

## MINI-ASSEMBLIES

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

- **Mini-Assembly on Proposed Congregational Study/Action Issues** *Thursday 12:30 PM RICC Room 551*
- **Mini-Assembly on Proposed Bylaw Amendments** *Friday 12:30 PM RICC Room 551*
- **Mini-Assembly on Proposed Business Resolution** *Friday 5:00 PM RICC Room 551*
- **Mini-Assembly on Actions of Immediate Witness** *Saturday 10:15 AM RICC Room 552, 553, Ballroom E*

## BUSINESS RESOLUTION

The Proposed Business resolution will be discussed in a Mini-Assembly in room 551 of the Convention Center on Friday at 5:00 PM. After the Mini-Assemblies, the Board of Trustees consolidates results and formulates any amendments to be proposed.

## BYLAW AND RULE AMENDMENTS

Proposed Bylaw and Rule Amendments will be discussed in a Mini-Assembly in room 551 of the Convention Center on Friday at 12:30 PM. After the Mini-Assemblies, the Board of Trustees consolidates results and formulates any amendments to be proposed.

## PROPOSED CONGREGATIONAL STUDY/ACTION ISSUES 2014-2018

Discussion of the Proposed Congregational Study/Action Issues takes place in the Mini-Assembly on Thursday at 12:30 PM in room 551 of the Convention Center. The vote to select one issue for four years of study and action is scheduled for a General Session.

## 2012 CONGREGATIONAL STUDY/ACTION ISSUE: REPRODUCTIVE JUSTICE: EXPANDING OUR SOCIAL JUSTICE CALLING

No vote is taken this year on the Congregational Study/Action Issue (CSAI) that was chosen at the 2012 General Assembly. There will be a workshop on the topic offered Thursday at 10:15 AM in the Convention Center Ballroom D.

## ACTIONS OF IMMEDIATE WITNESS

Proposed Actions of Immediate Witness (AIWs) must be posted in the CSW exhibit booth (#823) by 5:00 PM on Thursday. The complete AIW, along with the requisite delegate signatures, must be filed in the Volunteer Office (Fifth Floor Lounge in the Convention Center) by 5:00 PM on Friday. Prior to voting on adoption on Sunday, preliminary action on AIWs will be taken at the Saturday morning General Session. Mini-Assemblies to discuss the proposed AIWs and offer amendments will be held on Saturday at 10:15 AM in rooms 552, 553, and Ballroom E of the Convention Center.

## BUDGET HEARING

The UUA Finance Committee members and UUA officers conduct a hearing on the 2014 - 2015 budget Friday at 10:15 AM in Room 551 of the Convention Center. This session offers an opportunity to ask questions about and consider changes to the budget. Motions on the budget must be submitted in writing in the GA Office (Fifth Floor Lounge in the Convention Center) by 5:00 PM on Saturday, for consideration Sunday.

# Living the Democratic Process

## PURPOSE

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

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

## SPEAKING IN GENERAL SESSIONS

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

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

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

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

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

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

**PROCEDURAL** questions are limited to:

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

Time used on procedural issues is included in the time set for debating the item on the floor. Procedural issues must be raised at the **PROCEDURE** microphone. They take precedence over discussion.

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

## DEBATE

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

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

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

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

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

## VOTING

Delegates vote by:

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

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

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

## MINI-ASSEMBLY

A Mini-Assembly is an opportunity for delegates to propose amendments to resolutions on the final agenda and to the proposed Actions of Immediate Witness admitted to the final agenda. It's also an opportunity to discuss the proposed amendments. In years when the selection of a Congregational Study/Action Issue is on the agenda, the Mini-Assembly is an opportunity to work collaboratively with other delegates on ways to garner support for their issue. In years when a vote to adopt a Statement of Conscience is on the agenda, the mini-assembly is an opportunity to work collaboratively with other delegates to draft amendments. Mini-Assemblies save time in General Session and permit freer debate than General Sessions do. It is not possible to offer an amendment to a business resolution, bylaw change, rule change, or social witness statement during General Session debate if it was not submitted for consideration at the appropriate Mini-Assembly.

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

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

## BUDGET HEARING

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

## STATEMENTS OF CONSCIENCE

**NOTE:** There is no proposed Statement of Conscience on the Agenda in 2014.

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

Debate is limited to 12 minutes per amendment.

## ACTIONS OF IMMEDIATE WITNESS

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

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

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

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

## TO GET YOUR QUESTIONS ANSWERED

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

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

**POINT OF PERSONAL PRIVILEGE.** Raise a point of personal privilege when your ability to do business is being hampered. Any delegate may request a Point of Personal Privilege. You go to the procedural microphone and say “Point of Personal Privilege” and wait to be recognized by the Moderator. After recognition, identify yourself and state your point

(no statement, no argument or preface, just the bare request), such as “It is not possible to hear from the pro microphone” or “Our section was not counted.”

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

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

**DO YOU HAVE AN AMENDMENT?** Are you unhappy with wording? Time constraints preclude more than two or three amendments to an item being considered in General Session. Preliminary work on agenda items is completed in the Mini-Assembly.

## COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

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

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

Once the Committee of the Whole has decided what it wants to do, a delegate moves that the Committee of the Whole “rise and report” specifying the agreed-upon result. The Moderator takes the Chair, and the General 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

## GENERAL SESSION I

Wednesday 7:30 PM

- Call to Order
- Welcome New Congregation
- Introduction: International Guests
- Introduction: Leaders from Youth Caucus and Young Adults @ GA
- Introduction: Right Relationship Team
- Review and Adopt Rules
- Recess

## GENERAL SESSION II

Thursday 9:15 am – 9:45 am

- Call to Order
- Right Relationship Team Report
- General Assembly Planning Committee and Greening of GA Report
- Committee on Social Witness Report
- Announcements
- Recess

## GENERAL SESSION III

Friday 8:00 AM – 9:45 AM

- Worship
- Call to Order
- Preliminary Credentials Report for GA 2014
- President's Report
- Moderator's Report
- Board of Trustees' Report
- Budget Report
- Legacy Society Memoriam
- GA Talk – YA@GA
- Announcements
- Recess

## GENERAL SESSION IV

Friday 2:15 PM – 4:30 PM

- Call to Order
- Debate and Vote on Congregational Study/ Action Issues
- GA Talk - Fossil Fuel Divestment
- Singing
- Beacon Press Report
- Journey Towards Wholeness Transformation Team Report
- Financial Advisor Report
- Announcements
- Recess

