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Business Process

MINI - ASSEMBLIES

All business of the General Assembly is conducted in Plenary Session. Mini-Assemblies offer opportunity in small sessions for delegates to speak on issues and find out more about individual business items before they are voted. The Planning Committee or the Commission on Social Witness may move amendments to business items as a result of discussion in Mini-Assemblies.

BYLAW AND RULE AMENDMENTS

Proposed Bylaw and Rule Amendments will be discussed in Mini-Assemblies in dedicated time on Friday at 5:00 p.m. The Planning Committee is responsible for these sessions and, immediately afterward, meets to consolidate results and formulate any amendments to be proposed.

UUA STATEMENT OF CONSCIENCE

Discussion of the proposed UUA Statement of Conscience takes place in the Mini-Assembly in dedicated time on Friday at 6:15 p.m. The vote to adopt is scheduled for the Sunday Plenary Session.

FIRST-YEAR STUDY/ACTION ISSUES

Five First-Year Study/Action Issues (SAIs) appear on the Final Agenda as a result of the poll called Congregational Directives for General Assembly Action. Discussion of these SAIs takes place in two sessions: Friday at 1:45 p.m. and 3:30 p.m., prior to voting in the Saturday Plenary Session for one Issue for study and action during the coming two years.

SECOND-YEAR STUDY/ACTION ISSUE

No vote is taken this year on the Study/Action Issue that was chosen by the last year's General Assembly. A workshop will be held Saturday at 3:30, and those who engaged in study and action on the Issue are invited to share experiences at this time. Based on the discussion, the Commission on Social Witness will draft a UUA Statement of Conscience for consideration during the coming year.

ACTIONS OF IMMEDIATE WITNESS

Proposed Actions of Immediate Witness (AIWs) must be posted in the CSW exhibit booth by 5:00 p.m. on Friday. The complete AIW, along with the requisite delegate signatures, must be filed in the GA Office by 5:00 p.m. on Saturday. Preliminary action on AIWs will be taken in Plenary Session on Sunday, and Mini-Assemblies to discuss the proposed AIWs will be held Sunday at 5:00 p.m., prior to voting for adoption Monday afternoon.

BUDGET HEARING

UUA Finance Committee members and UUA officers conduct a hearing on the 2000 - 2001 budget Saturday at 3:30 p.m. 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 in Convention Center 105 by 5:00 p.m. on Sunday, for consideration Monday.

AN UNOFFICIAL.....ABC *Underground*



of how you can make things happen during the Plenary Sessions at General Assembly

TO SPEAK

You must be recognized by the Moderator, and to be recognized you must be at a microphone. The Moderator recognizes you by calling your microphone number.

Any **DELEGATE** may speak; others 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 society 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 2 minutes. You may speak on a motion only once as long as others wish to speak.

There are **SIX** microphones: 2 **PRO**, 2 **CON**, 1 **PROCEDURE** and 1 **AMENDMENT** mike. To speak in favor - go to a **PRO** mike.

- ⇒ To speak against - go to a **CON** mike.
- ⇒ To make an amendment – go to the **AMENDMENT** Table.
- ⇒ 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.

DEBATE

THERE MUST BE 10 MINUTES OF DISCUSSION ON THE MOTION AS PRINTED (or as presented by the Planning Committee or Commission on Social Witness) before an amendment may be proposed. 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 10 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.* (There cannot be an amendment to an amendment.) Do not propose another amendment while the first one is being debated.

An amendment may be to insert new words, delete words, or to delete and insert. Each may cover only one subject. An amendment may not change a Study/Action Issue into a Business Resolution. Before an amendment may be presented to the delegates, it must be presented in writing to the Planning Committee member at the Amendment table next to the Amendment mike.

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.

How to Make Things Happen

Be careful that your motion does not change the meaning so much that it is a substitute rather than an amendment. You may make a substitute motion at some times 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

Any delegate may call “Division” if a counted vote is desired. This is one time when recognition at a mike is not needed. 24 other delegates must join the request (when asked) 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 in a relatively small group to propose amendments to business items and discuss the proposed amendments. Mini-Assemblies save Plenary Session time and permit freer debate than plenaries do. Some Mini-Assemblies are held in dedicated time (without competing programs) to encourage greater attendance.

The UUA Bylaws require Mini-Assemblies for

- Business Resolutions and Bylaw Changes (dedicated time)
- Statement of Conscience after two years of study and action (dedicated time)
- Actions of Immediate Witness (not dedicated time)

After a Mini-Assembly and before voting in Plenary Session, the Planning Committee 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.

BUDGET HEARING

At the Budget Hearing questions may be answered, but no motions may be made. Motions 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.

ACTIONS OF IMMEDIATE WITNESS

Sometimes significant actions, events, or developments occur that delegates may wish to address immediately. These are matters ripe for immediate statement, without waiting for the two-year Study/Action process to precede public statement.

HOW MANY ACTIONS OF IMMEDIATE WITNESS MAY BE ADMITTED TO THE AGENDA? Six

HOW CAN I GET AN ACTION OF IMMEDIATE WITNESS ON THE AGENDA? Pick up the required cover sheet and petition form for signatures at the CSW booth. Submit a copy of the AIW at the CSW booth for posting by the Friday deadline. Submit the AIW with the required number of delegate signatures to the Commission at the GA Office by the Saturday deadline. See the cover sheet for directions, requirements, and deadlines.

WHAT HAPPENS THEN? The Commission will select six from among those submitted which meet the criteria for an AIW. These will be submitted to delegates for admission to the Agenda. The motion to admit is not debatable, but there will be an opportunity for a two-minute statement of advocacy by a sponsor of each AIW. After consideration of proposed amendments at a Mini-Assembly, each AIW will be voted on by the delegates for adoption by the General Assembly.

TO GET YOUR QUESTION ANSWERED

PLAY FAIR. These guidelines 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. You want to get information, not give it. At any time 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. (You are not physically comfortable or your ability to do business is being hampered.) Any delegate may request a "Point of Personal Privilege" (from any microphone.) You go to any 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 microphone 2" or "Our section was not counted."

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

RULES OF PROCEDURE are adopted at the start of the Assembly. They are printed (as proposed but not necessarily as adopted) as the first item on the Final Agenda.

NEED INFORMATION? Have a question about the status of the Agenda, a business matter, procedures, etc.? Ask a member of the Planning Committee. They will be identifiable on the floor of the Assembly during each Plenary Session. When the Assembly is not in session, look for one of

them at the GA Office. The Bylaws are in the Program, and a copy of Robert's Rules of Order is at each microphone.

DO YOU HAVE AN AMENDMENT? ARE YOU UNHAPPY WITH WORDING? Time constraints at the Plenary Sessions preclude more than two or three amendments to an item being considered. Informal sessions are held where preliminary work can be done on items on the Agenda.

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 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.

Agenda

Order of Business

Plenary I, Thursday, 7:00-9:00 p.m.

- 7:00 Opening Ceremony
- 8:30 Call to Order (Denny Davidoff)
 - Action on Rules of Procedure
 - Welcome New Congregations
 - Introduce Planning Committee and Volunteer Committee
 - Announcements
- 9:00 Recess

Plenary II, Friday, 8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

- 8:30 Call to Order (Denny Davidoff) and Chalice Lighting
 - Greetings from Mid-South District (Lyn Conley)
 - Preliminary Credentials Report (Rev. Wayne Arnason)
- 9:00 The State of the UUA
 - Denny Davidoff, John Buehrens, the Board of Trustees and the UUA staff have thrown caution to the winds. Please join us for a totally new, interactive, multimedia report that addresses your questions on the State of the UUA.
- 12:00 Commission on Social Witness Report (Rev. Barbara Child)
 - Process Observations
- 12:30 Recess

Plenary III, Saturday, 8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

- 8:30 Call to Order (Denny Davidoff) and Chalice Lighting
- 8:45 Action on Proposed Amendment to Bylaws Section 6.3 and Rule G-12.2.1.
 - Establishing Districts
- 9:15 Action on Proposed Amendment to Bylaws Section 11.8, Appeal by Ministers, and 11.4. Classes of Ministerial Fellowship
- 9:45 Action on Proposed Amendment to Bylaws, Non-Substantive Items
- 10:15 Action on Study/Action Issues for Social Justice
- 11:30 Report of the UU Service Committee (Valora Washington)
- 11:45 Action on Proposed Amendment to Bylaws Section C-14.1. Amendment of Bylaws
 - Process Observations and Announcements
- 12:30 Recess

Plenary IV, Sunday, 12:30 – 4:30 p.m.

