

Mini-Assemblies

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

Thursday 10:45 AM – 12:00 PM

Mini-Assembly for Proposed Bylaw Changes
Convention Center – Room 100

- Sec. 9.10 and Rule G-9.13: Electronic Ballots in Elections (*see page 86*)
- Articles VII and X: Investment Committee (*see page 87*)
- Articles V, VI, VII, VIII, and IX, and related rules: Elections, Appointments, and Committees (*see page 89*)

Thursday 1:45 PM – 3:00 PM

Mini-Assembly for Proposed Bylaw Changes
Convention Center – Room 100

- Sec C – 2.3 Article II/ Inclusion and the proposed addition of Rule G-2.3: Non-Discrimination. (*see page 88*)

Thursday 1:45 PM – 4:45 PM

Mini-Assembly for Proposed Statement of Conscience
(*see page 81*)
Marriott – Kentucky Ballroom E

Thursday 3:30 PM – 4:45 PM

Mini-Assembly for Proposed Bylaw Changes
Convention Center – Room 100

- MidAmerica/regional/district: Sec C – 3.6, 13.1, 13.2, 13.4, Rule G – 13.2.1 (*see page 85*)

Friday 1:45 PM – 3:00 PM

Mini-Assembly for Proposed Bylaw Changes
Convention Center – Room 100

- Sec C – 3.1 Member Congregations (SE District) (*see page 85*)

Saturday 1:45 PM – 4:45 PM

Mini-Assemblies for Proposed Actions of Immediate Witness
Convention Center – Rooms 207, 208, 209

Bylaw and Rule Amendments

Proposed Bylaw and Rule Amendments will be discussed in Mini-Assemblies in room 100 of the Convention Center on Thursday at 10:45 AM, 1:45 PM, and 3:30 PM, and on Friday at 1:45 PM. After the Mini-Assemblies, the Board of Trustees consolidates results and formulates any amendments to be proposed.

UUA Statement of Conscience (Immigration as a Moral Issue)

Discussion of the proposed UUA Statement of Conscience takes place in the Mini-Assembly on Thursday from 1:45 PM to 4:45 PM in the Marriott – Kentucky Ballroom E. Amendments may be introduced only as called for at the Mini-Assembly. The vote to adopt is scheduled for a Plenary 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 lecture on the topic offered Friday at 1:45 PM in 104 of the Convention Center.

Actions of Immediate Witness

Proposed Actions of Immediate Witness (AIWs) must be posted in the CSW exhibit booth (#427) by 5:00 PM on Thursday. The complete AIW, along with the requisite delegate signatures, must be filed in the GA Office (Room 113 in the Convention Center) by 5:00 PM on Friday. Prior to voting on adoption on Sunday, preliminary action on AIWs will be taken in Plenary Session on Saturday. Mini-Assemblies to discuss the proposed AIWs and offer amendments will be held on Saturday at 1:45 PM in rooms 207, 208 and 209 of the Convention Center.

Budget Hearing

The UUA Finance Committee members and UUA officers conduct a hearing on the 2013 - 2014 budget Friday at 1:45 PM in Room 203-206 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 (Room 113 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 Plenary

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

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

Delegate Guide

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

Voting

Delegates vote by:

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

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

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

Mini-Assembly

A Mini-Assembly is an opportunity for delegates to propose amendments to resolutions on the final agenda and to the proposed Actions of Immediate Witness admitted to the final agenda. It's an opportunity to discuss the proposed amendments, and, for the Statement of Conscience, to work collaboratively with other delegates to draft amendments. Mini-Assemblies save plenary time and permit freer debate than plenaries do. It is not possible to offer an amendment to a business resolution, bylaw change, rule change, or social witness statement during plenary debate if it was not submitted for consideration at the appropriate Mini-Assembly.

There is a Mini-Assembly scheduled for the 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 Plenary Session, the Board of Trustees may incorporate proposed amendments into a Business Resolution or a Bylaw and the Commission on Social Witness may incorporate proposed amendments into a Statement of Conscience

or an Action of Immediate Witness. For Statements of Conscience, the Commission on Social Witness is required to report all amendments to the GA delegates. The Commission on Social Witness can prioritize the amendments, including the order of their presentation at the amendment microphone in Plenary. If you wish to modify the Statement of Conscience, plan to attend the entire Mini-Assembly and work collaboratively with other delegates to suggest amendments.

Budget Hearing

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

Statements of Conscience

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 p.m. on Thursday. Then begin collection of signatures from other delegates. Submit the

AIW with the required number of delegate signatures to the CSW at the GA Office by 5:00 p.m. on Friday. See the cover sheet for directions, requirements, and deadlines.

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

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

Committee of the Whole

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

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

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

PLENARY I Wednesday 8:00 PM

- Call to Order
- Welcome New Congregations
- Review and Adopt Rules
- Introduction: Youth Caucus and Young Adult Caucus Managers
- Making GA 2013 More Accessible
- Introduction: Right Relationship Team
- Recess

PLENARY II Thursday 8:45 AM – 10:15 AM

- Call to Order
- Chalice Lighting
- Right Relationship Team Report
- Presentation from the Journey Toward Wholeness Transformation Committee
- Report of the General Assembly Planning Committee
- Statements from Candidates for the GA Planning Committee
- Business Agenda for GA 2013
- Congregational Singing
- Report of the UUA President Rev. Peter Morales
- Statements from Candidates for the Presidential Search Committee
- Announcements
- Recess

PLENARY III Thursday 5:15 PM

- Call to Order
- Chalice Lighting
- Congregational Singing
- Accessibilities for the Witness Event
- Recess to Worship and Witness

PLENARY IV Friday 8:45 AM – 12:00 PM

- Call to order
- Chalice Lighting and Recognition of District Presidents
- Preliminary Credentials Report for GA 2013
- Introductions: International Guests
- Remarks from Rev. Rebecca Sienes, President of the UU Church of the Philippines
- Report from the Partner Church Council
- Report of the Nominating Committee
- Statements from Candidates for the Nominating Committee
- Report from Beacon Press
- Celebration of Service: Kay Montgomery
- Song
- Budget Report
- Recognition of Departed Donors
- Financial Advisor's Report
- Statement from the Candidate for Financial Advisor

- Report of the Commission on Appraisal
- Statements from Candidates for the Commission on Appraisal
- Report of the Commission on Social Witness
- Statements from Candidates for the Commission on Social Witness
- Statements from Candidates for the Board of Review
- Congregational Singing
- Remarks from a Dreamer
- Debate and Vote on the Proposed Statement of Conscience: Immigration as a Moral Issue
- Announcements
- Recess