## GENERAL SESSION V

Saturday 8:00 AM --9:45 AM

- Worship
- Call to Order
- Right Relations Team Report
- Voting to admit potential actions of Immediate Witness to the Agenda.
- Introduction: Most Reverend Mitsuo Miyake, Chief Priest of the Konko Church of Izuo and President of the International Association for Religious Freedom
- Introduction: Coalition of UU International Organizations
- Celebration: Holdeen India Program's 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary
- Presentation: Distinguished Service Award
- GA Talk – Gathering for Purpose
- Announcements
- Recess

## GENERAL SESSION VI

Saturday 2:15 PM – 4:30 PM

- Call to Order
- Debate and Vote on Business Resolution on Fossil Fuel Divestment
- Special Collection to Support Standing on the Side of Love's Fifth Anniversary
- Singing
- GA Talk – Humanism and Theism in Conversation
- Presentation: Angus McLean Award
- UU Women's Federation Report
- GA Talk –Living Our Witness@WaterFire
- Announcements
- Recess

## GENERAL SESSION VII

Sunday 8:00 AM – 10:30 AM

- Call to Order
- Declare Election Results
- UU Service Committee Report
- UU College of Social Justice Report
- Debate and Vote on Actions of Immediate Witness
- Singing
- Presentation: Presidential Award for Volunteer Service
- GA Talk – YA@GA
- Debate and Vote on proposed amendments to C-2.3 regarding inclusion
- Announcements
- Recess

## GENERAL SESSION VII

Sunday 1:30 PM – 3:30 PM

- Call to Order
- Debate and Vote on proposed amendments to C-10.6 and C-10.7 regarding provisions concerning investments
- Debate and Vote on proposed amendments to C-3.6 to enable regions
- Responsive Resolutions (if any)
- Singing
- GA Talk – Follow Up: Gathering for Purpose and Straw Poll
- Invitation to GA 2015 in Portland
- Right Relations Team Final Report
- Final Credentials Report
- Adjournment

## RULE 1. ORDER OF BUSINESS

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

## RULE 2. MEANS OF VOTING

So long as a quorum is present, action on any question, unless the Bylaws otherwise provide, will be decided in the first instance by an uncounted show of hands/voting cards. If the Moderator wishes a counted vote or if a delegate requests it and the Moderator determines that at least 25% of the delegates present join in the request, the vote must be counted. Except for Congregational Study/Action Issues (Rule 11) and selection of AIWS for inclusion on the final agenda, 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 General Session, all matters submitted to a vote of the delegates will be determined by the number of votes cast by delegates present and voting on the matter. The required proportion of votes cast by delegates to approve any action or resolution will be as set forth in the Bylaws or Rules or these Rules of Procedure.

## RULE 3. MINUTES

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

## RULE 4. PRESENTATION OF ITEMS

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

## RULE 5. AMENDMENTS

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

## RULE 6. TIME LIMITS

The following time limits are imposed on all business transacted by the Assembly except as otherwise provided in these Rules for Actions of Immediate Witness, Congregational Study/Action Issues, and UUA Statement of Conscience. If, however, there is no objection from the floor, the Moderator may grant minor extensions of time. Any time limits imposed by this rule may be extended by a two-thirds vote.

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

## RULE 7. MICROPHONES

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

- 2) using such additional time remaining under Rule 6, if any, to speak in support of the amendment; and
- 3) stating the Board of Trustees' position at the outset of debate on those items on the Final Agenda on which the Board takes a position.
- c) Procedure Microphone. All other matters must be brought to the Procedure microphone or queue.
- b) under Bylaw Section 4.16(c), which permits the addition of Responsive Resolutions in response to a substantive portion of a report by an officer or committee reporting to the Assembly.

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

**RULE 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 2014 - 2015 budget that is to be made at the time provided for such motions during the formal business sessions must be filed in writing in the Volunteer Office not later than 5:00 PM Saturday. All such motions must provide for reductions in specific other categories of spending equivalent to the increase in spending recommended in the motion. Adoption of the motion requires a two-thirds vote.

**RULE 10. RESOLUTIONS AND ACTIONS NOT ON THE FINAL AGENDA**

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

- a) under Bylaw Section 4.16, which permits the addition of Actions of Immediate Witness to the Agenda and consideration of non-substantive resolutions;

**RULE 11. CONGREGATIONAL STUDY/ ACTION ISSUES**

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

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



## RULE 12. UUA STATEMENT OF CONSCIENCE

In a year in which a UUA Statement of Conscience is proposed, one hour will be allowed for debate.

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

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

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

## RULE 13. 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 in the Exhibit Hall must be delivered to the booth in the exhibit area no later than 5:00 PM Thursday, so that proposals may be made available for viewing prior to the filing deadline.
- c) The copy to be filed must have attached signatures showing the requisite delegate support specified in Bylaw Section 4.16(b)(2) and must be filed with the Commission on Social Witness in the Volunteer Office by no later than 5:00 PM Friday.
- d) The Commission on Social Witness will provide a summary of up to six proposed Actions of Immediate Witness that meet the criteria during Saturday morning's General Session.
- e) Each sponsor of a proposed Action of Immediate Witness determined by the Commission on Social Witness to be eligible will have two minutes to speak in support of obtaining a vote supporting the admission of the action to the agenda.
- f) Delegates will vote by ballot for up to three AIWs that they would like to see added to the final agenda.

- g) After the tellers count the ballots, the CSW chair will make a motion to add to the agenda each of the three proposed AIWs with the most votes. Those that receive a two-thirds vote are admitted to the Final Agenda for a vote at a subsequent General Session.
- h) The motion to admit is not debatable and requires a two-thirds vote of support.
- i) A motion to amend an Action of Immediate Witness is not in order in the General Session unless it first was presented to a Mini-Assembly, as described in Bylaw Section 4.16(b)(4). The Commission on Social Witness will have the discretion to prioritize the amendments including their presentation at the amendment microphone.
- j) Up to twenty minutes will be allowed for debate, if needed, on each proposed Action of Immediate Witness admitted to the final agenda. No amendment shall be in order unless there have been at least twelve minutes of debate, if that much is needed, on the merits of the proposed Action of Immediate Witness.
- k) Debate and voting on adoption of an Action of Immediate Witness will occur during General Session on Sunday. Adoption must be by two-thirds vote, as specified in Bylaw Section 4.16(b)(5). Proposed AIWs are not in competition with one another as are proposed Congregational Study/Action Issues. Each of the proposed AIWs admitted to the Final Agenda may be adopted or rejected by the delegates.

## RULE 14. AMENDING THE RULES OF PROCEDURE

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

## RULE 15. ADJOURNMENT

The final business session of the 2014 General Assembly will be adjourned no later than 3:00 PM on Sunday, June 29.

Five Proposed Congregational Study/Action Issues (CSAIs) appear on the Final Agenda as a result of the 2014 Congregational Poll. Prior to voting in General Session, discussion of these proposed CSAIs takes place in the Mini-Assembly on Thursday at 12:30 PM in room 551 of the Convention Center One issue will be chosen for study and action during the coming four years.