- 12:30 Call to Order (Denny Davidoff) and Chalice Lighting
Presentation of Actions of Immediate Witness
- 1:45 Action on Proposed Amendment to Bylaws Section 4.12. UUA Statements of
Conscience
Report on Guidelines for GA Programming (Bob Martin)
- 2:30 Presentation of Distinguished Service Award (Rev. Calvin Dame)
- 3:00 Report from Financial Advisor (Lawrence Ladd)
Report from UUA Staff on Statement of Conscience
Ministerial Fellowship Committee Report (Rev. Eugene Pickett)
- 3:30 Action on Statement of Conscience “Economic Injustice, Poverty and Racism”
Process Observations and Announcements
- 4:30 Recess

Plenary V, Monday, 2:00 – 6:00 p.m.

- 2:00 Call to Order (Denny Davidoff) and Chalice Lighting
Action on Actions of Immediate Witness
- 3:30 Action on Bylaw Sections 4.12, 4.16, Rule G-4.16.1 Actions of Immediate
Witness
Women’s Rights Anniversary Celebration (Joan Goodwin)
- 4:15 Action on Proposed Amendment to Rule G-10.1.3. Estimated Income
Action on Proposed Amendment to Bylaws Section 8.14 & 8.16 Duties of
Secretary
- 4:30 Nominating Committee Report (Rev. Lindi Ramsden)
UU Women’s Federation Report (Tina Jas)
UU United Nations Office Report (Rev. Benjamin Bortin)
Action on Proposed Amendment to Rule G-9.12.10. and Bylaws Section 9.11
Nominations and Elections
Action on Reports of Officers and Others
Action on Perfecting Amendments
- 5:30 Moderator's Reflections (Denny Davidoff)
Final Credentials Report (Rev. Wayne Arnason)
Process Observations
Invitation from Ohio-Meadville District
- 6:00 Adjourn

Rules of Procedure

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, or by an uncounted standing vote of the delegates present. If the Moderator wishes a counted vote or if a delegate requests it and the Moderator determines that 24 other delegates join in the request, the vote must be counted. Except for Study/Action Issues for Social Justice (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 Executive Committee of 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 Planning Committee 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 ten minutes of debate, if that much is needed, on the merits of the main question as moved. 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. 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 amendment, rule change, resolution, or action on a report that is on or admitted to the Final Agenda, unless the time limit is extended in the manner provided in the first paragraph of this Rule 6. Whenever possible, the discussion time will be equally divided between proponents and opponents and by the alternate recognition of speakers at microphones designated Pro and Con.
- 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 micro-phones 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" is limited to statements in support of or in opposition to motions.

b) Amendment Microphone. Usage of the microphone 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;
- 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.

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 2000 - 2001 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., Sunday. 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;
- b) under Bylaw Section 4.16(c), which permits the addition of resolutions brought to the floor by motion in response to a specific call for adoption of a particular resolution by an officer or committee reporting to the Assembly.

RULE 11. STUDY/ACTION ISSUES FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE

Pursuant to Bylaw Section 4.12(c):

Up to five Study/Action Issues for Social Justice may be presented to the General Assembly. A sponsor of a 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 Study/Action Issue referred for study. Following the presentation by the sponsors for all Study/Action Issues eligible for consideration, forty minutes will be allowed for debate. Persons wishing to speak in the debate shall use the microphone designated for the Study/Action Issue for which he/she advocates

Rules of Procedure

and the Moderator will recognize speakers at each microphone, in turn.

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

- a) The proposed Action of Immediate Witness must be in writing.
- b) A copy for posting at the Commission on Social Witness booth must be delivered to the booth in the exhibit area no later than 5:00 p.m., Friday, June 23, 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., Saturday, June 24.
- d) 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.
- e) 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.
- f) The motion to admit is not debatable and requires a two-thirds vote of support.
- g) 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).
- h) Adoption of an Action of Immediate Witness may occur only during the final Plenary Session of the Assembly and must be by two-thirds vote, as specified in Bylaw Section 4.16(b)(5).

RULE 13. 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 14. SMOKING

Smoking is not allowed in General Assembly business sessions.

RULE 15. ADJOURNMENT

The final business session of the 2000 General Assembly will be adjourned no later than 6:00 p.m., Monday, June 26.

Proposed Amendments to Bylaws

Adoption requires a two-thirds vote, except for C-Bylaws. A proposal to amend a section of the Bylaws whose section number is preceded by a "C" must be placed on the agenda and approved by a majority vote at a regular General Assembly preceding the one at which it may be finally adopted. First-step approval requires a majority. Final adoption requires a two-thirds vote.

Brackets { } indicate deletion; underlining indicates addition; commentary is in italics.

Changes to Article VI and Rule XII would establish the Clara Barton and Heartland Districts, formed, respectively, by the mergers of the Connecticut Valley and Central Massachusetts Districts and the Michigan and Ohio Valley Districts. These changes establish the new districts, provide authorization for the two trustees currently representing the CT Valley and Central MA Districts to fill out their terms as representatives of the Clara Barton District, and set the boundaries of the new districts as the combined boundaries of the previous districts. These proposed changes did not appear on the Tentative Agenda because the districts voted on these mergers only this spring.

ARTICLE VI BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Section 6.3. Membership

The Board of Trustees shall consist of: . . .

(c) one trustee representing each district, except that a single trustee shall represent each of the following combinations:

- (1) The Mid-South and Florida Districts;
(2) The Prairie Star and Western Canada Districts {;
(3) The Michigan and Ohio Valley Districts}

(d) notwithstanding the provisions of clause (c) above and the provisions of Section 6.6 of these Bylaws, two trustees representing the Clara Barton District. This subsection (d) shall remain in effect only until the end of the 2001 General Assembly, at which time it shall expire and be automatically deleted from these Bylaws.

RULE XII REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

Section C-12.2. Establishment

Rule G-12.2.1. Establishing Districts

(a) The districts shall be twenty ~~-{three}~~ one in number and named Ballou Channing, {Central Massachusetts,} Central Midwest, Clara Barton {Connecticut Valley} Florida, Heartland, Joseph Priestley, Massachusetts Bay, Metropolitan New York, {Michigan,} Mountain Desert, Mid-South, Northeast, New Hampshire-Vermont, Ohio Meadville, {Ohio Valley,} Pacific Central, Pacific Northwest, Pacific Southwest, Prairie Star, St. Lawrence, Southwest, Thomas Jefferson, Western Canada.

The following Rule would be affected:

Rule 6.4.1. Division of Districts for Election Purposes

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

Submitted by the UUA Board of Trustees

Board Vote: For 24-0-0

Bylaw and Rule Amendments

40 *The following substitution to Bylaw Section 11.8 would give candidates for fellowship, ministers in*
41 *preliminary fellowship, and ministers in final fellowship the right to appeal decisions of the*
42 *Ministerial Fellowship Committee to the Ministerial Fellowship Board of Review.*

43 **Section 11.8 Appeal**

44 **{A minister in final ministerial fellowship whose fellowship is terminated may appeal the**
45 **determination of the Ministerial Fellowship Committee to the Ministerial Fellowship Board**
46 **of Review. The Ministerial Fellowship Board of Review shall have exclusive jurisdiction to**
47 **hear and decide such appeals. No other appeal shall be allowed from any decision of the**
48 **Ministerial Fellowship Committee.}**

49 **A candidate for fellowship who has been denied fellowship by the Ministerial Fellowship**
50 **Committee, a minister in preliminary fellowship or a minister in final fellowship may appeal**
51 **the determination of the Ministerial Fellowship Committee to the Ministerial Fellowship**
52 **Board of Review. The Ministerial Fellowship Board of Review shall have the exclusive**
53 **jurisdiction to hear and decide such appeals.**

54 *Submitted by 15 certified congregations.*

55 *Board vote: Against 0-20-4*

56 *The following proposed change to Section 11.3 removes the authority of the Ministerial Fellowship*
57 *Committee to make rules concerning the status and recognition of lay preachers—an authority that*
58 *has never been implemented. It was submitted after the Tentative Agenda was sent out in order to*
59 *have the proposed change examined by the Ministerial Fellowship Committee.*

60 **Section 11.4. Classes of Ministerial Fellowship.**

61 **.... {The Ministerial Fellowship Committee may also with the approval of the Board of**
62 **Trustees make rules pertaining to the status of, and recognition by the Association of, lay**
63 **preachers and the granting of licenses to them.}**

64 *Submitted by the UUA Board of Trustees*

65 *Board Vote: For 22-0-0*

Bylaw and Rule Amendments

66 *The following are proposed non-substantive (“housekeeping”) changes to the Bylaws and Rules*
67 *recommended to the Board of Trustees by a task force which examined the Bylaws and Rules of the*
68 *Association.*

69 Brackets { } indicate deletion; underlining indicates addition; commentary is in *italics*.

70 **CHANGES THROUGHOUT**

71 Change "society" to "congregation" throughout the Bylaws and Rules.

72 *The latter word is now in more common use.*

73 **{Section C-3.10. Life Members**

74 **The life members of the Association shall comprise only (a) those individuals who became**
75 **life members of the American Unitarian Association on or before May 1, 1925, and (b)**
76 **those individuals who served as president of the Universalist Church of America on or**
77 **before May 1, 1961. This category of membership shall end upon the death of the last**
78 **person qualifying for such membership.}**

79 *Note: This change necessitates Section C-3.11 being re-numbered as Section C-3.10*

80 **Section C-4.7 Voting**

81 Voting at each regular and special General Assembly shall be by:

82 (a) accredited delegates from certified member societies and certified associate member
83 organizations; **and**

84 (b) trustees{; **and**

85 (c) **life members**};

86 Each delegate{,} **and** trustee {, **and life member**} shall have only one vote, even if present in
87 more than one capacity. . . .