PLENARY V Friday 3:30 PM – 6:00 PM

- Call to order
- Chalice Lighting
- Update: Transforming Governance for the Second Half-Century
- Special Collection to support the work in Greater New Orleans
- Instructions for Small Group Discussions and Twitter Reporting
- Recess to breakout rooms
- Breakout discussions and tweetchat

PLENARY VI

Saturday 8:45 AM – 12:00 PM

- Call to Order
- Chalice Lighting
- Update on the 2011 Statement of Conscience: Ethical Eating
- Update on UU Legislative Ministries
- Presentation of the President's Award for Volunteer Service
- Overview of Process for Actions of Immediate Witness
- Selection of Potential Actions of Immediate Witness
- Song
- Presentation of the Distinguished Service Award
- Report of the UUA Board of Trustees
- Statements by Candidates for the UUA Board of Trustees
- Debate and Vote on proposed amendment to enable regions: bylaw section C-3.6, 13.1, 13.2, 13.4, and Rule G-13.2.1.
- Song
- Debate and vote on proposed bylaw changes to Bylaw Section 3.1: Member congregations
- Voting to admit Potential Actions of Immediate Witness to the Agenda
- Right Relationship Team Report
- Announcements
- Recess

PLENARY VII

Saturday 3:30 PM – 5:00 PM

- Call to Order
- Chalice Lighting
- Debate and vote on proposed changes to Section C-2.3 regarding inclusion
- Congregational Singing
- Debate and vote on proposed changes to support electronic voting: bylaws section 9.10 and Rules G-9.13.4 and G-9.13.5
- Recess

PLENARY VIII

Sunday 11:00 AM – 12:00 PM

- Call to Order
- Unitarian Universalist Service Committee Report
- Unitarian Universalist Women's Federation Report
- Celebration of Tapestry of Faith
- Debate and Vote on proposed changes to Articles V, VI, VII, VIII, and IX, and related rules concerning Elections, Appointments, and Committees
- Song
- Announcements
- Recess

PLENARY IX

Sunday 1:45 PM – 6:00 PM

- Call to Order
- Chalice Lighting
- Presentation from the Journey Toward Wholeness Transformation Committee
- Debate/Vote on Actions of Immediate Witness
- Debate and Vote on proposed amendments to Sections 7.7, 7.8, C-10.6, and C-10.7 regarding provisions concerning investments.
- Song
- Update: Faithful Risk Project
- Reflections on Covenant
- Summary of Reports on Fifth Principle
- Song
- Moderator's Report
- Recognition and Appreciation
- Responsive Resolutions (if any)
- Invitation to the GA 2014 in Providence
- Final Report - Right Relationship Team
- Final credentials and announcements
- Adjournment

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. 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 Plenary Session, all matters submitted to a vote of the delegates will be determined by the number of votes cast by delegates present and voting on the matter. The required proportion of votes cast by delegates to approve any action or resolution will be as set forth in the Bylaws or Rules or these Rules of Procedure.

RULE 3. MINUTES

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

RULE 4. PRESENTATION OF ITEMS

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

RULE 5. AMENDMENTS

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

RULE 6. TIME LIMITS

The following time limits are imposed on all business transacted by the Assembly except as otherwise provided in these Rules for Actions of Immediate Witness, Congregational Study/Action Issues, and UUA Statement of Conscience. 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.

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 2013 - 2014 budget that is to be made at the time provided for such motions during the formal business sessions must be filed in writing at the General Assembly Office not later than 5:00 p.m. Saturday. All such motions must provide for reductions in specific other categories of spending equivalent to the increase in spending recommended in the motion. Adoption of the motion requires a two-thirds vote.

RULE 10. RESOLUTIONS AND ACTIONS NOT ON THE FINAL AGENDA

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

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

resolutions;

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

The author of a Responsive Resolutions must notify the Moderator in writing of the title and content of his/her Responsive Resolution as soon as it is practical to do so, but not later than 6:00 p.m. on Saturday for Responsive Resolutions based on reports delivered in plenary sessions 1-7. A resolution submitted to the Commission on Social Witness for consideration as an Action of Immediate Witness may not be submitted as a Responsive Resolution.

RULE 11. CONGREGATIONAL STUDY/ACTION ISSUES

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

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

Rules of Procedure

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 Plenary Session unless it first was presented to a Mini-Assembly as described in Rule 4.12.4. Up to twelve minutes will be allowed for the debate of an amendment.

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

RULE 13. ACTIONS OF IMMEDIATE WITNESS

- a) The proposed Action of Immediate Witness must be in writing.
- b) A copy for posting at the Commission on Social Witness booth in the Exhibit Hall must be delivered to the booth in the exhibit area no later than 5:00 p.m., Thursday, so that proposals may be made available for viewing prior to the filing deadline.
- c) The copy to be filed must have attached signatures showing the requisite delegate support specified in Bylaw Section 4.16(c)(3) and must be filed with the Commission on Social Witness in the General Assembly Office by no later than 5:00 p.m. Friday.
- d) The Commission on Social Witness will provide a summary of up to six proposed Actions of Immediate Witness that meet the criteria during Saturday morning's plenary.
- 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 Plenary 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 Plenary Session unless it first was presented to a Mini-Assembly, as described in Bylaw Section 4.16(c)(5). The Commission on Social Witness will have the discretion to prioritize the amendments including their presentation at the amendment microphone in Plenary.
- 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 Plenary on Sunday. Adoption must be by two-thirds vote, as specified in Bylaw Section 4.16(c)(6). 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 2013 General Assembly will be adjourned no later than 6:00 PM on Sunday, June 23.

IMMIGRATION AS A MORAL ISSUE

A Draft Unitarian Universalist Statement of Conscience

Discussion on the proposed Statement of Conscience takes place at the mini-assembly on Thursday from 1:45 pm – 4:45 pm in the Marriott – Kentucky Ballroom E. Amendments may be introduced only as proposed at the mini-assembly.

1 *“Unless you are one of the first Americans, a Native American, we are all descended from folks who came from*
 2 *somewhere else. The story of immigrants in America isn’t a story of them. It’s a story of us.” - Barack H. Obama*

3 *“Not only do immigrants help build our economy, they invigorate our soul.” — George W. Bush*

4 A belief in “the inherent worth and dignity of every person” is core to Unitarian Universalism: every person, no
 5 exceptions. As religious people, our Principles call us to acknowledge the immigrant experience and to affirm
 6 and promote the flourishing of the human family.

