

Recommendations to the UUA Board from Open Space breakout sessions

Please note that these recommendations are not prioritized in any way, and represent suggestions for programs, rather than mission/vision. They are presented in the order in which the report forms were received in the Open Space [Technology] office.

1. Be open to interfaith connections - Having come as far as we have, UUs can lead in the 21st century toward a more functional (rather than dysfunctional) approach to interfaith relationships.
2. Support non-congregational organizations - Support, encouragement, and resources from the Association can and should still be extended to non-congregational organizations that enrich or support congregational life.
3. Election reform in the UUA - A committee [should] be appointed to review the election process and make recommendations for a process genuinely representative of the congregations and in particular for 2009, that an election committee be appointed to oversee the process.
4. Become a multicultural religious institution - A substantial multicultural worship resource book online (free)
5. Interfaith community organizing - Interfaith community organizing amplifies our moral voice, strengthens and deepens relationships within and beyond our congregations, changes the world in each community through ACTION.
6. National public awareness of UU - Development and implementation of a national program to promote name recognition and public awareness of Unitarian Universalism to benefit personal, local, and regional promotion.
7. Creating Earth community - As set forth by the Earth, create a sustainable earth community by nurturing partnerships and democratic institutions, locally and globally.
8. Beyond 18th century polity - Review congregational polity for the 21st century. Dispel myth it only means individualism. Reclaim meaning of responsibility with congregations and Association. Examine polity for cultural assumptions.
9. Keeping youth in the faith - Think of youth and young adults as constant "new members."

10. Learn and teach *Compassionate Communication* - Create ways to introduce, teach, model, and practice the principles of nonviolent (compassionate) communication in our primary relationships, families, congregations and in our Association - make it part of the relational culture of our UU world.
11. *Covenant vs. Creed* - What does it mean? - Enhance awareness and understanding of the non-creedal, covenantal nature of UU principles and what it means to covenant with each other.
12. *Creating lifelong UUs* - Create a system that defines congregational life as a partnership among all ages and intentionally includes everyone equally, programmatically, financially, and spiritually.
13. *Education, integrating, and retaining youth* - Make the continuing connection of youth and young adults with our congregations central to our mission in order to keep our congregations vibrant.
14. *Model fair non-patriarchal process* - Understanding that democracy comes in many forms, engage in and support the exploration of these many forms and methods: UUA Board - District - Congregation
15. *Giving vision providing practice of the life we want* - Actively encourage congregations to have a vision of where they are going and regularly strive to nurture that vision.
16. *How to get the Senate/President to stop the Iraq war* - Encourage congregations to fax petitions to our politicians, telephone representatives, have small meetings where you ask your politicians questions, church vigils on busy street corners
17. *Examining the meaning of our faith and theology* - UUA examine for change the exclusionary theological language and practices currently in place to be more inclusive of the diversity of our beliefs and practices.
18. *Honoring fear, dealing with fear* - Develop widely available, age-appropriate programs (e.g., spiritual practices, leadership training, curriculum) to address individual, congregational, national and global fear.
19. *UUA more aggressive to get troops out of Iraq* - We call on the UUA Board to reaffirm existing AIW for peace and to generate unified action for complete withdrawal for US troops from Iraq.
20. *Earth community as beloved community* - UUA affirms and promotes Beloved Community as encompassing all beings in a just and sustainable earth community.