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

89 The Nominating Committee shall submit one or more nominations for each elective position at
90 large to be filled, except Moderator and President, including those to fill any vacancies occurring
91 prior to October 1 of the year before the election. Only one person from any one member society
92 shall be thus nominated to serve on the Nominating Committee. The report of the Nominating
93 Committee shall be filed with the Secretary of the Association and be mailed to all certified
94 member societies, associate member organizations, **and** trustees{, **and life members**} on or
95 before December 10 of each even-numbered year.

96 **Section 9.9. Conduct of Elections at Large.**

97 . . . (b) Persons Entitled to Vote. Ballots shall be cast only by accredited delegates from certified
98 member societies and certified associate member organizations to the regular General Assembly
99 at which the election is held and by trustees {**and life members**} No person shall cast more than
100 one ballot.

Bylaw and Rule Amendments

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

102 Not less than forty-five days prior to each General Assembly, the Secretary of the Association
103 shall send to each certified member society and associate member organization entitled to be
104 represented by delegates the proper number of delegate credentials. The Secretary shall also
105 furnish trustees **{and life members}**with credentials.

106 **Rule G-4.9.9. Payment of Registration Fee.**

107 All delegates, alternates, **and** trustees**{, and life members}**must pay a registration fee in order to
108 be admitted to the floor and vote at the General Assembly.

109 *It is believed there are no living life members.*

110 **OTHER BYLAW AND RULE CHANGES**

111 **ARTICLE 4 GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

112 **Section 4.8(a) Member Delegates**

113 The number of members of a certified member society which is a **{federated church}member**
114 **of more than one denomination**shall be determined . . .

115 *There are some congregations that are not federated but belong to more than one denomination.*

116 **Section 4.11. Tentative Agenda for Regular General Assemblies.**

117 (c) **{resolutions} items** referred by the preceding General Assembly;

118 *We no longer have general resolutions.*

119 **Section 4.11. Tentative Agenda for Regular General Assemblies.**

120 The General Assembly Planning Committee shall prepare a Tentative Agenda for each regular
121 General Assembly which shall include: . . .

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

124 (1) the Board of Trustees **or the Executive Committee**

125 *See Section 7.5, which explains the duties of the executive committee.*

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

127 (g) During the next **regular** General Assembly **following the General Assembly referred to in**
128 **(e) above**, a mini-assembly shall be held during dedicated time during which **proposed**
129 amendments to the revised UUA (U.S. or Continental) Statement of Conscience shall be
130 accepted in writing. All such amendments shall be made available in writing to the General
131 Assembly. The Commission on Social Witness shall finalize the UUA (U.S. or Continental)
132 Statement of Conscience, and the moderator of the General Assembly, together with the
133 parliamentarian, legal counsel and the chairperson of the Commission on Social Witness, shall
134 prioritize unincorporated amendments for consideration by the General Assembly.

135 *Clarification.*

Bylaw and Rule Amendments

136 **Rule G-4.12.1. {Amendments to} Report of Comments on UUA Statements of Conscience.**

137 The Commission on Social Witness shall report to the General Assembly in summary fashion
138 those **{amendments to} comments on** UUA (U.S. or Continental) Statements of Conscience
139 submitted to it by **{certified}** member societies and districts **{but which form no part of those**
140 **amendments submitted by the Commission to the Planning Committee for inclusion on the**
141 **Final Agenda}**

142 *Any congregation may make amendments. What the Commission on Social Witness submits is a*
143 *re-draft, not a collection of amendments. This proposed change did not appear on the Tentative*
144 *agenda in order to provide time for review by the Commission on Social Witness.*

145 **Section 4.14. Final Agenda for Regular General Assemblies. . .**

146 (c) Business Resolutions, amendments to Rules or Bylaws or other items submitted by the
147 Planning Committee, the Board of Trustees **or the Executive Committee** which did not
148 originally appear on the Tentative Agenda; provided, however, that any such items appear on
149 the Final Agenda accompanied by an explanation of the delayed submission;

150 *See Section 7.5, which explains the duties of the executive committee.*

151 **Rule G-4.18.3. Congregational Directives for General Assembly Action.**

152 The Planning Committee shall at the time of the mailing of the Tentative Agenda request each
153 certified member society to report by April 15, if the General Assembly opens in June, or not
154 less than 50 days before the General Assembly if the General Assembly occurs at any other time,
155 on a form provided by the Planning Committee whether it recommends or does not recommend
156 for action by the General Assembly the Business Resolutions **{,} and** Study/Action Issues for
157 Social Justice **{and Bylaw and Rule changes}** appearing on the Tentative Agenda, including the
158 alternative versions of Business Resolutions (if any) submitted by the Planning Committee. The
159 recommendation with respect to each proposed resolution **{,} or** issue **{and Bylaw or Rule**
160 **change}** must be certified by the minister, clerk or president of that society as being within the
161 procedures of that society. . . .

162 . . . **{All proposed amendments to the Bylaws and Rules receiving a majority of the votes in**
163 **the Congregational Directives for General Assembly Action also shall be included on the**
164 **Final Agenda.}** All Business Resolutions **{and Bylaw and Rule changes}** that are included on
165 the Final Agenda shall be discussed during the General Assembly in a mini-assembly **{the**
166 **procedure of which shall conform substantially to Section 4.12(g)}**

167 *UUA Counsel has noted that proposed amendments to the Bylaws and Rules authorized by Section*
168 *14.2 must go on the final General Assembly agenda and are not subject to the Congregational*
169 *Directives under this rule. The cross-reference to 4.12(g) is ambiguous and suggests*
170 *inappropriate and impossible procedures.*

Bylaw and Rule Amendments

171

ARTICLE 5 COMMITTEES OF THE ASSOCIATION

172 Section 5.3. Qualifications of Committee Members.

173 {Each member of a committee of the Association shall be a member of a member society.}
174 **In order to qualify to be appointed or to continue as a member of a standing committee of**
175 **the Association, a person must be a member of a member congregation.**

176 *Clarification. Additionally, Section 5 does not apply to appointed members; only standing*
177 *committees are meant to be covered by this section.*

178 Section 5.4. Removal of Committee Member.

179 A member of any **standing** committee of the Association may be removed by a three-fourths
180 vote of the {entire} Board of Trustees at a meeting at which not less than three-fourths of the
181 {entire} Board is present, if in the opinion of the Board the member is incapacitated or otherwise
182 unable to carry out the duties of the office.

183 *Clarification.*

184 Section 5.5. Vacancies.

185 A vacancy created by the death, disqualification, resignation, or removal of **an elected** member
186 of a **standing** committee of the Association shall be filled by the Board of Trustees until the next
187 regular General Assembly **{at which an election can be held held in an odd-numbered year**
188 The vacancy shall then be filled by election for the balance of the unexpired term, if any.

189 *Clarification.*

190 Section 5.10. Additional Committees, and Section 5.11, Ministerial Fellowship Board of Review,
191 shall be switched and the Sections are renumbered accordingly.

192 *The general usually follows the specific, thus the Section 5.11 concerning the Ministerial*
193 *Fellowship Board of Review should precede. Section 5.10, Additional Committees.*

194

ARTICLE 6 BOARD OF TRUSTEES

195 Section 6.5. Term.

196 Trustees shall take office **{at} immediately after** the close of the General Assembly at or prior to
197 which they are elected and shall serve for terms of four years or until their successors are elected
198 and qualified. No trustee may serve more than two successive full terms of four years each.
199 However, a trustee may at any time become one of the elected officers of the Association and
200 serve as long in that office as if such trustee had not previously been a trustee. No person who
201 has served as elected officer for a full term shall thereafter be elected a trustee without an interim
202 of four years.

203 *Clarification.*

204 **Section 6.8. Vacancies.**

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

209 (b) Trustee Representing District. A vacancy created by death, disqualification, resignation, or
210 removal of a trustee representing a district or by the creation of a new district entitled to be
211 represented by a trustee shall be governed by the bylaws of the district and Section 9.11 of
212 these Bylaws subject to the following limitations:

213 (1) If fewer than two regular General Assemblies have met and adjourned since the General
214 Assembly at which the trustee took office, the governing body of the district shall make
215 an interim appointment until the position is filled **by a special election** within one year
216 from the date the vacancy occurs **{by a special election}**. . .