7 Our Sources “challenge us to confront powers and structures of evil with justice, compassion, and the
 8 transforming power of love.” Hebrew scripture teaches love for the foreigner because “you were foreigners in
 9 the land of Egypt” (Leviticus 19:33-34). Christian scripture reports that Jesus and his disciples were itinerants.
 10 When asked “who is my neighbor?” Jesus responded with the parable of the Good Samaritan, a foreigner
 11 who treated a badly beaten man as the foreigner would have wished to be treated (Luke 10:25-37). The
 12 Qur’an teaches doing “good to ... those in need, neighbors who are near, neighbors who are strangers, the
 13 companion by your side, the wayfarer that you meet” (4:36). The Universal Declaration of Human Rights
 14 asserts that “everyone has the right to leave any country, including his own, and to return to his country”
 15 (Article 13.2).

16 Unitarian Universalist Principles and Sources call us to recognize the opportunities and challenges of human
 17 migration -- caring for ourselves and our families, interacting with strangers, valuing diversity, and dealing with
 18 immigration systems.

19 **Historical Background**

20 Before recorded history, some people migrated out of Africa and later across the world. People left their places
 21 of birth in order to feed themselves, protect themselves from hostile environments, or better their lives. Some
 22 people migrated voluntarily while others were forced to migrate due to enslavement, war, famine, marriage, or
 23 fear of persecution. Whatever the circumstances, the human family is composed almost entirely of immigrants
 24 or descendants of immigrants.

25 Most of the land mass on earth is now divided into nations with boundaries. Although we recognize that
 26 national boundaries are often arbitrary and disregard historical tribal boundaries and wildlife migratory
 27 patterns, we acknowledge that these national boundaries exist and that nations will protect their borders.
 28 Nations have assumed the right and obligation to protect the security and well-being of their citizens by
 29 enacting and enforcing immigration laws. Our challenge as religious people is to distinguish the moral from
 30 the immoral, supporting the former and opposing the latter. Moral immigration laws that are just and humane
 31 contribute to the public good, define the parameters of legal immigration, and restrict harmful influences such
 32 as criminal intent, epidemics, and contraband. Unfortunately, not all immigration laws are moral; some use
 33 race, class, religion, ethnicity, or sexual orientation to dictate who belongs and who does not.

34 **Underlying Factors Contributing to Immigration and Lack of Documentation**

35 Today people leave their places of birth and migrate for the same reasons people always have -- to be safe,
 36 to meet their needs for food and shelter, and to better their lives. Thus, violence, environmental change, and
 37 economic conditions often motivate migration. Acts of violence that drive people to migrate include armed
 38 conflicts, violence against women, ethnic cleansing, and genocide. Environmental conditions that lead to
 39 migration include droughts, floods, radiation, and pollution.

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40 Economic factors are currently the primary driving force underlying immigration worldwide. Economic factors
41 that cause people to migrate include the inability to meet needs for sufficient food and adequate shelter and
42 to better their lives. Contributors to these economic conditions include population growth, environmental
43 degradation, globalization, and policies that address land ownership, tariffs, trade, and working conditions,
44 many of which are continuing legacies of imperialism and colonialism.

45 A mechanism for implementing immigration laws is the issuance of visas, which are legal documents giving
46 permission to enter and stay in a nation for a period of time. When the supply of visas is far below the demand,
47 then pressure to enter a country illegally or overstay a visa increases. A similar pressure occurs when the
48 length of time between applying for a permanent visa and its issuance is a matter of years. When people
49 cannot obtain or renew visas but choose to enter or remain in a country anyway, they become undocumented
50 immigrants.

51 Visas that allow multiple border crossings encourage people to visit families knowing that they can return and
52 work. When crossing a border is difficult or hazardous, the likelihood of returning to one's family decreases
53 and the desire to send for one's family increases. The families of undocumented immigrants wanting to reunite
54 with their loved ones also have no means of entering legally. A broken immigration system opens the way for
55 illegality, human trafficking, and exploitation.

56 **Consequences**

57 Who migrates, how they migrate, where they migrate, and when they migrate are central to immigration
58 policies worldwide. While immigrants find jobs, build community, fall in love, have children, and in other
59 ways enrich a country with new ways of thinking and being, some citizens and national policies declare them
60 "illegal" and unwelcome.

61 Lack of documentation and legal status can lead to exploitation. Work visas often require having an employer-
62 sponsor, which can limit a person's freedom to change employment. Some employers seeking workers are
63 unable to find people willing to do certain jobs under the work conditions and at the wages they offer. Other
64 employers are stymied by onerous requirements to prove a need for people with certain abilities. When the
65 number of work visas is less than the economy's demand for labor, employers will fill the need regardless of
66 workers' documentation.

67 Undocumented immigrants are often denied the civil rights protections of citizens, paid less than citizens,
68 and labor in unsafe and unhealthy conditions. In the United States, increased border security has resulted
69 in undocumented immigrants crossing in more dangerous and remote areas where basic human needs
70 such as drinking water are nonexistent. Increased enforcement of immigration laws has led to creating
71 detention centers, some of which are privately run for profit motives. These centers are poorly regulated and
72 often overcrowded. Essential needs including medical attention are often denied, while more cost effective
73 and humane measures are ignored. Immigration enforcement consumes increasingly more of the federal
74 government's resources.

75 Many undocumented immigrants and their families live in constant fear of deportation. This fear affects use
76 of educational opportunities, health care, and police protection. Enlisting local law enforcement agencies
77 in immigration enforcement violates accepted practices of community policing and erodes trust between
78 police and the communities they serve, sometimes resulting in racial profiling of those who appear foreign.
79 When deportation occurs, the result is destroyed dreams and broken families—partners separated and
80 children taken away from their caregivers or forced to return to a place they do not know. The perceived and
81 constructed threat of those who are different has led some individuals and nations to meet immigrants with
82 fear. Fear has become a social and political force that incorrectly labels people as "illegals," "criminals" and
83 "terrorists."