## CSAI – 1 Empowerment: Age and Ability Reconsidered

### 1 **Issue**

2 The personal is political. Young people and older people know what it's like to be abused, marginalized, and  
3 discriminated against because of their age and ability. How can congregations best empower young and old? How  
4 can people with different abilities, in different age groups, create the Beloved Community?

### 5 **Grounding**

6 Be the change that you want to see in the world. A primary purpose of the Unitarian Universalist Association  
7 (UUA) is to organize and support congregations. Our congregations are voluntary, self-governing groups that can  
8 empower individuals and that can demonstrate new possibilities for creating love and justice.

### 9 **Topics For Congregational Study**

- 10 • What's it like to be labeled as "young" or "old"?
- 11 • How do the different age groups experience age discrimination? What does "ableism" mean?
- 12 • What are the social trends that are relevant to aging and disability?
- 13 • Where do you want to be in ten years? How can your congregation be helpful?

### 14 **Possible Congregational/District Actions**

- 15 • Consciousness Raising: Talk with others about aging and disability. Listen.
- 16 • Empower the Powerless: Build justice-making congregations for all age groups.
- 17 • Welcome all people to religious services. Love one another.
- 18 • Support lifespan religious education. Surround people with love.
- 19 • Involve your whole congregation in caregiving.
- 20 • Create a safe, accessible, attractive environment.

### 21 **Prior Resolutions**

- 22 • Deepen our Commitment to an Anti-Oppressive, Multicultural UUA—2013 Responsive Resolution
- 23 • A Reminder to Support Our Youth and Young Adult Groups—2010 Responsive Resolution
- 24 • Accessibility for Persons with Disabilities—1997 Business Resolution
- 25 • Speak Out for Children—1996 General Resolution
- 26 • Older Women—1976 Business Resolution
- 27 • Senior Citizens Charter—1973 General Resolution
- 28 • Concern for Older Adults—1966 General Resolution

### 29 **Congregational Support:** Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Falmouth, MA

### 30 **Additional Documentation**

31 Because of new technology, and because of cultural changes, the discussion about age and ability is changing.  
32 The first person to live to age 150 has already been born. She may be a Unitarian Universalist already or she may  
33 decide to join one of our congregations as she grows older. She may give birth to her first child at age 60 and she  
34 may start a new career while she's in her 70s. If she lives with a wheelchair, she may never set foot in a church.  
35 What's the future for organized religion? How can congregations, districts, camps and schools, and national  
36 networks be helpful?

37 Love reaches out. Instead of focusing attention on one age group, or on one agency or program, this discussion is  
38 multigenerational and inclusive. Every age group knows age discrimination and every age group includes people  
39 with different abilities. Alzheimer's disease and autism, hearing and vision concerns, pastoral care arrangements,  
40 and the future of family life, are among the many topics that need congregational attention. Resources in the  
41 Unitarian Universalist Association are noted in the paragraphs that follow:

- 42 • Human Rights and Dignity: The personal is political. Decisions made in Congress, in corporate  
43 boardrooms, in universities, and in other power centers, will shape your personal experience. Consider  
44

- 45 the future of Social Security, the future of education and health care, and the future of the Americans with  
 46 Disabilities Act. Social justice training for young people, for older people, and for disability rights activists  
 47 is available. The Multicultural Growth and Witness staff group provides support.
- 48 • Celebrations: Look at the religious practices in your congregation. Congregations are often defined by  
 49 what they celebrate and by when and how they celebrate. It's important to also ask, "Who's included?"  
 50 Are your religious events accessible? Does your congregation provide coming of age ceremonies and  
 51 rituals that honor your congregation's elders? EqUUal Access is a Unitarian Universalist affinity group  
 52 that can help your congregation to reduce barriers. The Unitarian Universalist Association can assist your  
 53 congregation in developing multigenerational and multicultural celebrations.
- 54 • Religious Education: The Unitarian Universalist Association provides religious education materials for  
 55 all age groups. The Tapestry of Faith curricula and the Our Whole Lives series for sexuality education  
 56 promote lifespan education. Support the networks and the service projects that serve youth and young  
 57 adults. Should similar programs be developed for other age groups? What programs are needed for  
 58 caregivers in their 40s and for retired people in their 70s?
- 59 • Caregiving: Faith-based organizations are developing new programs for caregiving. Some congregations  
 60 employ parish nurses, many sponsor wellness programs, and many are involved in advocacy programs  
 61 for young people and older people. Some congregations provide transportation to religious gatherings  
 62 and community programs. Because of climate change concerns, some congregations are becoming  
 63 increasingly involved with emergency services work. "Buddy systems" and pastoral care teams have  
 64 been developed in some congregations. The Unitarian Universalist Trauma Response Ministry provides  
 65 assistance in the wake of mass disasters.
- 66 • Buildings and Grounds: Religious buildings and grounds should be safe, accessible, and attractive,  
 67 and they should demonstrate best practices for the whole community. The Policy Committee of EqUUal  
 68 Access has prepared access guidelines for congregations. The Green Sanctuary program is also involved  
 69 with access issues and with health and safety concerns. Improve the usefulness, quality, and beauty of  
 70 the built environment.

## CSAI – 2 Ending the War on Terror

71 **Issue**

72 Since September 11, 2001, the United States has been engaged in a “war on terror,” with the doctrine that “the  
73 world is a battlefield.” Torture, extraordinary rendition, detention without trial, extrajudicial assassination by drone  
74 strike, dragnet surveillance of phone and internet communications, and military intervention have been conducted  
75 in the name of combating terrorism. The military consumes a vast share of the discretionary Federal budget.  
76 Yet because much of this war is conducted in secret and constitutes killing by remote control, it is often virtually  
77 invisible in Americans’ daily lives, despite our collective responsibility for it. Making the invisible visible as the  
78 basis for moral choice is central to the religious practice.

79 **Grounding in Unitarian Universalism**

80 Unitarian Universalist principles include “the goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all.” But  
81 how do we live by this goal in a chaotic world? Unitarian Universalists have classically been divided between  
82 pacifists and those who accept Just War. The Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) is still somewhat on the  
83 sidelines when there are peace initiatives (on Syria, for example); could a new Study/ Action Issue build upon yet  
84 move beyond the 2010 Statement of Conscience and bridge old divisions? By looking at the specifics of the post  
85 9/11 world, can we reach consensus for engagement in issues of anti-imperialism and global peace and justice?

