaw Sections 9.4 or 9.5 is ineligible
2798 to serve on the Committee.

2799 (b) The duties of the Election Campaign Practices Committee
2800 shall be:

- 2801 (1) to distribute the campaign practices guidelines and
2802 financial disclosure rules to candidates for at-large
2803 elective positions not later than thirty days after
2804 nomination by the nominating committee or receipt of
2805 petition;
- 2806 (2) to receive and consider written complaints of alleged
2807 violations of such guidelines or rules; if the committee
2808 finds probable cause to establish that a violation exists,
2809 to notify a candidate or a number of candidates how
2810 they may voluntarily comply with guidelines or rules and
2811 how long they have to do so; to attempt to mediate
2812 disputes arising from such complaints; and, if no
2813 satisfactory resolution of a complaint is achieved, to
2814 adjudicate the dispute and report the adjudication in
2815 writing to the candidates affected;
- 2816 (3) to hold such hearings as may, at the Committee's
2817 discretion, be necessary or desirable to carry out the
2818 intent of subsection 2 above; and

2819 (4) to report on its activities and any recommendations it
2820 may have to the Board of Trustees at its October
2821 meeting following the elections.

2822 (c) If compliance to an adjudicated decision is not implemented
2823 by the stated deadline, the Committee is authorized to block
2824 or remove Association-subsidized privileges from the
2825 candidate's campaign.

2826 Candidates adjudicated to be in serious violation of Rule
2827 G-9.12.6(c) may have their names removed from the ballot. Any
2828 such action pursuant to rule G-9.12.10(c) shall be reported to the
2829 Board and the General Assembly. Such adjudication by the ECPC
2830 would be subject to automatic review by the Board Executive
2831 Committee according to the provisions of Rule G-9.12.10(d).

2832 (d) Any candidate aggrieved by the Committee's adjudication may,
2833 within ten days of the mailing of the adjudication, appeal in
2834 writing to the Executive Committee of the Board of Trustees,
2835 which shall have exclusive jurisdiction to hear and determine
2836 such an appeal. The Executive Committee shall report its
2837 decision on the appeal in writing to the affected candidates as
2838 expeditiously as feasible. The Executive Committee of the
2839 Board of Trustees is authorized to issue any order or ruling it
2840 deems appropriate in connection with such a decision.

2841 (e) Any member of the Executive Committee of the Board of
2842 Trustees who is a candidate for UUA elective office shall not
2843 participate in any manner in the determination of any appeal
2844 from an adjudication of the Election Campaign Practices
2845 Committee.

2846 **RULE X Finance and Contracts**

2847 **Section 10.1. Annual Budget.**

2848 **Rule G-10.1.1 Presentation of Association Budget.**

2849 At each regular General Assembly the Board of Trustees shall
2850 present budgets for both the Current Fiscal Year and the
2851 Succeeding Fiscal Year. Current Fiscal Year means the fiscal year
2852 of the Association which has just begun or which is about to begin
2853 at the time when the Assembly is held. Succeeding Fiscal Year
2854 means the year following the Current Fiscal Year.

2855 **Rule G-10.1.2. Expense Categories.**

2856 (a) Expense estimates in budgets presented by the Board shall
2857 be broken down by major categories or functions in such
2858 manner as the Board shall determine.

2859 (b) The Current Fiscal Year budget shall contain a separate
2860 expense category provision for contingencies, the amount of
2861 which shall be a minimum of 3% of the total of all unrestricted
2862 expense categories, exclusive of the provision for
2863 contingencies.

2864 **Rule G-10.1.3. Estimated Income.**

2865 Income amounts in the budget for the Current Fiscal Year shall
2866 represent the Board's best estimates of income from all sources.
2867 Income from the Annual Fund as so estimated shall be an amount
2868 which is not more than 7 per cent greater than the actual Annual
2869 Fund income of the fiscal year preceding the Current Fiscal Year.
2870 In the budget for the Succeeding Fiscal Year income from the
2871 Annual Fund shall be estimated at an amount which represents the
2872 Board's best estimate of the achievable results for such year.

2873 **Rule G-10.1.4. Procedures for Budget Consideration.**

2874 Any action by a General Assembly with respect to budgets shall be
2875 taken under the following procedure:

2876 (a) A budget hearing shall be held as part of the General
2877 Assembly program at a time when the Assembly is not in
2878 formal business session.

2879 (b) Main motions concerning budgets which are to be made in a
2880 formal business session shall be filed in writing with a person
2881 or persons designated by the Moderator as early as possible
2882 prior to or during the General Assembly but in any event on or
2883 before the day prior to the Business Session at which the
2884 proposed motion will be in order for adoption. The Moderator
2885 shall take such steps as the Moderator considers practical to
2886 advise delegates and other persons or bodies as early as
2887 possible, preferably in writing, of the contents of the motions
2888 so filed.