21. Restorative retributive criminal justice - The current practices of the criminal justice system [are] dehumanizing our ministries in violation of most of UU's seven principles. Restorative justice is a growing grassroots movement that is capable of restoring humanity to the criminal justice system.
22. Whom do we serve? Underlying dimensions - We want to serve more than ourselves. By challenging ourselves to live according to our UU roots and values, we will diversify our congregations, broaden our influence, and serve a broken world.
23. Mission as mythic transformation - The UUA shall support intellectual, spiritual, and emotional wholeness among our members by transforming the mythic stories of individuals who can then transform their communities.
24. Skills for Courageous Conversations - As part of right relations, to encourage teaching and learning interpersonal communications skills that deepen authentic meaning and community through dialogue as a spiritual practice.
25. Create a safe just world for all ages - Support inclusive initiatives promoting sustainability, peacemaking, and lifespan health and education resources to create a safe, peaceful, just world community: sources 1st, 6th, 7th principles.
26. Diverse religions and cultures can coexist - Develop programs that model these skills to use in our own congregations and in the larger community.
27. Envision our shared spiritual quest - My belief is our denomination needs to articulate an inclusive shared spiritual vision - lest, as Bill Sinkford puts it, we become a "doughnut" shaped faith.
28. How will we affirm our principles? - As a call to action the seven principles have the potential to be transformative for our congregants and demand prominence in our liturgy.
29. Peacemaking for all beings - To consider human caused suffering of non-human animals part of a matrix of justice issues and incorporate this understanding in UUA policies, events, and publications.
30. Our religious response to an imperiled earth - Create an office within the UUA that integrates its vision into every aspect of our denomination.
31. UU evangelism: Sharing our faith - Increase visibility by Living Our Faith out loud: Embrace/fund electronic media (YouTube); Informed

- hospitality; Articulate our faith/know our history; Create relationships among congregations
32. From compassion to giving more money - Foster congregational cultures of abundance through Wayne Clark's practices in Beyond Fundraising: A Complete Guide to Congregational Stewardship.
 33. Make a just and equal world for all - Make anti-racism, anti-oppression and multiculturalism a continuing process for all congregations and the UUA as stated in the resolution last year.
 34. Be a voice and work for global peace - The UUA of Congregations will be a peace denomination.
 35. Infuse AO/AR/MC into everything we do - Create a bountiful toolbox for use by congregations in making AO/AR/MC work integral to congregational life and to their work in the world.
 36. Transform lives to transform the world - The mission of our faith community is to transform lives by increasing rational, emotional, and spiritual wholeness and thereby transform our community and our world.
 37. Save souls and enable transformation - Provide leadership to support transformation, both personally and communally.
 38. Grow and support liberal congregations - Support and grow our congregations by supporting lifespan RE, excellent worship and community work. Celebrate our theological diversity, our covenantal heritage, and our liberal faith.
 39. Promoting right relations with church staff - The UUA should develop an accreditation process moving congregations to become model employers practicing justice seeking and right relations with regard to all staff.
 40. Effective dynamic communication styles - We need to develop more dynamic oral communications skills to help us reach across cultural and generational lines and connect with people in today's world.
 41. Access to depth - We encourage the UUA to invest in recognizing, fostering, and honoring depth in our lay leaders and congregations through GA, District and congregational programming and support.
 42. Youth involvement with intergenerational community - Youth and adults need to all be actively engaged in intergenerational community that is beyond a one-size-fits-all model for the wider UU movement to be sustained.

43. Nurture the unifying spirit of the world - We want the UUA Board to provide resources and opportunities to embody and share our "good news" with/in and beyond our circles.
44. Truly know and share UU good news - Inspired by the inherent mystery of the interconnected web of [all] existence, we join as change agents with other life-affirming movements around the world.
45. Fundamental UU governance and reform - Explore ways to increase communication to, and input from, member congregations as a way of affirming congregational polity democratic process, and accountability.
46. Multigenerational integration - All generations (child, youth and adult) coming together as one congregation
47. Becoming intergenerational community - Create a group of Intergenerational Consultants who can visit groups of congregations and provide training for intergenerational programs and worship.
48. One minute speeches elevator on cable TV - 1) Protestant history 2) What we are 3) 7 principles lead to social action and the various ways to God 4) Keep it short, use "I" statements.
49. Empty the prisons - The UUA should take on a major initiative to empty the prisons by using better alternatives.
50. To grow UU, how do we best spend our \$\$\$ - Instead of unilateral programs we encourage the UUA to support congregational efforts (with professional consultation) that result in sustainable efforts to grow existing and emerging congregations.
51. Interfaith justice work: Repair the world - Support and model broad-based interfaith communities of trust that will encourage UU congregations to engage in interfaith justice ministries at local, regional, and state levels.
52. Embracing diversity, fostering unity - For engaging all kinds of diversity develop resources and curricula for engaging particular kinds of diversity (spiritual, political, economic, ability) while also fostering unity.
53. Creating caring ministry with each other - It would be most helpful in getting lay leaders to attend GA if they could expect workshops that would help them do their jobs better.
54. Secrets of growing a small congregation - Institute a series of such workshops emphasizing being welcoming and advertising the presence of the congregation.