86 **Topics for Congregational Study**

- 87 • What are the causes of terrorism?
- 88 • How does terrorism relate to insurgencies?
- 89 • Is the United States an empire? Are we “the indispensable nation”?
- 90 • Do we accept American exceptionalism?
- 91 • What would a strengthened international peacekeeping force under United Nations auspices entail?
- 92 • How do wars and insurgencies end by political settlement?
- 93 • What are the legal, political, and ethical issues in extrajudicial assassination by drone strike?
- 94 • What are the legal, political, and ethical issues in the National Security Agency’s surveillance of phone  
95 and internet communications?
- 96 • Should the United States develop and practice offensive cyberwar, as it is now doing?
- 97 • How does American foreign and military policy relate to the economic interests of American and global  
98 corporations?
- 99 • Have techniques developed to combat foreign terrorism been applied to domestic activist groups, as well  
100 as communities of color and religious confession?
- 101 • Should the United States stop exempting itself from judgment by the International Criminal Court?
- 102 • How are peace and justice related? How does our economy have to change, how do we have to change,  
103 if we are to live in peace?

104 **Possible Congregational / District Actions**

- 105 • Form coalitions with other local groups and work toward a City Council resolutions on drones. Resolutions  
106 could state that Economic Development money may not be used toward such projects.
- 107 • Work with immigrant rights groups to oppose the use of drones on the Mexican border.
- 108 • Partner with mosques to offer solidarity to the Islamic community, which has been subject to hate in the  
109 “war on terror.”
- 110 • Form study groups, involve cyber specialists and Constitutional scholars in our congregations and  
111 communities to join us, and be in touch with elected officials on surveillance by the National Security  
112 Agency. Give leadership to younger congregants and community members with expertise in cyber issues.
- 113 • Talk with elected officials about surveillance and work for legislation protecting citizens’ privacy from  
114 government and corporations.
- 115 • Educate ourselves via discussion / film / study groups.
- 116 • Identify local links in the “war on terror”—drone contractors, for example.
- 117 • Develop spiritual practices for peacemaking, including meditation, truth speaking, conciliation, and bridge-  
118 building.
- 119 • Explore opportunities for nonviolent resistance and non-cooperation with war and surveillance.
- 120 • Reach out to groups that have been marginalized or subjected to suspicion.
- 121 • Forming alliances with those working for economic justice in a joint campaign for budget priorities.

122 **Related Prior Social Witness Statements**

- 123 • “Creating Peace” Statement of Conscience, adopted June 2010.



124 **Attached Documentation**

- 125 • Jeremy Scahill, *Dirty Wars*.
- 126 • Medea Benjamin, *Drone Warfare*.
- 127 • James Bamford, *The Shadow Factory*
- 128 • Akbar Ahmed, *The Thistle and the Drone: How America's War on Terror Became a Global War on Islam*
- 129 • Richard Clarke and Robert Knake, *Cyber War*
- 130 • Audrey Kurth Cronin, *How Terrorism Ends* Marc Ambinder, *Deep State*
- 131 • David Keen, *Useful Enemies*
- 132 • John Paul Lederach, *Building Peace*
- 133 • Glen Greenwald
- 134 • The National Security Agency (NSA) Files

135 **Sampling of Organizations**

- 136 • Unitarian Universalist Peacemakers
- 137 • Friends Committee on National Legislation
- 138 • Just Foreign Policy
- 139 • Electronic Frontier Foundation
- 140 • Foreign Policy in Focus
- 141 • UU United Nations Office
- 142 • Quaker Office at the United Nations
- 143 • Mennonite Peacemakers
- 144 • Peace Action

## CSAI – 3 Escalating Inequality

145 **Issue**

146 Upward mobility—the American Dream—has become a myth. Concentration of wealth and power has  
 147 skyrocketed. King’s dream of justice and equality has fractured. Half of all Americans are impoverished or  
 148 struggling, as the middle class shrinks and billionaires take the profits. Where’s our commitment to the Common  
 149 Good?

150 **Grounding in Unitarian Universalism**

151 Our Unitarian Universalist (UU) tradition places its faith in people to create a more loving community for all, guided  
 152 by “justice, equity, and compassion in human relations”. Challenging extreme inequality has now become a moral  
 153 imperative, just as prior generations have led movements from abolition to civil rights and marriage equality.

154 **Topics for Congregational Study**

- 155 • What do the numbers show about the expansion of extreme wealth and increase in struggling  
 156 households?
- 157 • What are the lessons to be learned from the history of movements for economic justice, here and abroad,  
 158 dating back to the last Gilded Age?
- 159 • How are social classes formed and what practices will help us transcend class barriers in our  
 160 congregations and communities?
- 161 • What do studies say about the indirect social outcomes of growing economic inequality? These include  
 162 hidden effects on hierarchy, discrimination, segregation, minorities, physical and mental health, education,  
 163 violence, punishment, political polarization, and public services.
- 164 • Study root causes of inequality, such as corporate globalization, “free trade”, outsourcing, privatization,  
 165 tax shifting and evasion, subsidies and bailouts, monopoly, suppression of labor, money in politics,  
 166 “externalizing” social and environmental costs, “free market” / libertarian ideologies, deregulation,  
 167 unlimited income / wealth.
- 168 • Where to begin: Money out of politics, minimum / living wages, debt servitude / predatory lending. Justice  
 169 and fairness in taxes and trade. Re-regulate Wall Street and empower workers. Grow opportunity through  
 170 better healthcare, education, public services, cooperatives, media, and democracy. Develop a deeper  
 171 understanding of classism.
- 172 • Distinguishing among the moral, social, economic, political, and sustainability implications of inequality,  
 173 imagine a new strategy for the Common Good - “caring and sharing” on a societal level.

174 **Possible Congregational / District Actions**

- 175 • Collect current and historical resources on inequality, written and online, from here and abroad.
- 176 • Enlighten yourselves via discussion / film / study groups on the effects, causes, and history of inequality.
- 177 • Develop a variety of spiritual experiences to inspire UUs to transcend barriers of class.
- 178 • Organize action agendas on select issues, networking with other congregations and allied secular and  
 179 interfaith groups. Collaborate, as feasible, with UU organizations like state Legislative Networks, UUJEC,  
 180 and UUSC.
- 181 • Join to develop a vision of the common good that animates a movement toward sustainable well-being for  
 182 all, to reduce demands on the earth’s resources, and to nourish the soul by sharing life’s essentials.