84 **Therefore**

85 *"Immigration policy should be generous; it should be fair; it should be flexible. With such a policy we can*
86 *turn to the world, and to our own past, with clean hands and a clear conscience." - John F. Kennedy*

87 Our Unitarian Universalist (UU) Principles and Sources compel us to affirm that all immigrants, regardless of

88 legal status, should be treated justly and humanely. At a minimum, a moral immigration policy would include
89 the following elements:

- 90 • A path to citizenship or legal permanent residency.
- 91 • Work visas that
 - 92 • Require the same worker protections applicable to citizens including fair wages, safe and
 - 93 • healthful environments, and receipt of benefits;
 - 94 • Do not depend on a single employer;
 - 95 • Allow multiple entries;
 - 96 • Permit entry into the path for citizenship; and
 - 97 • Provide parity between the number of visas and the work available in the receiving nation.
- 98 • Timely processing of applications for visas and timely deportation decisions.
- 99 • Access to the same medical care and education available to citizens.
- 100 • Evaluation of human and environmental costs of proposed barriers to immigration or other changes in
- 101 immigration policy.
- 102 • Due process under the law including legal representation, rights of appeal, and the right to initiate
- 103 suits.
- 104 • Alternatives to detention for those not considered a threat to society and humane treatment for those
- 105 being detained.
- 106 • Preservation of family unity.
- 107 • Provision of asylum for refugees and others living in fear of violence or retribution.
- 108 • Collaboration with source countries to address underlying causes contributing to immigration
- 109 including trade policies.

110 **Calls to Action**

111 Given the consequences of immoral and unjust immigration policies, we pledge to ground our missions and
112 ministries in UU Principles and Sources as we undertake individual, congregational, and denominational
113 actions such as:

114 ***As individuals, we can:***

- 115 • Educate ourselves and others about human migration, immigration policies, human rights abuses that
- 116 result from immigration policies, and the impact of trade and farm policies on human migration.
- 117 • Learn a language used by a large number of immigrants in our communities.
- 118 • Advocate for moral immigration policies.
- 119 • Tour detention facilities and inquire about treatment of detainees.
- 120 • Volunteer for local organizations providing aid and advocacy for recent immigrants.
- 121 • Take direct action such as intervening to preserve the lives of immigrants, helping them get needed
- 122 medical and legal aid, refusing to report undocumented people, or reporting abuses of immigrants.
- 123 • Listen to those who have differing ideas about immigration and creatively develop approaches that
- 124 take those concerns and our concerns into account.
- 125 • Record stories of recent immigrants and of our own immigration histories.

126 ***As congregations, we can:***

- 127 • Cooperate with other UU congregations, other faiths, and local groups that are focusing on
- 128 immigration issues for the purposes of education and action.
- 129 • Offer lifespan education, youth and young adult programming, and worship services that explore
- 130 immigration issues.
- 131 • Create a covenant group that focuses on immigration issues.
- 132 • Adopt service projects that address immigrant rights.
- 133 • Explore and implement ways to transform concern into action, including the possibility of providing
- 134 sanctuary for undocumented immigrants at special risk.
- 135 • Participate in efforts that support the rights and dignity of immigrants.
- 136 • Support and participate in advocacy efforts to change immigration laws that are not moral, including
- 137 using state legislative ministries where they are available.

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- 138 • Coordinate experiential trips to gain first-hand understanding of border, migrant, and refugee issues; support groups such as No More Deaths and the UU Service Committee (UUSC).
- 139
- 140 • Organize visits to local detention centers, inquire about the care of detainees, and support detainees and their families.
- 141
- 142 • Meet with Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) officials to oppose detention in privately-run facilities and advocate for alternatives to detention for low-risk detainees.
- 143
- 144 • Fund college scholarships that are available to undocumented young people.
- 145 • Take an active role in UU and interfaith organizations including congregation-based community organizations (CBCOs) that address the needs of immigrants such as UU Refugee and Immigration Services and Education (UURISE), Interfaith Immigration Coalition, Standing on the Side of Love, and Interfaith Worker Justice.
- 146
- 147
- 148
- 149 • Call upon the immigrants who are members of our UU congregations to share their stories and wisdom openly. Welcome changes as new immigrants join our congregations.
- 150
- 151 • Encourage the sharing of congregants' cultural heritages and experiences to create personal bonds and enhance appreciation for the contributions of diverse cultures. Participate in a refugee resettlement program.
- 152
- 153
- 154 • Provide tutoring to achieve English fluency as well as other skills needed by immigrants.
- 155 • Incorporate into congregational life languages other than English.
- 156 • Conduct citizenship classes, voter-rights education, and voter registration drives that target new citizens.
- 157

158 ***At the denominational level, we can:***

- 159 • Publically witness against violations of the human dignity and human rights of immigrants nationally and internationally.
- 160
- 161 • Advocate for moral immigration policies and international conventions as well as trade, farm and other policies that alleviate the underlying causes of migration.
- 162
- 163 • Share with congregations information about immigration legislation at the national level.
- 164 • Advocate for expeditious implementation of national commitments made for visas to foreigners who have loyally served alongside our nation's military.
- 165
- 166 • Join with other faith-based and human-rights groups working for national policies on immigration, including labor regulations protecting undocumented immigrants that are equivalent to those provided to citizens.
- 167
- 168
- 169 • Provide curricula, resources, current information, and networking opportunities that congregations can use in their immigration education and advocacy efforts.
- 170
- 171 • Support the immigration-related work of the UU United Nations Office (UU-UNO), UUSC, and other UU-related organizations such as UURISE and the UU College of Social Justice.
- 172

173 **Affirming the inherent worth and dignity of every person, we take up this call with joy and**
174 **commitment, celebrating the creative and life-giving diversity of our world's peoples.**

This change to Bylaw Section C-3.1 was proposed by the Southeast District Board.

The mini-assembly for this item is on Friday at 1:45 PM in room 100 of the Convention Center.

Underlining indicates insertion; brackets indicate deletion.

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

176 The Unitarian Universalist Association is a voluntary association of **[autonomous] free**, self-governing local
177 churches and fellowships, referred to herein as member congregations, which have **[freely] mutually** chosen
178 to pursue common goals together.

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 on Thursday at 3:30 PM in room 100 of the Convention Center.

Underlining indicates insertion; brackets indicate deletion.

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

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

- 184 (a) the congregation in question, whenever possible; and
185 (b) the President of the district **or region** in which the congregation is located or such other authorized
186 official as the district **or region** designates in writing to the Association.

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

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

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

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

192 **Section C-13.4 Autonomy.**

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

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

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

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

Proposed Bylaw Amendments

These proposed bylaw changes allow for voting by secure, electronic ballots in UUA elections.

The mini-assembly for this item is on Thursday at 10:45 AM in room 100 of the Convention Center.

Underlining indicates insertion; brackets indicate deletion.