2889 (c) Any action with respect to the budget for the Current Fiscal
2890 Year calling for increased spending in any category shall
2891 provide for equivalent reductions in other categories of
2892 spending and specify the categories in which such reductions
2893 are to be made.

2894 (d) No action may be taken with respect to the Current Fiscal
2895 Year budget which shall be inconsistent with either Rule G-
2896 10.1.2(b) or G-10.1.3.

2897 **Rule G-10.1.5. Board of Trustees Report.**

2898 At each General Assembly the Board of Trustees shall make an
2899 accounting of its actions taken since the preceding General
2900 Assembly with respect to any budget votes of the preceding
2901 General Assembly.

2902 **Section 10.8. Contracts and Securities.**

2903 **Rule 10.8.1. Contracts and Securities.**

2904 The Executive Vice President may sign and attest deeds,
2905 mortgages, contracts, and other documents to which the
2906 Association is a party.

2907 **RULE XI Ministry**

2908 **Section 11.2. Ministerial Fellowship Committee.**

2909 **Rule 11.2. Ministerial Fellowship Committee.**

2910 The rules of the Ministerial Fellowship Committee are printed
2911 separately and are available on request.

2912 **Section 11.8 Procedure on Appeal.**

2913 **Rule 11.8. Procedure on Appeal.**

2914 The rules of the Ministerial Fellowship Board of Review are
2915 available on request.

2916 **RULE XII Religious Education Credentialing**

2917 **RULE XIII Regional Organizations**

2918 **Section C-13.2. Establishment.**

2919 **Rule G-13.2.1. Establishing Districts.**

2920 (a) The districts shall be nineteen in number and named Ballou
2921 Channing, Central Midwest, Clara Barton, Florida, Heartland,
2922 Joseph Priestley, Massachusetts Bay, Metropolitan New
2923 York, Mountain Desert, Mid-South, Northern New England,
2924 Ohio Meadville, Pacific Central, Pacific Northwest, Pacific
2925 Southwest, Prairie Star, St. Lawrence, Southeast, and
2926 Southwestern.

2927 (b) Each district shall be composed of the congregations
2928 assigned to that district by the Board of Trustees

2929 (c) The boundaries of each district encompass the areas served
2930 by its member congregations.

2931 (d) Upon application to the Board of Trustees and after notice
2932 and an opportunity to be heard is afforded the affected
2933 districts, a congregation may change its district membership
2934 with approval of the Board of Trustees.

2935 (e) The District Map published in the Annual Directory contains
2936 boundaries that are an approximation only of the boundary
2937 lines determined pursuant to subparagraph (c) above and are

2938 intended primarily as a guide for the newly admitted
2939 congregation in determining its membership.

2940 **RULE XIV Rules**

2941 **Section 14.4. Miscellaneous Rules.**

2942 **Rule G-14.4.1. Performance of Acts.**

2943 When the last day for the performance of any act required under the
2944 Bylaws or Rules falls on a Saturday, Sunday, or a day which is a
2945 legal holiday in the place where the act is to be performed, the act
2946 may be performed on the next succeeding business day.

2947 **Rule G-14.4.2. Receipt of Documents.**

2948 When any ballot, petition, notice, document, or material of any kind
2949 whatsoever is required to be filed with, delivered to, or received by
2950 the Association or an officer, board, committee, or agent thereof on
2951 or before a certain day, the same shall be considered to have been
2952 so filed, delivered, or received only if it is postmarked seven days
2953 prior to said certain day or actually received at the office of the
2954 Association at 25 Beacon Street, Boston, Massachusetts 02108, on
2955 an earlier day or not later than 5:00 p.m. on said certain day.

2956 **RULE XV Amendments**

2957 **Section 15.2. Submission of Proposed Amendments.**

2958 **Rule G-15.2.1. Form of Submission.**

2959 A proposed amendment to the Bylaws submitted by certified
2960 member congregations or a district must include:

2961 (a) the Article and Section which it is proposed to amend or
2962 repeal;

2963 (b) a concise summary of the principal arguments on which the
2964 proponents rely; and

2965 (c) other Articles (or Sections) or "G" Rules affected by the
2966 proposed amendment and proposed text of any necessary
2967 conforming amendments and "G" Rules.

2968 PRINTED IN THE U.S.A.

2969 Unitarian Universalist Association was given corporate status in
2970 May 1961 under special acts of legislature of The Commonwealth of
2971 Massachusetts and the State of New York. See Chapter 148 of the
2972 acts of 1960 of the Massachusetts legislature and Chapter 827 of
2973 the Acts of 1960 of the New York legislature. Copies of said Acts
2974 are attached to the minutes of the organizing meeting of the
2975 Association held in Boston, Massachusetts in May 1961 and also
2976 are printed in the 1961-62 Directory of the Association.