183 **Related Prior Social Witness Statements**

- 184 • AIW: Amend the Constitution: Corporations are not Persons and Money is not Speech (2013)
- 185 • AIW: Raise the Federal Minimum Wage to \$10 in 2010 ( 2008)
- 186 • AIW: Single Payer Health Care (2008)
- 187 • AIW: End Present Day Slavery in the Fields (2008)
- 188 • AIW: Support Immigrant Justice (2006)
- 189 • AIW: Support for the Millennium Development Goal One: Ending Extreme Poverty (2005)
- 190 • SOC: Economic Globalization (2003)
- 191 • SOC: Economic Injustice, Poverty, and Racism: We Can Make a Difference (2000)
- 192 • GR: Working for a Just Economic Community (1997)
- 193 • GR: A Job, A Home, A Hope (1995)

194 **Endorsing Congregations**

- 195 • Unitarian Church of Evanston IL
- 196 • First UU Church of San Diego CA
- 197 • Unitarian Church of Staten Island NY

198 **Attached Documentation**199 **Sampling of Books / Websites / Videos**

- 200 • *The Spirit Level—Why Greater Equality Makes Societies Stronger* by Richard Wilkinson and Kate Pickett
- 201 • Film “Inequality for All” featuring by Robert Reich
- 202 • *Beyond Outrage* by Robert Reich
- 203 • Talk “Capitalism Hits the Fan” by Richard D. Wolff
- 204 • Animated website by the Economic Policy Institute
- 205 • *The Price of Inequality—How Today’s Divided Society Endangers Our Future* by Joseph Stiglitz
- 206 • Project Syndicate: Zombie Growth
- 207 • *99 to 1 - How Wealth Inequality Is Wrecking the World and What We Can Do About It* by Chuck Collins
- 208 • Videos by Chuck Collins, Richard Wilkinson, and more
- 209 • *The End of Growth—Adapting to Our New Economic Reality* by Richard Heinberg
- 210 • *The End of Growth* by Jeff Rubin
- 211 • *Nickled and Dimed: On (Not) Getting By in America* by Barbara Ehrenreich
- 212 • *The Transition Companion—Making Your Community More Resilient in Uncertain Times* by Rob Hopkins
- 213 • *The Great Divergence—America’s Inequality Crisis and What We Can Do About It* by Timothy Noah
- 214 • *People Like Us*, a PBS series on social class with teacher’s guide
- 215 • Class Matters
- 216 • *The Economics of Good and Evil—The Quest for Economic Meaning from Gilgamesh to Wall Street* by Tomas Sedlacek
- 217 • *Agenda for a New Economy* by David Korten
  - 219 ○ *American Beyond Capitalism—Reclaiming our Wealth, our Liberty, and our Democracy* by Gar Alperovitz
  - 220 ○ Gar Alperovitz’s Green Party Keynote (video)
- 221 • *The Wal-Mart Effect: How the World’s Most Powerful Company Really Works and How It’s Transforming the American Economy* by Charles Fishman
- 222 • *The Global Class War* by Jeff Faux
- 223 • *Bad Samaritans: The Myth of Free Trade and the Secret History of Capitalism* by Ha-Joon Chang
- 224 • *23 Things They Don’t Tell You About Capitalism* by Ha-Joon Chang
- 225 • *The Inheritance: How Three Families and the American Political Majority Moved from Left to Right* by Samuel G. Freedman
- 226 • *Prosperity Economics (PDF): Building An Economy for All* by Jacob S. Hacker and Nate Loewentheil
- 227 • *Billionaire’s Ball: Gluttony and Hubris in an Age of Epic Inequality* by Linda McQuaig and Neil Brooks
- 228 • *Reimagining Equality: Stories of Gender, Race, and Finding Home* by Anita Hill
- 229 • *Wealth and Our Commonwealth: Why America Should Tax Accumulated Fortunes* by Chuck Collins and William H. Gass
- 230 • *Bridging the Class Divide: And Other Lessons for Grassroots Organizing* by Linda Stout
- 231 • “*They Take Our Jobs!*”: *And 20 Other Myths About Immigration* by Aviva Chomsky
- 232 • *(Not) Keeping Up With Our Parents: The Decline of the Professional Middle Class* by Nan Mooney
- 233 • *Big-Box Swindle: The True Cost of Mega Retailers and the Fight for America’s Independent Businesses* by Stacy Mitchell
- 234 • *Social Insecurity: 401(k)s and the Retirement Crisis* by James W. Russell
- 235 • The Missing Class: Portraits of the Near Poor in America by Katherine Newman and Victor Tan Chen
- 236 • *Traveling Light: On the Road with America’s Poor* by Kath Weston
- 237 • *The Student Loan Scam: The Most Oppressive Debt in U.S. History—and How We Can Fight Back* by Alan Michael Collinge
- 238 • *The Great Risk Shift: The New Economic Insecurity and the Decline of the American Dream* by Jacob Hacker
- 239 • *Winner-Take-All Politics: How Washington Made the Rich Richer -- and Turned Its Back on the Middle Class* by Jacob Hacker and Paul Pierson
- 240 • *Unequal Democracy: The Political Economy of the New Gilded Age* by Larry Bartels
- 241 • *Affluence and Influence: Economic Inequality and Political Power in America* by Martin Gilens
- 242 • *Ill Fares the Lan* by Tony Judt
- 243 • *Who Rules America? The Triumph of the Corporate Rich* by William Domhoff
- 244 • *The Big Squeeze: Tough Times for the American Worker* by Steven Greenhouse

252 **Sampling of Organizations**

- 253 • Unitarian Universalists for a Just Economic Community
- 254 • Unitarian Universalist Service Committee
- 255 • United for a Fair Economy
- 256 • Institute for Policy Studies
- 257 • Economic Policy Institute

- 258 • Equality Trust
- 259 • Post Carbon Institute
- 260 • Transition Network
- 261 • Interfaith Worker Justice
- 262 • Americans for Financial Reform
- 263 • Move to Amend
- 264 • Public Citizen
- 265 • Dollars and Sense—Real World Economics
- 266 • Network of Spiritual Progressives
- 267 • Industrial Areas Foundation