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

- 207 (a) Election by Ballot. Voting shall be by written **or electronic** ballot, except that if only one person has
208 been validly nominated for each elective position at large the persons so nominated shall be declared
209 elected and no ballots shall be required.
- 210 (b) Persons Entitled to Vote. Ballots shall be cast only by accredited delegates from certified member
211 congregations and certified associate member organizations to the regular General Assembly at which
212 the election is held and by trustees. No person shall cast more than one ballot.
- 213 (c) Absentee Voting. Those entitled to cast ballots in an election may cast their **ballots electronically**
214 **or** by mail. Absentee ballots shall be mailed at least forty five days prior to the General Assembly at
215 which the election is being held. An absentee ballot **that is mailed** must be received by the Secretary
216 not less than seven calendar days before the General Assembly in order to be counted. **An absentee**
217 **ballot that is transmitted electronically must be received by the Secretary prior to the closing**
218 **of voting at the GA location. The closing date and time shall be designated in the General**
219 **Assembly meeting announcement.**

220 **Rule G-9.13.4. Absentee Ballots.**

221 **[An] A mailed** absentee ballot shall be counted only if accompanied by the signed and certified ballot stub of
222 the credential card of the person casting the ballot. **An electronic absentee ballot shall be counted only if**
223 **the delegate has complied with established secure voting protocols.**

224 **Rule G-9.13.5. Balloting at General Assembly.**

225 A person shall be qualified to cast a ballot at General Assembly only if that person presents to the Secretary
226 of the Association or those employed by him or her **[at the polls]** a properly certified ballot stub plus a badge
227 issued to that person and containing the same name as the name on the ballot stub. **An electronic ballot**
228 **shall be counted only if the delegate has complied with established secure voting protocols.**

The following are proposed amendments to UUA Bylaws provisions concerning investments.

The mini-assembly for this item is on Thursday at 10:45 AM in room 100 of the Convention Center.

Underlining indicates insertion; brackets indicate deletion.

229 **Section 7.7. Finance Committee.**

230 The Finance Committee shall consist of the Financial Advisor, the Treasurer, five trustees **[who shall not**
231 **be members of the Investment Committee]**, and the Moderator without vote. The duties of the Finance
232 Committee are set forth in Article X.

233 **Section 7.8. Investment Committee.**

234 The Investment Committee shall **be the Investment Committee of the Unitarian Universalist Common**
235 **Endowment Fund LLC.** **[consist of the Financial Advisor, the Treasurer, and five other persons, at least**
236 **one of whom shall be a trustee and none of whom shall be members of the Finance Committee.]** The
237 duties of the Investment Committee are set forth in Article X.

238 **Section C-10.6. Authority to Hold Funds [Held] for the Benefit of Others.**

239 **[With the approval of the Board of Trustees, the] The** Association may hold for investment and distribution
240 funds **[belonging to or]** given **to the Association** for the benefit of a member congregation, associate
241 member organization, independent affiliate organization, or other **Unitarian Universalist organization**
242 **[organizations].**

243 **[Such funds may be invested in the General Investment Fund of the Association unless they are subject**
244 **to specific restrictions which require some other form of investment.]**

245 **Section C-10.7. Responsibility for [Investments] Funds Held by the Association.**

246 (a) Board of Trustees. The Board of Trustees shall have ultimate responsibility for investing the funds
247 **[belonging to or]** held by the Association.

248 **(b) President. The President shall invest the endowment funds held by the Association in the**
249 **Unitarian Universalist Common Endowment Fund LLC.**

250 **[b] (c)** Investment Committee. The Investment Committee shall **[supervise] manage** the **[investments of]**
251 **endowment funds held by** the Association, subject to control by the Board of Trustees.

Proposed Bylaw Amendments

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 on Thursday at 1:45 PM in room 100 of the Convention Center.

Underlining indicates insertion; brackets indicate deletion.

252

ARTICLE II. Principles and Purposes

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

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

259 **Section C-2.3. Inclusion.**

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

These amendments to the bylaws and rules clarify when special elections must be held to fill vacancies, change the procedure for determining the winner of certain elections when three or more candidates are on the ballot for a single position, and make changes concerning the terms and qualifications of members of standing committees. A summary of the proposed changes written for the Board by UUA Financial Advisor Dan Brody appears on the Association website at www.uua.org/uuagovernance/elections/284122.shtml.

The mini-assembly for this item is on Thursday at 10:45 AM in room 100 of the Convention Center.

Underlining indicates insertion; brackets indicate deletion.

265 **ARTICLE V. Committees of the Association**

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

267 The standing committees of the Association shall be:

- 268 (a) the Nominating Committee;
- 269 (b) the Presidential Search Committee;
- 270 (c) the General Assembly Planning Committee;
- 271 (d) the Commission on Appraisal;
- 272 (e) the Commission on Social Witness; and
- 273 (f) the Board of Review.

274 **The President shall be a member, without vote, of the General Assembly Planning Committee, the**
275 **Commission on Appraisal, and the Commission on Social Witness.**

276 **Section 5.2. Election and [Terms of Office] Appointment.**

277 (a) **Elected members.** Elected members of all [Section 5.1 committees] **standing committees of the**
278 **Association** shall take office at the close of the General Assembly at which they are elected and shall
279 serve until their successors are elected and qualified, except as otherwise provided herein.

280 (b) **Appointed members. The terms of any appointed members of standing committees of the**
281 **Association shall begin at the close of the regular General Assembly in odd-numbered years.**
282 **The Board of Trustees shall make each appointment no later than 120 days after the beginning**
283 **of the term. Appointed members shall take office upon the effective date of their appointment**
284 **and shall serve until their successors are appointed and qualified, except as otherwise provided**
285 **herein.**

286 **[One-half as nearly as possible of the elected members of the General Assembly Planning Committee**
287 **and the Commission on Social Witness shall be elected at the regular General Assembly held in each**
288 **odd-numbered year. The elected members of the General Assembly Planning Committee and the**
289 **Commission on Social Witness shall serve for terms of four years. One-third of the members of the**
290 **Commission on Appraisal shall be elected at the regular General Assembly held in each odd-numbered**
291 **year. The elected members of the Commission on Appraisal shall serve for single terms of six years.**
292 **Any member of the Commission on Appraisal in office for a period of more than three years shall be**
293 **deemed to have completed a six-year term for the purposes of re-election. One third of the members**
294 **of the Nominating Committee shall be elected at the regular General Assembly held in each year.**
295 **Members of the Nominating Committee shall serve no more than two terms of three years. Any member**
296 **of the Nominating Committee in office for a period of more than 18 months shall be deemed to have**
297 **completed a three-year term for the purposes of re-election. The elected members of the Presidential**