217 *Clarification.*

218 **Section 6.10. Regular Meetings.**

219 Regular meetings of the Board of Trustees shall be held at such times as the Board may
220 determine. **{Not less} No fewer** than three regular meetings of the Board shall be held during
221 each fiscal year of the Association.

222 *Grammar.*

223 **Section 6.11. Special Meetings.**

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

228 *Without this addition there could be an unexpected agenda.*

229 **ARTICLE 7 COMMITTEES OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

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

231 Members of the ~~{standing committees of the Board of Trustees}~~ **Executive Committee,**
232 **Finance Committee, and Investment Committee, and board-appointed members of the**
233 **Ministerial Fellowship Committee** shall be appointed by the Board at its first meeting
234 following the regular General Assembly in each odd-numbered year except as otherwise
235 provided herein. Members of such committees shall serve for terms of two years and until their
236 successors are appointed and qualified.

237 *Clarification.*

Bylaw and Rule Amendments

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

239 **{Members of all committees} Standing committee members** appointed by the Board of
240 Trustees serve at the pleasure of the Board and may be removed by it at any time.

241 *This section refers to standing committees only.*

242 **Section 7.5. Executive Committee.**

243 . . . If between meetings of the Board of Trustees, matters arise which **(1)** in the opinion of the
244 Executive Committee{,} are not current and ordinary business but in the best interests of the
245 Association must nevertheless be acted upon, **or (2) the Executive Committee has been**
246 **authorized by the Board to be acted upon, then** the Executive Committee may act thereon for
247 the Board of Trustees, but only if four or more members vote the action.

248 *Clarification regarding the role of the Executive Committee.*

249 **Section 7.10. Presiding Officer.**

250 The Board of Trustees shall appoint one member of each **standing** committee of the Board to be
251 its presiding officer.

252 *To avoid confusion with Section 7.9, and in the case of Section 7.9, ad hoc committees, and to*
253 *allow the Board (if it wishes) to provide that an ad hoc committee appoint its own chair.*

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

255 Each **standing** committee **of the Board** shall hold meetings at such times and places as it may
256 determine.

257 *This gives the Board the authority to designate a time and place for meetings of ad hoc*
258 *committees. This proposed amendment did not appear on the Tentative Agenda as the result of an*
259 *oversight.*

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

261 Meetings of **standing** committees **of the Board** may be called by the presiding officer and shall
262 be called by the presiding officer at the request of a majority of the members of the entire
263 committee. **{Notice of committee meetings shall be given in such manner and within such**
264 **time as the board of Trustees shall determine.}** **Unless the Board of Trustees otherwise**
265 **provides, notice of meetings of each standing committee shall be given in such a manner**
266 **and within such time as the standing committee determines**

267
268 *In practice each committee has been determining the “manner” and “time required for notice.*
269 *This amendment gives standing committees the power to determine the manner and time of notice*
270 *of their meetings unless the Board of Trustees has determined them..*

Bylaw and Rule Amendments

ARTICLE 8 OFFICERS OF THE ASSOCIATION

*Section 8.1. Officers Enumerated.

(a) Elected Officers. The elected officers of the Association shall be a Moderator, a President, and a Financial Advisor.

(b) Appointed Non-salaried Officers. The appointed non-salaried officers of the Association shall include one or more Vice Moderators, a Secretary, and a Recording Secretary and may include **{one or more vice presidents, assistant treasurers, and}** such other officers as the Board of Trustees may appoint.

(c) Appointed Salaried Officers. The appointed salaried officers of the Association shall include a Treasurer, and may include one or more vice presidents, assistant treasurers, and such other officers as the Board of Trustees may determine.

There has never been a non-salaried vice-president or assistant treasurer. "Such other officers" covers them in case they are ever needed.

Section 8.3. Term of Office.

(a) Elected Officers. The elected officers shall be elected at a regular General Assembly in an odd-numbered year and shall take office **{at} immediately after** the close of such General Assembly.

Clarification.

Section 8.6. Resignation.

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

Since the officers serve on the Board, it is important that each Board member receive an actual copy of the person's statement, not just a notification that the person has resigned.

Section 8.13. Vice Presidents.

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

This will prevent the President from altering any provisions of board appointments and changing powers and duties.

Bylaw and Rule Amendments

302

ARTICLE 9 NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS

303 **Section 9.5. Nomination by Petition.**

304 (a) For Moderator and President. A nomination for the office of Moderator or President, or to
305 fill a vacancy in an unexpired term occurring prior to December 1 of the year before the election
306 shall be by petition signed by **{not less} no fewer** than twenty-five certified member societies,
307 including **{not less} no fewer** than five certified member societies located in each of **(not less)**
308 **no fewer** than five different districts. . . .

309 *Grammar.*

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

311 **Unless no ballot is required according to Section 9.9(a), fP}**rior to each regular General
312 Assembly at which an election is to be held, the Secretary shall prepare ballots upon which shall
313 appear the names of all persons who have been nominated for office in accordance with these
314 Bylaws. One such ballot shall be sent with each credential card issued by the Secretary.

315 *Clarification.*

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

317 In any election, the use of stickers or the writing in of the name of any person on a ballot shall
318 not be permitted, and no **{attempt to so vote} vote so attempted** shall be counted.

319 *It is the vote, not the attempt, that is thrown out.*

320

ARTICLE 10 FINANCE AND CONTRACTS

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

322 (a) Board of Trustees. The Board of Trustees shall have ultimate responsibility for investing the
323 funds belonging to **{and} or** held by the Association.

324 *Grammar and accuracy.*

325

ARTICLE 11 MINISTRY

326 **Section 11.3. Admission to Fellowship.**

327 . . . **{Three years as an accredited director of religious education may be considered as**
328 **satisfying the time requirement for granting of final fellowship as minister of religious**
329 **education.}**

330 *This section is not operative. The process of admission of religious educators was changed when*
331 *the Modified Residency Program for becoming Ministers of Religious Education was instituted.*

Bylaw and Rule Amendments

ARTICLE 12 REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

Rule G-12.2.1. Establishing Districts.

(b) Each district is composed of the societies **{that are listed as its members in the District List found in the most recently published Annual Directory.assigned to that district by the Board of Trustees. A list of the societies that are members of each district is published in the annual Directory.**

Clarification to make it clear that it is the Board of Trustees and not the Annual Directory that determines the district for each society.

ARTICLE 13 RULES

Section 13.1. Adoption and Amendment of Rules by General Assemblies.

A General Assembly may adopt Rules not inconsistent with these Bylaws. Adoption or amendment of Rules by a General Assembly shall be by two-thirds vote. Each Rule adopted by a General Assembly shall be identified by a "G" preceding its Rule number. A General Assembly may amend or repeal Rules adopted by prior General Assemblies or by the Board of Trustees, if the proposed Rules or amendments have been placed on the agenda. Rules and amendments thereto shall be submitted for inclusion on the agenda in the same manner as other resolutions. **The provisions of this Section 13.1 do not apply to the Rules of Procedure contemplated by Section 4.19.**

This language is designed to make it clear that this section does not apply to the rules of procedure a GA adopts for itself.

ARTICLE 14 AMENDMENT

{Section C-14.1 Amendment of Bylaws.

(d) This Section shall apply only to amendments to these Bylaws proposed subsequent to final adoption of this Section.}

This subsection is no longer applicable. Even though it is obsolete, it must be removed through a two-year process.

Rule G-14.2.1. Form of Submission.

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

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

If the proposal does not identify necessary changes in G Rules there will be a delay in the implementation caused by the need for later amendment.

All of the preceding proposed changes were submitted by the UUA Board of Trustees Board vote for all proposed changes: For 22-0-0

Bylaw and Rule Amendments

369 *The following changes in Bylaw Section C-14.1 would make all bylaw amendments subject to a*
370 *two-year process, with the second year approval similar to the current election process, with*
371 *absentee ballots permitted. It would eliminate the distinction between C and non-C bylaws.*

372 Brackets { } indicate deletion; underlining indicates addition; commentary is in *italics*.

373 **Section C-14.1. Amendment of Bylaws.**

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

379 (b)

380 (1) A proposal to amend, repeal or add a new {C} Bylaw, other than those {C} Bylaws in Article
381 II of these Bylaws, shall be subject to a two-step approval process. Such proposals must be
382 placed on the agenda of a regular General Assembly and approved preliminarily by a
383 majority vote at such regular General Assembly. Following such preliminary approval, the
384 proposal to amend, repeal or add a new {C} Bylaw shall be placed on the agenda of the next
385 regular General Assembly for final adoption. Final adoption shall require a two-thirds vote.