#### 268 **Additional Information on Social Class**

- 269 • *Elite: Uncovering Classism in Unitarian Universalist History*, written by UU minister Mark Harris. A discussion guide was created for the book by Gail Forsyth-Vail and Susan Dana Lawrence, both of the UUA.
- 270
- 271
- 272 • Mark Harris (2011) *A Faith of the Few? UU World*, pp 22-27
- 273 • Rev. Dr. Mark Morrison Reed at 2011 GA discussed that lack of racial diversity was a function of lack of class diversity--so if we want to grow a multicultural/multiracial diversity, we need to tackle inclusion of different classes of people.
- 274
- 275
- 276 • Suzanne Zilber, PhD, led a workshop exploring issues of class at Midwest Unitarian Universalist Summer Assembly (MUUSA). In October, Suzanne facilitated this 6 hour workshop at UU Fellowship of Ames, Iowa.
- 277
- 278
- 279 • Rev. Lynn Thomas Strauss has led workshops on Classism with Unitarian Universalism for UU ministers in five UUMA chapters around the country.
- 280
- 281 • Doug Muder in *UU World Magazine*, Fall 2007 wrote “Not my father’s religion” about how uncomfortable UU would have been for his working class father.
- 282
- 283 • Stout, Linda (1996) *Bridging the Class Divide and other Lessons for Grassroots Organizing*. Boston, MA: Beacon Press.
- 284
- 285 • William Liu (2011) *Social Class and Classism in the Helping Professions*. Sage Publications
- 286 • Alvarez, L. and Kolker, A. (2001) *People Like Us: Social Class in America*. [Film] New York, NY: The Center for New America Media
- 287
- 288 • Smith, L. (2010) *Psychology, poverty and the end of social exclusion: Putting our practice to work*. New York, NY: Teacher’s College Press
- 289
- 290 • Barratt, W. (2011) *Social Class on Campus: Theories and Manifestations*. Sterling, VA: Stylus Publishing
- 291
- 292 • Hayes, C. (2012) *Twilight of the Elites: American after Meritocracy*. New York, NY: Random House
- 293
- 294 • Leondar-Wright, B. (2005) *Class Matters: Cross-Class Alliance Building for Middle Class Activists*. New Society Publishers
- 295
- 296 • Labonowski, P, and Freeman, P. ( 20??) *Created Equal: A Curriculum for High Schoolers and Middle Schoolers on Class and Classism*
- 297
- 298 • New York Times correspondents (2005) *Class Matters*. New York, NY: Henry Holt
- 299 • American Psychological Association (2008) *Report on the task force on resources for the inclusion of social class in psychology curricula* (PDF)
- 300 • Collins, C and Yeskel, F (2005) *Economic Apartheid: A primer on economic inequality and insecurity*, United for a Fair Economy



## CSAI – 4 Gun Violence: A Public Health Issue

301 **Issue**

302 Since 1963 166,500 children and teenagers have lost their lives to guns. That is an average of 3,470 deaths  
 303 every year for 50 years. The number of children and teens killed by guns since 1963 is three times as great as the  
 304 number of personnel killed in action in the Vietnam, Afghanistan, and Iraq wars combined. That is an average of  
 305 eight children a day.

306 Every time a tragedy like Newtown occurs the gun industry would have us ask ourselves, “How did this happen?”  
 307 The events of Newtown, Aurora, Columbine, Seattle, Fort Hood, Virginia Tech, Wisconsin and oh, so many  
 308 more are not isolated. They are the direct result of the NRA’s perpetration to sell more guns, to make guns more  
 309 accessible, to reduce the restrictions on gun purchasing. It is all about the selling of guns and creating new  
 310 markets for guns.

311 We are in the midst of an epidemic of violence fueled by the gun industry. The problem of gun violence is a  
 312 public health issue. We can approach the situation the same way we challenged the tobacco industry, namely by  
 313 exposing the facts. Because of the facts we have learned to wear seat belts, we have safer highways. We have  
 314 learned the dangers of smoking, and that foods and drugs need to be regulated.

315 It is our right as citizens to have access to this data and to all facts regarding consumer products. It is how we  
 316 make informed decisions. It is unbelievable to me that guns and firearms are not regulated by the Consumer  
 317 Product Safety Act. The gun industry has strategically protected itself from the consequences of its very harmful  
 318 products. Let’s learn the facts and take on the national gun industry.

319 **Grounding in Unitarian Universalism**

320 As our first UU Principle states, we affirm the worth and dignity of all people. We are called to action on behalf of  
 321 the innocent victims of gun violence.

322 **Topics for Congregational Study**

- 323 • What are the cultural factors that contribute to gun violence?
- 324 • How is the second amendment used to justify current gun laws?
- 325 • What are the laws and policies of other nations in regard to gun laws?
- 326 • How does the culture of violence affect the lives of children?
- 327 • What is the relationship between gun violence and unaddressed mental health issues?

328 **Possible Congregational / District Actions**

- 329 • Work with state and federal legislators to pass common sense gun laws.
- 330 • Work to create a federal agency to collect, integrate all data regarding gun crimes.
- 331 • Schedule a series of forums to educate the public about this issue.
- 332 • Initiate programs that support families affected by gun violence.
- 333 • Establish local vigils to build community awareness of this issue.
- 334 • Incorporate a time in your church services to remember victims of gun violence.
- 335 • Create study groups to educate and book clubs to educate and reflect on gun violence.

336 **Related Prior Social Witness Statements**

- 337 • In 1972, 1976, 1991, 200, and 2004, the Unitarian Universalist General Assembly passed resolutions  
 338 supporting commonsense gun laws.

339 **Additional Documentation**340 **Sources**

- 341 • Diaz, Tom; “*The Last Gun*”, The New Press, New York, 2013
- 342 • Edelman, Marion Wright, *Network Connection*, Second Quarter 2013
- 343 • Palfrey, Judith S. MD and Palfrey, Sean MD “*Preventing Gun Death in Children*” New England Journal of  
 344 Medicine
- 345 • Hemnway, David Phd, and Miller Matthew MD, “*Public Health Approach to Prevention of Gun Violence*”;  
 346 New England Journal of Medicine 2013

347 **Other Groups**

- 348 • Mayors Against Illegal Guns
- 349 • Moms Demand Action
- 350 • UU Mass Action
- 351 • Violence Policy Center

## CSAI – 5 Renewing and Securing Our American Democracy

352 **Issue and Grounding in Unitarian Universalism**

- 353 • Negative campaigning,
- 354 • Voter suppression efforts,
- 355 • Huge infusions of cash from super-rich donors and narrow special interests into our election and political
- 356 processes,
- 357 • Hyper-partisan politics,
- 358 • The alienation of ordinary citizens,
- 359 • Decreasing voter turnout,
- 360 • The erosion of our civil liberties,

361 All contribute to a growing fear that our American democracy and government of, by and for the people are in  
362 jeopardy.

363 What can we Unitarian Universalists—with our commitment to justice, equity and the use of the democratic  
364 process in society at large—do to protect, renew, secure and further democracy in America?