55. Living locally welcoming our neighbors - Provide a mechanism for congregations to share resources that help them reconnect with their local communities to positively transform lives and promote sustainable local economies.
56. Support for immigration reform long-term - Become a leading faith community in support of 12 million undocumented. Do and Act! Don't just talk about "justice-seeking people," live this diversity cause. Forget about commercial advertising.
57. How can we make UUism a household term? - That the Board condemn usage of acronymic naming for groups within Unitarian Universalism, as it makes UUism less accessible for newcomers and reinforces a "closed clique" mindset both within individual congregations and within the faith as a whole.
58. Wise use of resources for the good of the world - Study annual GA costs and benefits (human, financial, and natural resources). Present alternatives reflecting innovative technologies and strengthening the role of districts/regions.
59. Youth ministry and retaining youth - The UUA will provide communication to boost awareness among congregations about all available resources for youth and young adult programs.
60. Focus on the 40-year-olds - Provide tools and templates for congregations to welcome, include, and retain people in their 30s and 40s.
61. Ways to ameliorate income gap - Develop training materials to help congregations and districts to educate their congregants about managing money and gaining access to financial help programs.
62. What underlying transcendent unity? - Explore renaming our Association to express our core values/unifying identity, not our historical theology.
63. Promote and create belonging for all - Visitor and new member resources, printed materials of known "dos and don'ts" for new members. Encourage congregations to learn from each other by expanding the role of cluster groups with districts as enablers.
64. Classism in our denomination - UUA staff and Board use available resources and talents to further sensitize entire UU movement to class as identity-based ministry, with goal of full association representation.

65. Grow our faith in anti-oppressive ways - Right relations through the truth telling, healing, including all marginalized groups, changing systemic power imbalances, and confronting and eradicating racism and all forms of oppression.
66. Making connections between congregations - Encourage a full range of opportunities for congregational connections as part of and in addition to District services and programs.
67. Transform lives through the power of love - 1. Our UUA purpose should include what congregations should be for - communities that transform lives through the power of love. 2. And move GA to August.
68. UUs lead: The great turning to earth community - As a faith community, we recognize our planetary crisis and responsibility to exemplify AND accelerate the transformation (Great Turning) from Empire to Earth Community.
69. Building social and process skills for relationships - Please make it a priority and create ways to increase social skills at our UU congregations, through workshops, sermons, mentors, support groups, retreats, etc.
70. Ten times in twenty years - Adopt the goal of increasing the total number of UUs by a factor of 10 in the next 20 years (12.2% annual growth rate).
71. Introduction to wilderness; Make faith relevant - 1. Leadership matters: Invest in parish, community, and lay ministerial excellence. 2. Read Don't Think of an Elephant by George Lakoff.
72. To support diverse family constellations - Develop resources and materials for welcoming, outreach to, inclusion, and retention of diverse families including polyamorous, single parent, children with special needs, foster, teen parents, etc.
73. Good news: Media communication: UU TV? - Develop ways to tell our stories, i.e., documentaries such as UU projects in New Orleans, for wide distribution. 2. Develop matrix website designs for use by congregations.
74. Start more churches and train ministers to do it - Encourage entrepreneurial new starts by passionate ministers and lay leaders. Re-establish starting new churches as part of mission.
75. Pro-Habeas Corpus anti-torture advocacy - The UUA should speak out unequivocally, loudly, and often for restoring rights of habeas corpus