Proposed Bylaw Amendments

298 **Search Committee shall be elected at the regular General Assembly held four years before the General**
299 **Assembly at which there is to be a presidential election at the expiration of a President's term. The**
300 **electd members of the Presidential Search Committee shall serve for terms of six years.]**

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

302 **[In order to qualify to be appointed or to continue] To serve** as a member of a standing committee of the
303 Association, a person must be a member of a member congregation. **No member of a standing committee**
304 **of the Association may during the term of office serve as a trustee or officer of, or hold any salaried**
305 **position in, the Association.**

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

307 **[A] An elected** member of **[any] a** standing committee of the Association may be removed by a three-fourths
308 vote of the Board of Trustees at a meeting at which not less than three-fourths of the Board is present, if in the
309 opinion of the Board the member is incapacitated or unable to carry out the duties of the office or otherwise
310 for good cause. **An appointed member of a standing committee of the Association may be removed at**
311 **will by a majority vote of the Board of Trustees.**

312 **Section 5.5. Vacancies.**

313 A vacancy created by the death, disqualification, resignation, or removal of an elected **or appointed** member
314 of a standing committee of the Association shall be filled by **majority vote of** the Board of Trustees **[until the**
315 **next regular General Assembly]. An individual appointed to fill a vacancy in an elected position shall**
316 **serve until the vacancy is filled by regular or special election. An individual appointed to fill a vacancy**
317 **in an appointed position shall serve for the balance of the unexpired term, and until a successor is**
318 **appointed and qualified. [The vacancy shall then be filled by election for the balance of the unexpired**
319 **term, if any.]**

320 **An elected member of a standing committee of the Association in office for more than one half of a full**
321 **term shall be deemed to have completed a full term for the purposes of re-election.**

322 **Section 5.6. Nominating Committee.**

323 The Nominating Committee shall consist of nine **[elected]** members elected to terms of three years. **One third**
324 **of the members shall be elected at the regular General Assembly held in each year. [A member shall not**
325 **during the term of office hold any salaried position in the Association and, after] After** serving two terms
326 in office, **a member** shall not be eligible for re-election **[to the Nominating Committee]** until after an interim
327 of at least three years. The Nominating Committee shall submit nominations for certain elective positions of
328 the Association, as provided in Article IX.

329 **Section 5.7. Presidential Search Committee.**

330 The Presidential Search Committee shall consist of five **electd** members [elected by the General Assembly,]
331 and two members appointed by the Board of Trustees. **Each term shall be six years. The elected members**
332 **shall be elected at the regular General Assembly held four years prior to the expiration of a President's**
333 **term. [The election and appointment of members shall occur at the regular General Assembly held**
334 **four years before the General Assembly at which there is to be a presidential election at the expiration**
335 **of a President's term.] The terms of appointed members shall begin at the close of the regular General**
336 **Assembly at which members were elected. [Each appointment and election of a member shall be for**
337 **a term of six years.] After serving a term in office, a member shall not be eligible for re-election until**
338 **after an interim of at least six years.** The Committee shall nominate candidates for the office of President[.],
339 **as provided in Section 9.5.**

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

341 The General Assembly Planning Committee shall consist of eight elected members and two members
342 appointed by the Board of Trustees **[at its first meeting following the regular General Assembly in each**
343 **odd-numbered year]. The terms of elected members shall be four years and the terms of appointed**
344 **members shall be two years.** One-half **[as nearly as possible]** of the elected members [of the General
345 Assembly Planning Committee and the Commission on Social Witness] **shall be elected at the regular**
346 **General Assembly held in each odd-numbered year. After serving two terms in office, an elected**
347 **member shall not be eligible for re-election until after an interim of at least four years. [No elected**

348 **member shall serve on the Committee for more than two four-year terms in succession. The appointed**
 349 **members shall serve for terms of two years and until their successors are appointed and qualified.]** The
 350 Committee shall be responsible for arrangements for General Assembly and programs and meetings to be
 351 held in connection therewith. It may establish subcommittees of its members and may delegate part or all of
 352 its powers to them.

353 **Section 5.9. Commission on Appraisal.**

354 The Commission on Appraisal shall consist of nine [elected] members **elected to terms of six years. One-**
 355 **third of the members shall be elected at the regular General Assembly held in each odd-numbered**
 356 **year. After serving a term in office, a member shall not be eligible for re-election until after an interim**
 357 **of at least six years. [A member shall not during the term of office serve as a trustee or officer or hold a**
 358 **salaried position in the Association.]**

359 The Commission on Appraisal shall:

- 360 (a) review any function or activity of the Association which in its judgment will benefit from an
 361 independent review and report its conclusions to a regular General Assembly;
- 362 (b) study and suggest approaches to issues which may be of concern to the Association; and
- 363 (c) report to a regular General Assembly at least once every four years on the program and
 364 accomplishments of the Association.

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

366 The Commission on Social Witness shall consist of three **elected** members [**elected by the General**
 367 **Assembly]** and two members appointed by the Board of Trustees. [**The election and appointment**
 368 **of members shall occur only at regular General Assemblies held in odd numbered years.] Each
 369 **[appointment and election of a member to the Commission will be for a term of] term shall be** four years.
 370 **After serving two terms in office, a member shall not be eligible for re-election until after an interim**
 371 **of at least four years.** One member shall be appointed **in** each odd-numbered year. **In addition to any**
 372 **election required to fill a vacancy, no [No]** fewer than one nor more than two members shall be elected **at**
 373 **the regular General Assembly held in** each odd-numbered year, as is required to insure a full complement of
 374 elected members.**

375 **[No member shall serve on the Commission for more than two four-year terms in succession. In the**
 376 **case of a vacancy in an appointed position by reason of death, disqualification, resignation or removal,**
 377 **the vacancy shall be filled at any time for the remainder of the term by appointment by the Board of**
 378 **Trustees for the balance of the term.]** The duties of the Commission are described in [**Section 4.12 and**
 379 **Section 4.16 of the Bylaws and Rules G-4.12.1, G-4.12.2, and G-4.18.2.] Article IV.**