365 **Topics for Congregational Study**

- 366 • Stop or restrict virtually unlimited contributions to political campaigns; if so, how?
- 367 • Publicly finance campaigns
- 368 • Support the “people’s pledge” by candidates to keep “outside money” out of campaigns
- 369 • Require much greater education in our public schools in the areas of civics, economics, current events,
- 370 foreign affairs, international organizations
- 371 • Schedule a national voter information holiday one week before each federal election; would such a
- 372 holiday, properly structured, promote “positive” campaigning?
- 373 • Oppose voter suppression efforts
- 374 • Support the National Popular Vote (for President) campaign
- 375 • Determine and advocate whether, and how, we can have security without sacrificing our civil liberties

376 **Possible Congregational / District Actions**

- 377 • grassroots organizing
- 378 • legislative lobbying
- 379 • registration of voters
- 380 • develop and publish educational guides and hold pertinent educational and informational sessions
- 381 • host candidate forums
- 382 • support the establishment of independent, non-partisan boards to accomplish political redistricting
- 383 • work with groups such as Common Cause, National Popular Vote, ACLU, etc.
- 384 • support full restoration of the Voting Rights Act
- 385 • hold “brainstorming” sessions that would encourage people to think “outside the box” as to possible ways
- 386 we can renew and secure our democracy

387 **Related Prior Social Witness Statements**

- 388 • “Amend the Constitution: Corporations are not Persons and Money is not Speech” (Action of Immediate
- 389 Witness, 2013);
- 390 • “Oppose Citizens United—Support Free Speech for People” (AIW, 2011);
- 391 • “Advocate Pending Legislation Toward Clean, Honest, and Fair Elections in the United States” (AIW,
- 392 2009);
- 393 • “Defending and Expanding Freedom of the Airwaves” (AIW, 2005);
- 394 • “Civil Liberties” (Statement of Conscience, 2004);
- 395 • “Electronic Voting” (AIW, 2004)

These proposed bylaw and rule changes establish regions as one possible unit of geographic responsibility and specifically acknowledge the MidAmerica Region.

The mini-assembly for this item is in room 551 of the Convention Center on Friday at 12:30 PM.

Underlining indicates insertion; brackets indicate deletion.

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

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

401 (a) the congregatizon in question, whenever possible; and

402 (b) the President of the district or region in which the congregation is located or such other authorized official  
 403 as the district or region designates in writing to the Association.

404 **Section C-13.1. Districts and Regions.**

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

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

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

409 **Section C-13.4 Autonomy.**

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

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

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

418 (b) **Transition Provision. The amendments to Rule G-13.2.1 deleting the Central Midwest, Heartland,**  
 419 **and Prairie Star districts, shall not become effective until those Districts dissolve. This transition**  
 420 **provision shall automatically be deleted from the bylaws following the first regular General**  
 421 **Assembly occurring after all of those districts have dissolved.**

In January 2013, the UUA Board of Trustees voted to place the following note in the 2013 General Assembly Agenda:

The proposed Section C-2.3 on Inclusion was part of a revision of Article II proposed by the Commission on Appraisal in 2009 in its role as a study commission, as authorized by Article XV. The 2009 General Assembly did not approve the Commission’s revisions to Article II, but passed a responsive resolution to “request that the UUA Board of Trustees place a motion to substitute the recommended language of Section C-2.4 “Inclusion” for the current bylaw C-2.3 “Non-discrimination” on a General Assembly agenda as soon as possible.” The Board has placed the Inclusion language on the 2014 General Assembly agenda, after making one change recommended by legal counsel.

Article XV requires that proposed amendments to Article II normally must be sent to a study commission for several years of review. The Board of Trustees has concluded that the Inclusion amendment has already received the type of study required by Article XV, and that another study commission is unnecessary. Therefore, during debate on whether to refer the proposed Inclusion amendment to a study commission, the Board of Trustees will move to dispense with the study commission and give preliminary adoption to the proposal. If the delegates approve this motion by a four-fifths vote, the proposed amendment to Article II will again appear on the agenda of the 2014 General Assembly, where a two-thirds vote will be required for its final adoption.

The Board of Trustees has determined that it is important to preserve and update the non-discrimination language that is presently in Section C-2.3. Therefore, the Board intends to place on the agenda of the 2014 General Assembly the creation of Rule G-2.3: Non-Discrimination, to be voted on after final adoption of the Inclusion language in Section C-2.3 of the bylaws. The Board decided to propose the adoption of a “G” rule by General Assembly, rather than to pass a regular rule on its own authority, to emphasize the importance of this issue and to give the General Assembly the opportunity to amend the proposed rule.

It is our current intent that this rule will be substantially the same as the current bylaw Section C-2.3: Non-Discrimination. But we intend to update the language in this section, in collaboration with our legal counsel, to reflect better our current understanding of identity categories. The Board will propose changes to include (but not be limited to) the replacement of “race” with “racialized identity,” the replacement of “gender” with “gender expression or identity,” and the addition of the category “sex.”

The mini-assembly for this item is in room 551 of the Convention Center on Friday at 12:30 PM.

Underlining indicates insertion; brackets indicate deletion.

422 **ARTICLE II. Principles and Purposes**

423 **[Section C-2.3. Non-discrimination.**

424 **The Association declares and affirms its special responsibility, and that of its member congregations**  
 425 **and organizations, to promote the full participation of persons in all of its and their activities and in the**  
 426 **full range of human endeavor without regard to race, ethnicity, gender, disability, affectional or sexual**  
 427 **orientation, age, language, citizenship status, economic status, or national origin and without requiring**  
 428 **adherence to any particular interpretation of religion or to any particular religious belief or creed.]**

429 **Section C-2.3. Inclusion.**

430 **Systems of power, privilege, and oppression have traditionally created barriers for persons and groups**  
 431 **with particular identities, ages, abilities, and histories. We pledge [to do all we can] to replace such**  
 432 **barriers with ever-widening circles of solidarity and mutual respect. We strive to be an association of**  
 433 **congregations that truly welcome all persons and commit to structuring congregational and associational**  
 434 **life in ways that empower and enhance everyone’s participation.**



## PROPOSED BYLAW AMENDMENTS

The following are proposed amendments to UUA Bylaw provisions concerning investments. These proposed amendments were inadvertently omitted from the Tentative Agenda. While overwhelmingly approved at the 2013 General Assembly, amendments to C Bylaws require a two thirds vote at the next General Assembly for final adoption.

The mini-assembly for this item is in room 551 of the Convention Center on Friday at 12:30 PM.

**Underlining indicates insertion; brackets indicate deletion.**

- 435 **Section C-10.6. Authority to Hold Funds [Held] for the Benefit of Others.**  
436 **[With the approval of the Board of Trustees, the] The** Association may hold for investment and distribution  
437 funds **[belonging to or]** given **to the Association** for the benefit of a member congregation, associate member  
438 organization, independent affiliate organization, or other **Unitarian Universalist organization [organizations].**
- 439 **[Such funds may be invested in the General Investment Fund of the Association unless they are subject**  
440 **to specific restrictions which require some other form of investment.]**
- 441 **Section C-10.7. Responsibility for [Investments] Funds Held by the Association.**
- 442 (a) Board of Trustees. The Board of Trustees shall have ultimate responsibility for investing the funds  
443 **[belonging to or]** held by the Association.
- 444 **(b) President. The President shall invest the endowment funds held by the Association in the**  
445 **Unitarian Universalist Common Endowment Fund LLC.**
- 446 **[b] (c)** Investment Committee. The Investment Committee shall **[supervise] manage** the **[investments of]**  
447 **endowment funds held by** the Association, subject to control by the Board of Trustees.