386 (2) The text of a proposed amendment to a {C} Bylaw, other than those bylaws in Article II,
387 which has been approved by one General Assembly, may be amended at any time prior to
388 final adoption. If the Moderator rules that the amendment to the proposal is substantive, final
389 adoption shall only be by a subsequent General Assembly. Any such proposal that has been
390 under consideration for final approval at three successive regular General Assemblies shall
391 not be subject to substantive amendment at the third such regular General Assembly.

392 (3) A proposal to amend a {C} Bylaw, other than those Bylaws in Article II, which on any vote
393 for final adoption receives a majority but not a two-thirds vote, shall be placed on the agenda
394 of the next regular General Assembly, at which it may be finally adopted if it receives the
395 requisite approval. If the proposal is not passed by a two-thirds vote at the third regular
396 General Assembly at which it is considered for final approval, neither the proposal nor
397 another proposal that is substantively similar shall be placed on the agenda of a General
398 Assembly for two years.

399 **(4) Absentee ballots shall be permitted in voting for final adoption. Rules for voting on**
400 **final adoption shall follow the same process as those adopted under Article IX Section**
401 **9.12.**

402 (c)

403 (1) A proposal to amend, repeal or add a new {C} Bylaw in Article II of these Bylaws shall be
404 admitted to the agenda of a regular General Assembly for the sole purpose of determining
405 whether the proposal shall be referred to a commission appointed by the Board of Trustees
406 for review and study. Such a review shall involve member congregations. A majority vote at
407 a regular General Assembly shall be required to refer such a proposal to the study
408 commission. Once the review and study of the proposal is complete, which shall be
409 completed in no more than three years, the study commission shall submit to the Planning

Bylaw and Rule Amendments

410 Committee for inclusion on the agenda of the next regular General Assembly following
411 completion of the review and study process the proposal in the form originally presented to
412 the regular General Assembly and any amendments to the proposal that the study
413 commission recommends as a result of the review and study process. All proposals
414 regarding Article II of the Bylaws that are placed on the agenda after review and study
415 (including amendments to such proposals recommended by the study commission) shall
416 require a two-thirds vote for adoption. If the proposal does not receive the requisite approval
417 at the General Assembly following the completion of the review and study process, neither
418 the proposal nor another proposal that is substantively similar shall be placed on the agenda
419 of a General Assembly for two years.

420 (2) A motion to dispense with the review and study process with respect to a proposal to amend
421 Article II shall be in order at the General Assembly at which the review and study process is
422 authorized. A motion to dispense with the review and study process shall require a four-
423 fifths vote for passage.

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

427 (4) If no review and study process of Article II has occurred for a period of fifteen years, the
428 Board of Trustees shall appoint a commission to review and study Article II and to
429 recommend appropriate revisions, if any, thereto to the Board of Trustees. The Board of
430 Trustees shall review the recommendations of the study commission and, in its discretion,
431 may submit the recommendations of the study commission to the Planning Committee for
432 inclusion on the agenda of the next regular General Assembly. Notwithstanding anything to
433 the contrary contained herein, proposals to amend Article II which are promulgated by a
434 study commission in accordance with this paragraph shall be subject to a two-step approval
435 process. Such proposals must be approved preliminarily by a majority vote at a regular
436 General Assembly. Following such preliminary approval, the proposal shall be placed on the
437 agenda of the next regular General Assembly for final adoption. Final adoption shall require
438 a two-thirds vote.

439 (d) This Section shall apply only to amendments to these Bylaws proposed subsequent to final
440 adoption of this Section.

441 *Submitted by the Commission on Appraisal.*

442 *Board vote: Against 1-23-0*

Bylaw and Rule Amendments

443 *The following changes in Bylaw Section 4.12 would remove dedicated time status for Mini-*
444 *Assemblies during GA.*

445 Brackets { } indicate deletion; underlining indicates addition; commentary is in *italics*.

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

447 (g) During the next General Assembly, a mini-assembly shall be held **{during dedicated time}**
448 during which amendments to the revised UUA (U.S. or Continental) Statement of Conscience
449 shall be accepted in writing. All such amendments shall be made available in writing to the
450 General Assembly. The Commission on Social Witness shall finalize the UUA (U.S. or
451 Continental) Statement of Conscience, and the moderator of the General Assembly, together
452 with the parliamentarian, legal counsel and the chairperson of the Commission on Social
453 Witness, shall prioritize unincorporated amendments for consideration by the General
454 Assembly.

455 *The following rule would be affected.*

456 **Rule G-4.18.3. Congregational Directives for General Assembly Action.**

457 . . . All Business Resolutions and Bylaw and Rule changes that are included on the Final Agenda
458 shall be discussed during the General Assembly in a mini-assembly, the procedure of which shall
459 conform substantially to Section 4.12(g).

460 *Submitted by the General Assembly Planning Committee*

461 *Board vote: For 20-4-0*

462 *The proposed changes to Section 4.12 and Rule G-4.16.1 were recommended by a task force*
463 *appointed by the Moderator to examine the Actions of Immediate Witness process. They provide*
464 *for a reduced number of Actions of Immediate Witness, change the name from “Actions” to*
465 *“Statements” in order to provide clarification, and provide for a simplified process of*
466 *prioritization.*

467 Brackets { } indicate deletion; underlining indicates addition; commentary is in *italics*.

468

ARTICLE 4 GENERAL ASSEMBLY

469 Section 4.12. UUA Statements of Conscience.

470 . . . (g) During the next General Assembly, a mini-assembly shall be held during dedicated time
471 during which amendments to the revised UUA (U.S. or Continental Statement of Conscience
472 shall be accepted in writing. All such amendments shall be made available in writing to the
473 General Assembly. The commission on Social Witness shall finalize the UUA (U.S. or
474 Continental) Statement of Conscience, and **{the moderator of the General Assembly, together**
475 **with the parliamentarian, legal counsel}**he chairperson of the Commission on Social Witness
476 **in consultation with the moderator of the General Assembly, the parliamentarian and legal**
477 **counsel**, shall prioritize unincorporated amendments for consideration by the General Assembly.

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

479 (b) Not more than **{six} four** General Assembly **{Actions} Statements** of Immediate Witness,
480 (year) may be admitted to the agenda of a regular General Assembly and acted upon.

481 (1) A General Assembly **{Action} Statement** of Immediate Witness, (year) is **{one} a**
482 **statement of a given year’s General Assembly** concerned with a significant action,
483 event, or development the timing or specificity of which makes it inappropriate to be
484 addressed by a UUA Statement of Conscience pursuant to the Study/Action process.

485 (2) The petition to admit such resolutions to the agenda must be signed by 150 delegates
486 from at least 25 societies in at least five districts. If **{six} four** petitions or fewer are
487 received, all petitions received that have the requisite level of delegate and society
488 support are eligible to be considered for possible admission to the Agenda. In the event
489 more than **{six} four** petitions are submitted that satisfy the sponsorship requirement, the
490 Commission on Social Witness shall select **{six} four** from among those **{which} that**
491 meet the criteria for a General Assembly **{Action} Statement** of Immediate Witness
492 (year) and shall submit those **{six} four {actions} statements** to the Agenda of the
493 General Assembly (along with a tentative designation of scope, i.e., U.S. or Continental)
494 for possible admission.

495 (3) The motion to admit each General Assembly (U.S. or Continental) **{Action} Statement**
496 of Immediate Witness (year) ruled eligible is not debatable, but an opportunity for a two-
497 minute statement of advocacy to the General Assembly for each eligible **{action} statement**
498 **statement** by one of its sponsors prior to any such motion shall be provided. Admission
499 of a General Assembly (U.S. or Continental) **{Action} Statement** of Immediate Witness,
500 (year) shall be by a two-thirds vote.