380 **Section 5.11. Board of Review.**

- 381 (a) Members. The Board of Review shall consist of eight members, as follows:
 - 382 1. Three members who are ministers, each of whom at the time of election is in final ministerial
 383 fellowship with the Association and has held such fellowship continuously for the preceding
 384 seven years; and
 - 385 2. One member who is a credentialed religious educator-master level; and
 - 386 3. Four members who are not ministers or credentialed religious educators, each of whom at the
 387 time of election is a member of a certified member congregation and has been a member of
 388 one or more such congregations for not less than three years as an officer or a member of the
 389 governing bodies of one or more such congregations.
- 390 (b) Election and Term. **Each term shall be eight years.** At each regular General Assembly held in an
 391 odd-numbered year **there shall be elected** one person who is neither a minister nor a credentialed
 392 religious educator [**shall be elected and shall serve for a term of eight years and until a successor**
 393 **is elected and qualified.] At each regular General Assembly held in an odd-numbered year there**

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394 shall be elected either a minister, as described in subsection (a)(1) above, or a Credentialed Religious
395 Educator – Master Level as described in section (a)(2) above[, **who shall serve for a term of eight**
396 **years and until a successor is elected and qualified]. After serving a term in office, a member
397 **shall not be eligible for re-election until after an interim of at least eight years.****

398 (c) Qualifications. No member of the Board of Review shall during the term of office be a member of the
399 Ministerial Fellowship Committee[,] **or** the Religious Education Credentialing Committee[, **or hold any**
400 **salaried position in the Association].**

401 (d) Removal. A member of the Board of Review may be removed without hearing by the vote of six other
402 members, **or as provided by Section 5.4.**

403 **(e) Duties. The duties of the Board of Review are described in Articles XI and XII.**

404 **ARTICLE VI. Board of Trustees**

405 **Section 6.8. Vacancies.**

406 A vacancy created by the death, disqualification, resignation, or removal of a trustee shall be filled by majority
407 vote of the remaining trustees [**until the next regular General Assembly at which an election can be held.**
408 **The vacancy shall then be filled by election for the balance of the unexpired term, if any]. An individual
409 **appointed to fill a vacancy shall serve until the vacancy is filled by regular or special election.****

410 **ARTICLE VII. Committees of the Board of Trustees**

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

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

- 413 (a) the Executive Committee;
- 414 (b) the Ministerial Fellowship Committee;
- 415 (c) the Finance Committee;
- 416 (d) the Investment Committee;
- 417 (e) the Religious Education Credentialing Committee; and
- 418 (f) the Audit Committee.

419 **The President shall be a member, without vote, of the Executive Committee, the Finance Committee,**
420 **and the Investment Committee.**

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

422 **[Members of the Executive Committee, Finance Committee, Investment Committee, Religious Education**
423 **Credentialing Committee, and board-appointed members of the Ministerial Fellowship Committee**
424 **and Audit Committee shall be appointed by the Board at its first meeting following the regular**
425 **General Assembly in each odd-numbered year except as otherwise provided herein. Members of such**
426 **committees shall serve for terms of two years and until their successors are appointed and qualified.]**

427 **Except as otherwise provided, the terms of members of standing committees of the Board of Trustees**
428 **shall be two years beginning at the close of the regular General Assembly in odd-numbered years.**
429 **Members shall be appointed no later than 120 days after the beginning of the term. Members shall take**
430 **office upon the effective date of their appointment and shall serve until their successors are appointed**
431 **and qualified.**

432 **ARTICLE VIII. Officers of the Association**

433 **Section 8.7. Vacancies.**

434 (a) Elected Officers. A vacancy created by the death, disqualification, resignation, or removal of an elected

435 officer shall be filled by **majority vote of** the Board of Trustees **[until the next regular General**
 436 **Assembly]. An individual appointed to fill a vacancy shall serve until the vacancy is filled by**
 437 **regular or special election. [The vacancy shall then be filled by election for the balance of the**
 438 **unexpired term, if any.]**

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

442 **Section 8.9. President.**

443 The President shall be the chief executive officer of the Association **[and shall be a member, ex-officio,**
 444 **without vote, of all standing committees of the Association, except the Nominating Committee and**
 445 **the Board of Review, and of all standing committees of the Board except the Ministerial Fellowship**
 446 **Committee and the Religious Education Credentialing Committee].**

447 **ARTICLE IX. Nominations and Elections**

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

449 (a) The Nominating Committee shall submit one or more nominations for each elective position to be
 450 filled, except Moderator and President, including **[those to fill any vacancies] positions to be filled**
 451 **by special election [occurring prior to October 1 of the year before the election].** With respect
 452 to Board positions, the Nominating Committee shall designate the position number for which each
 453 person is being nominated.

454 (b) The Nominating Committee shall endeavor to nominate individuals so that the membership of the
 455 Board of Trustees and each elected committee reflects the full diversity of the Association, especially
 456 in regard to historically marginalized communities, but also balancing amongst size of congregation,
 457 lay and ordained, geography, age (including youth and young adults), and gender, among others.
 458 The Nominating Committee shall consult with groups and organizations including those traditionally
 459 underrepresented in Unitarian Universalist leadership, to help inform the nominating process.

460 (c) Only one person from any one member congregation shall be nominated to serve on the Nominating
 461 Committee or the Board of Trustees.

462 (d) The report of the Nominating Committee shall be filed with the Secretary of the Association and be
 463 mailed to all certified member congregations, associate member organizations, and trustees, on or
 464 before December 10 of each year.

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

466 (a) President. The Presidential Search Committee shall submit no fewer than two nominations for the
 467 office of President for an election at the end of a presidential term or **[when a vacancy occurs in**
 468 **the office prior to October of the year before the election] for a special election.** The report of
 469 the Presidential Search Committee shall be announced by February 1 of the year before the General
 470 Assembly at which there is to be a presidential election, except in the case of **[an] a special** election
 471 **[to fill a vacancy occurring after that date], in which case the report of the Presidential Search**
 472 **Committee shall be announced by December 10 of the year before the election.**

473 (b) Moderator. The Board of Trustees shall submit one or more nominations for the office of Moderator for
 474 an election at the end of a moderator term or **[when a vacancy occurs in the office prior to October**
 475 **of the year before the election] for a special election.** The report of the Board of Trustees shall be
 476 announced by February 1 of the year before the General Assembly at which there is to be a moderator
 477 election, except in the case of **[an] a special** election **[to fill a vacancy occurring after that date.], in**
 478 **which case the report of the Board of Trustees shall be announced by December 10 of the year**
 479 **before the election.**

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480 Section 9.6. Nomination by Petition.