## PROPOSED BUSINESS RESOLUTION

To propose a Business Resolution by petition, the petition must be signed by at least 250 members of UUA certified member congregations, with no more than ten signatures from any one congregation. The following petition was properly submitted with considerably more signatures than required.

The mini-assembly for this item is in room 551 of the Convention Center on Friday at 5:00 PM.

### Fossil Fuel Divestment

#### Unitarian Universalist Association 2014 Business Resolution

- 448 WHEREAS, Unitarian Universalist congregations covenant by our Second and Seventh Principles to affirm  
449 and promote justice, equity, and compassion in human relations and respect for the interdependent web of all  
450 existence of which we are a part; and
- 451 WHEREAS, the climate crisis threatens Earth systems through warming, destabilization of the atmosphere and  
452 climate, sea level rise, and the acidification of the oceans, of which the brunt of the burden has fallen and will fall  
453 on the poorest people in the world, who are least responsible for the crisis; and
- 454 WHEREAS, the 2006 Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) General Assembly approved a Statement of  
455 Conscience on the Threat of Global Warming/Climate Change declaring “that we will not acquiesce to the ongoing  
456 degradation and destruction of life that human actions are leaving to our children and grandchildren”; and
- 457 WHEREAS, member congregations have demonstrated their commitment to environmental and climate justice  
458 by seeking Green Sanctuary accreditation, forming Climate Action Teams, divesting from fossil fuel companies, or  
459 other efforts; and

- 460 WHEREAS, if all known fossil fuel reserves are burned, they will produce five times the amount of greenhouse  
 461 gas emissions required to raise global temperatures beyond 2°C, the level that leaders of 167 countries (including  
 462 the United States) have agreed represents a threshold beyond which there would be dangerous human-caused  
 463 interference with the climate system; and
- 464 WHEREAS, we have a moral responsibility to Earth, to all beings, and to future generations to do everything in  
 465 our power to bring about a swift transition from fossil fuels to a sustainable energy economy; and
- 466 WHEREAS, a global and growing movement is calling upon universities, pension funds, public entities, and  
 467 religious institutions to divest their holdings in the 200 major fossil fuel companies listed by the Carbon Tracker  
 468 Initiative (CT200), which together control 26% of known reserves, in order to break the hold of fossil fuel  
 469 corporations on markets and governments; and
- 470 WHEREAS, the Unitarian Universalist Association is a leader among religious institutions in shareholder activism  
 471 to halt climate change by ending the use of fossil fuels and, in concert with global investors organized by Ceres  
 472 and Carbon Tracker, is pressing fossil fuel companies to divest their most carbon-intensive operations and  
 473 reinvest in lower-carbon energy sources; and
- 474 WHEREAS, the guidelines for socially responsible investment of the UU Common Endowment Fund (UUCEF)  
 475 state that “The UUA seeks to avoid companies that . . . contribute in significant ways to climate change”; and
- 476 WHEREAS, the 2013 General Assembly overwhelmingly passed an Action of Immediate Witness for  
 477 congregations to “Consider Divestment from the Fossil Fuel Industry”;
- 478 THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that this General Assembly calls upon the UUA to cease purchasing securities of  
 479 CT200 companies as UUCEF investments immediately; and
- 480 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this General Assembly calls upon the UUA to continue to divest its UUCEF  
 481 holdings of directly-held securities of CT200 companies, reaching full divestment of these companies within five  
 482 years; and
- 483 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this General Assembly calls upon the UUA to work with its current and  
 484 prospective pooled-asset managers for the purpose of creating more fossil fuel-free investment opportunities, with  
 485 the objective of full divestment of UUCEF indirect holdings in CT200 companies within five years; and
- 486 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this General Assembly calls upon the UUA to invest an appropriate share of  
 487 UUCEF holdings in securities that will support a swift transition to a clean energy economy, such as renewable  
 488 energy and energy-efficiency-related securities; and
- 489 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, notwithstanding any provision above, the UUA may retain investments in  
 490 CT200 companies in which it is engaged in shareholder activism seeking environmental justice or transition to  
 491 clean and renewable energy; and
- 492 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, notwithstanding any provision above, the UUA may purchase the minimal  
 493 shares of CT200 companies necessary to permit introduction of shareholder resolutions seeking environmental  
 494 justice or transition to clean and renewable energy; and
- 495 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, notwithstanding any provision above, the UUA shall not take any action  
 496 inconsistent with its fiduciary duty or that is incompatible with the principles of sound investment; and
- 497 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the President and the Treasurer of the UUA shall report to each General  
 498 Assembly from 2015 through 2019 on our Association’s progress on the above resolutions; and
- 499 BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that this General Assembly encourages Unitarian Universalist congregations and  
 500 Unitarian Universalists to review their congregational and personal investments with a view to taking action to  
 501 end climate change, such as public divestment of their holdings in fossil fuel companies, supporting shareholder  
 502 activism designed to end use of fossil fuels, and investment in renewable energy and conservation.

## ENDS for the Unitarian Universalist Association: UUA Governance Manual Section One

*These ENDS are also known as the “Global ENDS” and as the “Shared Vision” of the Association.*

*Revised June 2013*

### 1.0 Global End

A healthy Unitarian Universalist community that is alive with transforming power, moving our communities and the world toward more love, justice, and peace in a manner which assures institutional sustainability.

1.1 Congregations and communities are covenanted, accountable, healthy, and mission driven.

1.2 Congregations and communities are better able to achieve their missions and to spread awareness of Unitarian Universalist ideals and principles through their participation in covenanted networks of Unitarian Universalist congregations and communities.

1.3 Congregations and communities are intentionally inclusive, multigenerational and multicultural.

1.4 Congregations and communities engage in partnerships to counter systems of power, privilege and oppression.

1.5 Congregations and communities have and use Unitarian Universalist Association resources to deepen the spiritual and religious exploration by people in their communities, to enhance the ministry of their members and to improve their operations.

1.6 There is an increase in the number of people served by Unitarian Universalist congregations and communities.

1.7 There is an increase in the number of Unitarian Universalist congregations and communities.

1.8 There is an increase in the number of inspired ordained and lay religious leaders equipped to effectively start and sustain new Unitarian Universalist congregations and communities.

1.9 Unitarian Universalist institutions are healthy, vital, collaborative partners invested in the future of Unitarian Universalism, its principles and theologies.