501 (4) During the General Assembly, a mini-assembly shall be held during which each admitted
502 **{action} statement** shall be discussed and amendments shall be accepted in writing. All

Bylaw and Rule Amendments

- 503 such amendments shall be made available in writing to the General Assembly. The
504 Commission on Social Witness shall finalize each General Assembly (U.S. or
505 Continental) **{Action} Statement** of Immediate Witness, (year) and **{the moderator of**
506 **the General Assembly, together with the parliamentarian, legal counsel**
507 chairperson of the Commission on Social Witness **in consultation with the moderator**
508 **of the General Assembly, the parliamentarian and legal counsel**, shall prioritize
509 unincorporated amendments for consideration by the General Assembly.
- 510 (5) Adoption of a General Assembly (U.S. or Continental) **{Action} Statement** of Immediate
511 Witness, (year) shall be by a two-thirds vote.
- 512 (6) **{Actions} Statements** submitted pursuant to this Section 4.16(b) must be in writing and
513 filed with the Chair of the Commission on Social Witness or the Commission's designee
514 by the deadline established by the Commission and announced at the opening session of
515 the Assembly.
- 516 **Rule G-4.16.1 General Assembly {Actions} Statements of Immediate Witness, and**
517 **Responsive Resolutions.**
- 518 The Moderator shall take such steps as the Moderator considers practical to advise delegates and
519 other persons or bodies as early as possible, preferably in writing, of the contents of any
520 **{actions} statements** or resolutions presented to the General Assembly which are not on the
521 Final Agenda and which are admitted to the agenda pursuant to Article IV, Section 4.16 of the
522 Bylaws; and some time shall be scheduled when the sponsor(s) of the **{action(s)} statement(s)**
523 or resolution(s) can discuss the **{action} statement** or resolution with those interested.
- 524 *Submitted by the UUA Board of Trustees*
- 525 *Board Vote: For 21-0-0*

Bylaw and Rule Amendments

526 *The following change to Rule G-10.1.3 would remove the option of making excess Annual Fund*
527 *income available for the budget of the succeeding fiscal year. This proposed change did not*
528 *appear on the Tentative Agenda; the need for it was brought to the attention of the Finance*
529 *Committee at their May meeting.*

530 Brackets { } indicate deletion; underlining indicates addition; commentary is in *italics*.

531 **Rule G-10.1.3 Estimated Income**

532 Income amounts in the budget for the Current Fiscal Year shall represent the Board's best
533 estimates of income from all sources. Income from the Annual Fund as so estimated shall be an
534 amount which is not more than 7 per cent greater than the actual Annual Fund income of the
535 fiscal year preceding the Current Fiscal Year. In the budget for the Succeeding Fiscal year
536 income from the Annual Fund shall be estimated at an amount which represents the Board's best
537 estimate of the achievable results for such year. The Estimate of the Annual Fund income for the
538 Succeeding Fiscal Year recommended by the Board or adopted by the General Assembly shall
539 become the Annual Fund goal for the Current Fiscal Year. **{To the extent that actual Annual**
540 **Fund income received in the Current Fiscal Year exceeds the estimate of Annual Fund**
541 **income finally included in the budget of the Current Fiscal year under the first sentence of**
542 **the paragraph and results in an actual operating surplus for each year, such excess Annual**
543 **Fund income, unless applied to repay debt of the Association by vote of the Board of**
544 **Trustees, shall be deferred to and constitute income available for the budget of the**
545 **Succeeding Fiscal Year.}**

546 *Submitted by the UUA Board of Trustees*

547 *Board Vote: For 24-0-0*

Bylaw and Rule Amendments

548 *The proposed changes to Sections 8.14 and 8.16 distinguish the duties of the Secretary of the*
549 *Association from the Recording Secretary and, generally, spell out the duties of the Recording*
550 *Secretary.*

551 Brackets { } indicate deletion; underlining indicates addition; commentary is in *italics*.

552 **ARTICLE 8 OFFICERS OF THE ASSOCIATION**

553 **Section 8.14. Secretary.**

554 The Secretary shall be appointed from among the members of the Board of Trustees and shall
555 perform all duties usually pertaining to the office, except those of a **{recording officer with the**
556 **powers of a clerk.}** Clerk under Massachusetts law The Secretary shall represent the
557 Association on special occasions and shall assist in promoting the welfare of the Association .

558 **Section 8.16. Recording Secretary.**

559 The Recording Secretary shall at all times be a resident of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts
560 and upon being appointed shall be sworn to the faithful performance of the duties of the office.
561 If the Recording Secretary ceases to be a resident of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, such
562 person shall be disqualified and the office declared vacant. The Recording Secretary shall
563 keep an accurate record of all meetings of the Association and the Board of Trustees, shall
564 perform such other duties as may be assigned by the Board, and shall perform the duties of
565 a Clerk under Massachusetts law.

566 *Submitted by the Board of Trustees*

567 *Board Vote: For 22-0-0*

Bylaw and Rule Amendments

568 *The following proposed change to Rule G-9.12.10 provides for a more timely notification to at-*
569 *large candidates and includes candidates for Moderator or President who have filed their petitions*
570 *pursuant to Section 9.5(a).*

571 Brackets { } indicate deletion; underlining indicates addition; commentary is in *italics*.

572 **SECTION 9 NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS**

573 **Rule G-9.12.10 Election Campaign Practices Committee. . . .**

574 (b) The duties of the Election Campaign Practices Committee shall be:

575 (1) to distribute the campaign practices guidelines and financial disclosure rules to
576 candidates for at-large elective positions **{not later than January 3 of each odd-**
577 **numbered year and promptly thereafter to any new candidates}**~~not later than~~
578 **thirty days after nomination by the nominating committee or receipt of petition;**

579 *Submitted by the Board of Trustees*

580 *Board Vote: For 22-0-0*

Bylaw and Rule Amendments

581 *The following proposed change to Section 9.11 provides for a clear method of electing district*
582 *trustees in the event that a district's bylaws do not provide for an elective process.*

583 **Section 9.11. Nominations and Elections of Trustees Representing Districts.**

584 (a) District Bylaws. Each district shall in its bylaws set forth the method by which the certified
585 member societies of the Association within that district shall nominate and elect a trustee.
586 Where two or more districts are required to share a single trustee, each such district shall
587 adopt compatible bylaw provisions. In the absence of valid district bylaw provisions, the
588 trustee representing that district or group of districts shall be elected in accordance with the
589 **{rules adopted by the Board of Trustees} Bylaws and Rules** of the Association.

590 . . .

591 (d) Method of Election. **{The district bylaws shall provide for one of the following methods**
592 **of election} If a district's bylaws do not include a valid provision for the election of the**
593 **trustee representing that district or the group of districts of which that district is a part,**
594 **the trustee for that district or the group of districts of which that district is a part shall**
595 **be elected using one of the following methods**

596 (1) at large within the district, with each member of a certified member society casting a
597 ballot by mail;

598 (2) by delegates at a district meeting at which each certified member society is entitled to
599 the same number of voting delegates as specified in Section 4.8(a) of these Bylaws,
600 with absentee ballots by the delegates permitted;

601 (3) by each certified member society, acting at a legal meeting of such society, casting that
602 number of votes equal to the number of delegates specified in Section 4.8(a) of these
603 Bylaws, allocated among the candidates as it shall determine;

604 (4) by delegates at a district meeting at which each certified member society is entitled to
605 the same number and kind of voting delegates as specified in Section 4.8(a) and (b) of
606 these Bylaws with absentee ballots by the delegates permitted; or

607 (5) by each certified member society, acting at a legal meeting of such society, casting that
608 number of votes equal to the number of delegates specified in Section 4.8(a) of these
609 Bylaws, with the votes of the society allocated among the candidates as it shall
610 determine and by each minister and Director of Religious Education, who meets the
611 criteria for delegate status set forth in Section 4.8(b) of these Bylaws, casting a vote.

612 *Submitted by the Board of Trustees*

613 *Board Vote: For 22-0-0*

Business and Social Witness Timetable

UUA General Assembly - Business & Social Witness Timetable

Prepared by Commission on Social Witness

	Thursday, June 22 Exhibits 12-6	Friday, June 23 Exhibits 12-6	Saturday, June 24 Exhibits 12-6	Sunday, June 25 Exhibits 11-7	Monday, June 26 Exhibits 9-3
8					
9					
10		8:30-12:30 Plenary Session #2 State of the UUA	8:30-12:30 Plenary Session #3 Bylaw Amendments Study/Action Issues UUSC Report		
11					
12					11:10 – 12:25 Faith in Action Workshop: 2000-2002 Newly-Chosen Study/Action Issue
1					
2	2:00 – 3:30 GA Orientation Everything You Need to Know	1:45 – 3:00 CSW Workshop 1 Study/Action Issue Proposals		12:30 - 4:30 Plenary Session #4 Proposed Actions of Immediate Witness Bylaw Amendments Distinguished Service Award Financial Advisor Report Statement of Conscience	
3					2:00 – 6:00 Plenary Session #5 Actions of Immediate Witness Bylaw Amendments from AIW Task Force Perfecting Amendments Moderator Reflections
4	4:00 - 5:15 CSW Orientation Inside Scoop for First-Time Delegates	3:30 – 4:45 CSW Workshop 2 Study/Action Issue Proposals	3:30 – 4:45 CSW Workshop Responsible Consumption as a Moral Imperative (*99-'01 Study/ Action Issue)		
5		5:00 - 6:15 Mini- Assembly Bylaw Proposals		5:00 - 6:15 Up to Six Mini-Assemblies On Actions of Immediate Witness	
6					
7		6:15 -7:30 Mini-Assembly Statement of Conscience			
8	7:00-9:00 Opening Ceremony Plenary Session #1	Economic Injustice, Poverty, and Racism: We Can Make A Difference!			
9		<i>Deadline for posting Proposed AIWs: 5 pm Friday At CSW booth</i>	<i>Deadline for filing Proposed AIWs: 5 pm on Saturday At GA office</i>		