481 (a) For Moderator and President. A nomination for the office of Moderator or President, **for a regular or**
482 **special election [or to fill a vacancy in an unexpired term occurring prior to December 1 of the**
483 **year before the election]**, may be by petition signed by no fewer than twenty-five certified member
484 congregations, including no fewer than five certified member congregations located in each of no
485 fewer than five different districts. A certified member congregation may authorize the signing of a
486 petition only by vote of its governing board or by vote at a duly called meeting of its members. Such
487 a petition shall be filed with the Secretary of the Association, only in such form as the Secretary may
488 prescribe, not later than February 1 of the year of the election and not earlier than the preceding
489 March 1.

490 (b) For Other Elective Positions. A nomination for any other elective position, **for a regular or special**
491 **election [or to fill a vacancy in an unexpired term occurring prior to December 1 of the year**
492 **before the election]**, may be by petition signed by not less than fifty members of certified member
493 congregations, with no more than ten signatures of members of any one congregation counted
494 toward the required fifty. A separate petition, in form prescribed by the Secretary, shall be filed
495 for each nomination not later than February 1 of the year of the election and not earlier than the
496 preceding October 1. A petition for nomination to the Board of Trustees must designate the position
497 number for which the person is being nominated.

498 Section 9.11. Counting of Ballots.

499 (a) For the position of President, **Moderator, Financial Advisor, or Trustee**. If there are no more than two
500 duly nominated candidates for **[President] a position**, the candidate receiving the greater number
501 of votes is elected; **provided, however, that in construing the foregoing with respect to Trustee**
502 **positions, each Trustee position number shall be considered a separate elective position**. If there
503 are more than two duly nominated candidates for **[President] a position**, the ballot shall be designed
504 to permit the designation of first, second, third, etc. choice. If no candidate receives a majority of the
505 first-choice votes cast, the candidate receiving the lowest first-choice vote shall be eliminated and the
506 ballots cast for such candidate shall be redistributed in accordance with the second choice indicated
507 thereon. This process shall be repeated until one candidate receives a majority of all votes cast or until
508 only two candidates remain, at which time the one receiving the greater number of votes is elected.

509 (b) For Other Elective Positions. If there is one elective position to be filled, the candidate receiving the
510 greatest number of votes is elected. If there is more than one such elective position of the same kind
511 to be filled, the candidates respectively receiving the greatest number of votes are elected; **provided,**
512 **however, that in construing the foregoing with respect to positions on the Board, each Board**
513 **position number shall be considered a separate elective position].**

514 Section 9.15. Special Elections

515 **If a vacancy occurs more than 630 days before the expiration of the term of an elected officer, an**
516 **elected member of a standing committee of the Association, or a trustee, a special election shall be held**
517 **to fill the balance of the unexpired term. The special election shall be held at the next regular General**
518 **Assembly that begins at least 270 days after the date of the vacancy.**

519 RULE IX Nominations and Elections

520 Rule G-9.4.1. Report of the Nominating Committee

521 (a) **Any person who applies to the Nominating Committee for nomination for the position of**
522 **Financial Advisor or trustee shall submit by the application deadline a one-page statement of**
523 **qualifications.**

524 (b) **The report of the Nominating Committee required by Section 9.4(d) may be mailed to certified**
525 **member congregations, associate member organizations, and trustees either electronically or**
526 **in hard copy. The report shall promptly be posted on the Association's website. The report shall**
527 **include the statement of qualifications submitted by each nominee for Financial Advisor or trustee.**

528 **Rule G-9.10.1. Tie Vote[s]-Elected Committee Position.**
529 **[Except in the election of a President, if] If** a tie vote occurs in filling an **[office] elected committee**
530 **position** when only one person is to be elected, or occurs in filling a slate **[of officers]** when the slate cannot
531 be completed without resolving the tie, then as soon as possible before the final adjournment of the General
532 Assembly involved, additional ballots shall be cast by those present and entitled to vote, except that initially
533 the Moderator shall not vote. The additional ballots shall contain only the names of the candidates who are
534 tied. These ballots shall be counted along with a recounting of the ballots cast for the tied candidates by
535 absentee ballots, and the result of the foregoing procedures shall determine the election, unless there is still a
536 tie, in which case the Moderator shall then cast a ballot to resolve it.

537 **Rule G-9.10.2. Tie Vote-Moderator.**
538 If the tie involves the election of a Moderator, the proceedings to resolve the tie shall be presided over by the
539 Secretary of the Association who in all matters involving the resolutions of the tie shall have the rights and
540 duties of the Moderator.

541 **Rule G-9.10.3. Tie Vote-President, Moderator, Financial Advisor, or Trustee.**
542 If, in the election of a President, **Moderator, Financial Advisor, or Trustee**, in any particular counting of the
543 preferential ballots, including absentee ballots, there is a tie vote among candidates having the least number
544 of votes, then each such tied candidate shall be eliminated, and in the next counting, the ballots accumulated
545 for said candidate shall be redistributed among the remaining candidates on the basis of the highest effective
546 preferences marked on all the ballots that have been cast. However, if in this process, such elimination leaves
547 only a single candidate who in that counting still does not have a majority of the counted votes, or if only two
548 candidates remain in the contest and they are tied, then there shall be as many run-off election procedures,
549 conducted under the provision of Rule G-9.10.1 as are necessary to result in the election of a President,
550 **Moderator, Financial Advisor, or Trustee** by at least a majority of the votes cast.

551 **Rule G-9.13.10. Election Campaign Practices Committee.**
552 An Election Campaign Practices Committee is hereby established and shall consist of three persons to be
553 appointed by the Board of Trustees **for a term of two years each, and the Secretary, ex-officio, without**
554 **vote. The Board shall designate one of the appointed members to chair the Committee. The appointed**
555 **members' terms shall begin at the close of General Assembly in odd-numbered years. The Board may**
556 **appoint an individual to fill a vacancy in membership of the Committee; persons appointed to fill a**
557 **vacancy shall serve the balance of the vacating member's term. [at its October meeting following those**
558 **regular General Assemblies at which elections occur. Two members of the Committee shall be members**
559 **of the Board of Trustees at the time of their appointment and one shall be a non-Board member. The**
560 **non-Board member shall be the chair of the Committee.]** Persons appointed to the **[Election Campaign**
561 **Practices]** Committee shall remain neutral in **[the election] elections held while they are serving** and
562 **shall** not engage in electioneering. **[A person nominated] Persons who seek nomination** pursuant to
563 Bylaw Sections 9.4, **[or] 9.5, or 9.6 are [is]** ineligible to serve on the Committee **once they begin seeking**
564 **nomination, and shall be deemed to have to have resigned from the Committee effective upon seeking**
565 **nomination if they are then serving.**