- to all persons regardless of nationality and for rejecting torture under all circumstances. We should take the lead among faith groups on this issue.
76. Being peace church in a military town - Develop guidelines, including pastoral care, acknowledging how frightening and essential the peace church discussion is; use our military UU members as resources.
 77. Define spirituality: Help great turning - Put 7th principle first! We are all a part of the universe; therefore we can accept difference and act with synergistic sustainability.
 78. Cross lines of race, class and culture - Recognize the white-privileged, class-specific, first-world veneer in Unitarian Universalism; guide and aid congregations in living our faith across race, class, and cultural issues.
 79. Can we use non-supernatural language? - Make it clear that the concept of inclusive language applies to the whole spectrum of belief.
 80. How welcoming are UUs to political conservatives? - Welcome people of different political opinions arrived at from our common UU values. Allow Republicans the same safe space to come out of the closet.
 81. This is the children's world too - Invest in our future by supporting policies enhancing the quality of life for children/youth and providing them a genuine voice in society and congregations.
 82. Use democratic process to determine the future of YRUU - Democracy is essential to work with the youth ministry, and we must ensure that we are communicating with one another throughout that ministry up from congregation to district, to UUA as well as from top-down.
 83. To grow solus and deepen spiritual life - Model spiritual depth in their deliberations and create a commission to recommend ways to foster spiritual depth in religious lives and congregations.
 84. To open and grow our hearts - Create a website dedicated to deepening spiritual growth of each person, focusing on spiritual practices as well as how to deepen one's connection to God.
 85. Urban congregations - Help urban congregations who are an important component of the "Grow Our Faith" campaign with our visibility and higher potential to reach multicultural future members.
 86. Commitment to support youth retention - Ensure that spiritual support is present in programming starting in childhood and continuing through young adulthood.

87. Universalism, a courageous hospitality - Equip congregations to engage in courageous hospitality. Teach them skills for engaging in healthy, respectful conflict, because courageous hospitality may involve discomfort when encountering diversity.
88. How can we become more anti-racist? - Inspired by the lead of youth and young adults, urgently transform our congregations, districts and affiliated organizations into anti-racist/anti-oppressive faith communities.
89. How shall we better embody our 7th principle? - The UUA should provide more informational, educational, and fiscal resources to embody the 7th principle as an environmental imperative.
90. Articulating our faith to the world - Unitarian Universalism needs a concise statement in non-intellectual language, not a wordy list of principles, that describes our faith and mission in the world.
91. UUA becoming a peace denomination - Become a peace-making denomination practicing non-violence personally, in our families, congregations, and communities and actively working for a non-violent and just world.
92. Sustaining the earth - Acknowledge our reverence for the earth, and the urgent need to change our relationship with the earth from one of exploitation to one of sustainability.
93. Reparations/Healing for racist history - Tell the truth about the Black Empowerment controversy, make it widely known, apologize, and allocate funds to be controlled by people of color organizations.
94. What is the soul of UUism? - As a new and ever-renewing religion, we call people to a reality-based commitment to love, justice, and flourishing of the web of life.
95. Model the future of religious relationship - The UUA and the ministry and lay leadership of our faith community should understand that our mission is to model the future of religious relationships.
96. Offer a spiritual home for all seekers - Identify best practices in welcoming and nurturing seekers from other traditions; provide congregations with resources to develop their own programs.
97. Minority scholarships to promote equality - Encourage and support congregations to promote education and scholarships for living wage jobs and as a means to move towards economic equality.

98. More love, Baby! - Foster dialogue in how to support each other in an interdenominational search for individual truth in a community setting: More love, Baby!
99. Meeting the needs of those who come - Focus the marketing campaign on how our churches meet these needs, and provide tools and training for congregations.
100. Immigration: A humane just economic policy - Continue to push for a just and humane comprehensive immigration reform policy to include research on the financial cost and contributions of undocumented immigrants.
101. Well-being for all: A moral foundation - Provide resources to educate our membership on how our apparently diverse political, social, economic, and religious positions are derived from a consistent liberal moral foundation.
102. Owning and using our collective identity - Promote opportunities to experience our collective religious identity together so that we feel, accept, own and use it in the world.
103. Whole and holy worship: Body, mind, spirit - Allocate resources for multicultural, multi-sensory, pangenerational worship training that extends beyond written materials, including but not limited to music, silence, touch, movement, and art.
104. Dialogue with the world: UU mass media - Create advisory board promoting use of mass media, presenting UU values, accomplishments and influences to world community; emphasize free YouTube, radio/TV broadcasts, etc.
105. Forming and promoting UU identity - Support the practice of productive conversations about our complex UU identity so we can model how to cope with complexity and differences in our world.