Congregational Directives for GA Action

Results of Congregational Directives for GA Action 2000

Eligible ballots: 123

Ineligible ballots: 6

STUDY/ACTION ISSUES FOR FINAL AGENDA		YES	NO
S-7	No Place For Hate	109	3
S-3	An Alternative to the "War on Drugs"	108	8
S-9	Understanding the Challenges of Globalization	101	7
S-2	Abortion Availability Requires Trained Doctors	100	8
S-5	Leveling the Technological Playing Field For All Children	73	16

SAIS NOT PLACED ON FINAL AGENDA

S-1	Legalizing Cannabis	35	37
S-8	Popular Election of the President of the United States	27	35
S-4	Improving Democracy with Proportional Voting	25	39
S-6	Mumia Abu-Jamal, Political Prisoners, and American Justice	20	43
S-10	Work to End Economic Sanctions against Iraq	19	42

614 *The five Study/Action Issues presented here were selected by certified congregations to be placed*
615 *on the Agenda. The vote on the following SAIs will be to determine which one shall be referred*
616 *to congregations and districts for further review and study in the Statement of Conscience*
617 *process, pursuant to Bylaw Section 4.12. An Implementation session on this chosen SAI will be*
618 *held at 11:10 a.m. Monday*

Abortion Availability Requires Trained Doctors

620 **Issue:** What can Unitarian Universalists do to ensure adequate numbers of doctors trained to
621 provide abortions?

622 **Background and Reasons for Study:** Unitarian Universalists have a long history of supporting
623 a woman's right to choose an abortion. In recent years, the number so choosing has remained
624 fairly constant. The killing of Dr. Bernard Slepian in Buffalo, as well as threats to other doctors
625 and abortion provider agencies, has made it harder to get doctors to do abortions. In a growing
626 number of communities, no doctors trained to perform abortions are available. Eighty-six
627 percent of the counties in the United States do not have abortion providers. Doctors trained to
628 perform this surgery are aging; 59% of them are over age 65! Who will replace them? Medical
629 students are not currently required to receive training in abortion procedures. In some cases,
630 chief medical residents doing family practice are not currently trained in even the simplest
631 abortion procedures. Worse yet, only twelve percent of obstetric/gynecology residency
632 programs routinely teach abortion, and the percentage is declining. One reason may be the
633 mergers between hospitals with and without religious affiliation. One immediate result of such
634 mergers is the elimination of abortion training and birth control counseling.

635 **Possible Study Questions:** Are abortions available in your community? Is abortion available in
636 health centers and hospitals or only in private clinics? If there is a teaching hospital in your
637 community, what, if any, abortion-related training does it provide? What can Unitarian
638 Universalists do to encourage abortion training for medical students? How can Unitarian
639 Universalists support the efforts of organizations such as Medical Students for Choice and the
640 American Medical Women's Association as they advocate for abortion training in medical
641 residency programs? How can we assure continued freedom of choice? Do staff and patients
642 have safe access to the abortion clinics?

643 **Possible Actions:** Determine the availability of abortion and abortion training in your
644 community. Network with other organizations, including religious groups, to guarantee
645 women's access to abortion services by ensuring there are enough trained doctors. Ask abortion
646 providers how they might be best supported. Meet with local medical school officials to discuss
647 their educational requirements. Write to the American Medical Association in support of
648 abortion training. Contact your elected federal representatives to ask that federal funds be denied
649 to medical schools which do not offer abortion training for their residents. Support federal and
650 local legislation providing for abortion and providing safe access for staff and patients.

651 **Related Prior Social Witness Statements:** Federal Legislation for Choice, 1993; Right to
652 Choose, 1987; A Religious Statement on Abortion: A Call to Commitment, 1980; Abortion: A
653 Right to Choose, 1978; For the Right To Abortion, 1975; Abortion, 1973; Abortion, 1968;
654 Reform of Abortion Statutes, 1963.

Study/Action Issues – First Year

An Alternative to the “War on Drugs”

655

656 **Issue:** How can Unitarian Universalists contribute to a reformulation of drug policies which
657 would reduce drug use without infringing on civil liberties, scapegoating minority communities,
658 interfering with the internal affairs of other countries, or dehumanizing drug users?

659 **Background and Reasons for Study:** In 1998 over 500 world leaders declared that the war on
660 drugs was doing more harm than the drugs themselves. Coercive measures have had little impact
661 in reducing drug use, but they have clogged our criminal justice system and produced an
662 unusually large number of non-violent offenders in United States prisons. The drug war has
663 been particularly hard on the poor and people of color: African Americans use about 13% of the
664 drugs and do 74% of the prison time for simple possession.

665 Drug war interventions in Central and South America have undermined democratic institutions,
666 driven peasants into greater poverty, and damaged rainforests. Innocent collateral victims of this
667 war include HIV babies and people living with AIDS, glaucoma, and other diseases for which
668 they are denied adequate medicine. All this has resulted without significantly slowing the use of
669 drugs. Drug war policy-makers continually use political rhetoric and mythology to disparage
670 expert opinion, scientific facts, and alternative drug management strategies that have been
671 successfully used by other countries. Our national leaders have refused to recognize the mandate
672 of eight states for the unrestricted use of marijuana for medicinal purposes.

673 Most of the more than \$18 billion dollars budgeted by the federal government to fight the drug
674 war is allocated to police action. Unitarian Universalists have opposed this punitive approach to
675 drug abuse for two decades. Legislators who would support a more balanced approach to drug
676 use need the support which a strong Unitarian Universalist statement on this issue can provide.
677 We can make a difference to the world we inhabit; it’s now time to revisit this issue.

678 **Possible Study Questions:** Are there more effective and less coercive ways to reduce drug
679 abuse? Are there corporations or government or private agencies that profit from both illegal
680 drugs and the drug war against their use, and are thus supporting both? Does prohibition offer us
681 any lessons for fighting this drug war? What facts about drugs are not yet well enough known to
682 base policy upon? What myths are entrenched but untrue? Why do police target minorities,
683 particularly in the inner city, when statistics often document more per capita abuse in the
684 suburbs? How effective are current anti-drug education programs for children, youth, and young
685 adults? How can we look through an anti-racism lens to understand the drug war better?

686 **Possible Actions:** Educate ourselves about the realities of the drug war; and inform community
687 leaders, legislators, and police officials. Form coalitions with other organizations (e.g., the
688 ACLU and Amnesty International) who are also concerned about the negative effects of this
689 “war.” Support laws to provide more positive and rehabilitative drug treatment programs using
690 government and corporate funding. Support rehabilitated drug abusers in our congregations and
691 communities.

692 **Related Prior Social Witness Statements:** Substance Abuse, 1991; Drugs, 1973; Legalization
693 of Marijuana, 1970; Narcotics Legislation, 1965.

Leveling the Technological Playing Field For All Children

694

695 **Issue:** How can Unitarian Universalists work in coalition with other faith groups to help ensure
696 that “no child need fall behind” in educational preparation for admission to tomorrow’s digitally
697 dominated world?

698 **Background and Reasons for Study:** The United States and Canada are in the middle of a
699 technological revolution that can potentially widen the gap between the haves and the have-nots.
700 Unitarian Universalists have traditionally had a strong commitment to public education, whose
701 goal has been to ensure all children are given a fair start in life, irrespective of race or economic
702 status. Education transcends the walls of our public schools, however, studies have proven that
703 students who have consistent access to technology, both before kindergarten and throughout
704 primary and secondary education, can better learn. Computer proficiency is the modern
705 equivalent of reading and writing abilities in the past, and educationally disadvantaged children
706 need public advocacy in order to achieve it.

707 **Possible Study Questions:** In schools where the majority of students are of color and/or poor, is
708 there as much access to technology as in the more advantaged schools? How can access to
709 computers be made more available? How can computer ownership be made more available?
710 What federal, state, or private assistance is available, and how can the funds be secured for the
711 children who need them? How can Unitarian Universalists work in their communities to
712 establish tutorial programs for students with limited or no access to computers?

713 **Possible Actions:** Work with community groups and local governments to establish and
714 maintain effective tutorial programs. Vote for tax increases that would provide additional funds
715 for schools and community centers to improve access to computers. Begin a community-wide
716 dialogue that would create coalitions for program development, funding, and systemic changes
717 on behalf of educationally disadvantaged children.

718 **Related Prior Social Witness Statements:** None.

Study/Action Issues – First Year

719

No Place For Hate

720 **Issue:** What can Unitarian Universalists do to encourage communities to work toward becoming
721 hate-free in view of racism, homophobia, sexism, virulent nationalism, and anti-Semitism which
722 still abound in our communities, though sometimes in insidious and inconspicuous forms?

723 **Background and Reasons for Study:** Last year, the Anti-Defamation League sponsored
724 initiatives throughout the United States with the purpose of inviting every city and town to
725 declare themselves “No Place For Hate.” This year enacting strong hate-crime laws is on the
726 agenda for the United States Congress and many state legislatures. Unitarian Universalists are
727 committed to lead our communities away from hate and toward reason, open understanding, and
728 love. “No Place for Hate” is a program that asks the citizens of every city and town to recognize
729 ways to cope with hate crimes that are punishable by law, and not well understood in society,
730 such as bias-motivated violence and intimidation; racial, religious, or ethnic violations of civil
731 rights; discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender, age, or disability; and
732 institutional vandalism. Working to encourage hate-free communities would empower Unitarian
733 Universalists to invite people of other faiths into dialogue to explore ways to address explicit
734 hate crimes and to uncover and address latent hateful attitudes that could become the seedbed for
735 hate crimes.

736 **Possible Study Questions:** How can we help ourselves and each other to discover the roots of
737 hatred in ourselves and use this knowledge constructively? How can your congregation mobilize
738 to adopt and put into practice anti-hate resolutions? How can you raise awareness within the
739 community as to what hate looks like in its latent and explicit forms? How can you create
740 positive interest in the community by working with other faith communities to support a public
741 proclamation and various programs dedicated to combat hate, hate crimes, and indifference to
742 hate crimes? What resources do organizations such as the Southern Poverty Law Center, Anti-
743 Defamation League, the United States Department of Justice, and others have to offer?

744 **Possible Actions:** Organize anti-bias and diversity training for teachers and public
745 administrators and students. Arrange an exchange between students from schools in different
746 neighborhoods, towns, or cities. Establish a town-sponsored Human Rights Day, Walk for
747 Respect, Sports for Harmony athletic tournament, or Multi-cultural Film Festival. Involve
748 people in your city or town in producing a public display or conducting an essay contest on the
749 effects of hate. Contact appropriate public administrators, education leaders, and other religious
750 and secular leaders to ascertain what policies and programs are already in place that support the
751 spirit of “No Place for Hate.” Organize a public forum for open dialogue on this issue, for the
752 purpose of enlightening and involving the congregation, friends, and the broader community in
753 reflection on their own responsibility for combating hate, hate crimes, and indifference. Take
754 part in “Stop the Hate” community vigils encouraged by The Interfaith Alliance. Encourage
755 your congressional leaders to support the Hate Crimes Prevention Act.

756 **Related Prior Social Witness Statements:** Condemnation of Sacramento Synagogue Arson,
757 1999; Support of Black Churches, 1996.

Understanding the Challenges of Globalization

758

759 **Issue:** How can Unitarian Universalist congregations help articulate the changes, both welcome
760 and unwelcome, that globalization promises to bring to all our communities so that we may
761 better be able to support one another intentionally to take advantage of the benefits of
762 globalization while avoiding the costs?

763 **Background and Reasons for Study:** The revolution in technology and telecommunications,
764 particularly the Internet, is bringing about a shift in the way people are connected and become
765 interdependent around the world. This globalization of the economy offers access to
766 standardized products and services for those who wish to have them and have the means to
767 acquire them. Additionally, it requires communities to reconcile their local identity with their
768 newfound global identity.

769 Unitarian Universalists have been active in drawing public attention to the dislocations and the
770 lack of democratic process associated with international structures, such as the World Trade
771 Organization (WTO), the General Agreement on Trade and Tariffs (GATT), the Jubilee 2000
772 Debt Forgiveness Program, the Public Citizen's Global Trade Watch, and the Fifty Years is
773 Enough Campaign to end some of the current policy practices of the World Bank and
774 International Monetary Fund. Many of these structures have been established with the apparent
775 objective of serving the interests of multinational business at the expense of individual
776 workers/consumers. The WTO, originally appointed to arbitrate trade disputes among nations,
777 appears to be increasingly displacing the power of nations to control their own economies.

778 **Possible Study Questions:** How do race and class affect our perception of these issues? How
779 does our consumption affect people in the countries in which those goods were manufactured?
780 Should the United States and Canada commit themselves principally to requiring certain
781 standards regarding labor, safety, and environmental standards, and consequences if those
782 standards are not met? How will a technologically driven global economy affect the various
783 citizens? Do the benefits of globalization, such as lower price goods and services, justify the
784 resulting economic dislocations? Are local traditions and cultures in danger of being consumed
785 by a global culture fueled by consumerism?

786 **Possible Actions:** Work in coalition with other faith organizations to begin a dialogue regarding
787 the representation in the WTO and other such organizations. Talk to your Congressional or
788 Parliamentary representatives about these issues from your faith community's perspective.
789 Conduct dialogue circles in your congregation

790 **Related Prior Social Witness Statements:** Working for a Just Economic Community, 1997.

Statement of Conscience

791 *Adoption of the UUA Statement of Conscience requires a two-thirds vote. The General Assembly*
792 *may refer the UUA Statement of Conscience for one additional year of study/action by a two-*
793 *thirds vote. The Mini-Assembly on Friday at 6:15 p.m. offers an opportunity for discussion and*
794 *introduction of amendments from which the CSW produces a final draft.*

Economic Injustice, Poverty, and Racism: We Can Make a Difference!

795
796 Scope: Continental

797 We, the member congregations of the Unitarian Universalist Association, have dedicated
798 ourselves to the work of ending racism wherever we encounter it. We recognize that one
799 consequence of racism is economic injustice, which significantly contributes to the denial of
800 opportunity and to poverty. We pledge ourselves to strive to understand better the role that
801 racism plays in perpetuating poverty, and to work for the systemic changes needed to promote a
802 more just economy and compassionate society. Together, we can make a difference.

803 Economic injustice persists in spite of the longest period of economic prosperity in our history.
804 The gap between the rich and the poor continues to widen. Americans have lost the "war on
805 poverty," and its casualties include tens of millions of children and adults who continue to live in
806 poverty and hopelessness, a disproportionate share of whom are ethnic and racial minorities.

807 Working for a just society is central to our Unitarian Universalist faith. An economically just
808 society is one in which 1) government and private institutions promote the common economic
809 good and are held accountable; 2) all people have equal opportunity to care for themselves and
810 their families; and 3) individuals take responsibility for the effects of their actions on their own
811 and others' lives. But in reality, racism encourages people to perpetuate a system of privileges
812 and economic rewards that opens the door of opportunity much wider for some than for others.
813 This is intolerable.

814 We must look both inward and outward as we organize ourselves for action within our
815 congregations and beyond. Looking inward, the Unitarian Universalist community has only
816 begun its soul-searching toward the goal of becoming more inclusive and affirming. We
817 acknowledge the lack of racial and economic diversity within most of our congregations. We
818 realize that having more of such diversity would enrich and inform our community life.
819 However, having diverse congregations is not the only way to understand injustice in our society.

820 Looking outward, we can learn much and accomplish much by joining community organizations
821 in which diverse groups of people work together on economic justice issues, hold community
822 leaders accountable, and monitor their efforts toward achieving systemic improvements.
823 Economic injustices pervade our communities. These include:

- 824 • failure to pay fair and adequate wages and benefits;
- 825 • denial or erosion of access to housing, social services, child care, education, health care, legal
826 services, financial services, and transportation;
- 827 • environmental hazards being located in low-income neighborhoods;
- 828 • disrespect of treaty rights of First Nations and Native American Tribes;
- 829 • government and corporate policies that fail to promote economic investment in the urban
830 core and rural communities;

Statement of Conscience

831 • tax systems that enable affluent individuals and corporations to shelter assets and income
832 disproportionately at the expense of those less privileged; and

833 • an electoral process that equates wealth with free speech, resulting in disproportionate
834 representation.

835 As Unitarian Universalists, we have a religious and moral responsibility to challenge
836 complacency in ourselves and in our communities. We commit to fighting injustice wherever we
837 find it. We acknowledge that this may require transcending our own comfort and self-interest for
838 the greater good of an economically just and compassionate community. We will learn much as
839 we do this work.

840 Historically, Unitarians and Universalists have often been in the forefront of social reform. Our
841 history teaches that social change does not come easily and is not without risk. Nevertheless, at
842 the beginning of this new century, let us recommit to justice, equity, and compassion in human
843 relations. Let us embrace our responsibility to help create a more just world. Let us continue to
844 reflect and organize for action within our congregations and beyond our doors. Let us not
845 concede that injustice is tolerable. We will thereby enrich our individual lives, our
846 congregations, and the communities in which we work and live. We all can make a difference!