

Report on General Assembly 2026

Major Actions

- **Adopted the [Business Resolution](#)** directing the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) Board of Trustees to establish a task force to review MFC policies and rules as they relate to interim and developmental ministers, and to recommend updates that reflect the unique circumstances of transitional ministry.
- **Affirmed the [Action of Immediate Witness](#)** opposing rollbacks to environmental protections, public lands rules, and the endangerment finding. This affirmation directs the UUA's public witness on this issue in the coming year.
- **Passed the Responsive Resolution ["Where are the youth?"](#)**, calling on the Association to provide resources to recruit, train, and cultivate youth leadership and attendance.
- **Passed the Responsive Resolution ["Gratitude for UUA Support of Youth and Emerging Adults"](#)**, thanking the UUA for its commitment to youth and emerging adults and calling for their full inclusion at all levels of leadership.
- **Passed the Responsive Resolution ["Reaffirming Our Commitment to Immigrant Justice and Relationally Grounded Organizing"](#)**, reaffirming the Association's commitment to relationally grounded organizing and solidarity work.
- **Passed the [Responsive Resolution on SWANA region concerns](#)**, asking the Commission on Appraisal to include engagement with how the UUA can better include and respond to UUs affected by crises in the Southwest Asia and North Africa region.

Awards

- **President's Award for Volunteer Service**
Presented to **Minnesota Unitarian Universalists** — honoring the 26 congregations, the Minnesota Unitarian Universalist Social Justice Alliance, Black Lives of Unitarian Universalism, and the many individuals and organizations who answered the call to public witness and community defense during the US Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) crisis in Minneapolis this spring.
- **Angus H. MacLean Award for Excellence in Religious Education**
Presented to:
Cathy Seggel — religious educator at First Unitarian Church of Providence for 30 years, past President of LREDA and the Unitarian Sunday School Society, co-founder of the LREDA Life Member Chapter, and a member of the most recent UUA Presidential Search Committee.
Leia Durland-Jones — a second-generation lifelong UU and religious educator of 34 years at the UU Congregation of Charlottesville, ordained into UU ministry in 2020, and a dedicated advocate for shared ministry and anti-oppression work.
- **Award for Distinguished Service to the Cause of Unitarian Universalism**
Presented to **Rev. Dr. Clyde Grubbs** — a lifelong Unitarian Universalist whose decades

of service span congregational ministry, denominational leadership, and movement-building. A co-founder and past president of DRUUMM (Diverse and Revolutionary UU Multicultural Ministries), a mentor to generations of ministers and seminarians, and a prophetic voice for Indigenous rights and the repudiation of the Doctrine of Discovery.

Delegate Impressions of General Assembly 2026

The most interesting part of the business meeting for me concerned a proposed Action of Immediate Witness (AIW) proclaiming solidarity with people held in immigration detention, including those on hunger strike at Delaney Hall and other facilities. The opposition raised the issue of whether UUs – however well-meaning - should demonstrate at immigration detention facilities such as Delaney Hall in New Jersey without deferring to the expertise of groups representing those who are most impacted. Ultimately, the AIW was voted down.

In the process, we learned that a resolution had been proposed which acknowledged the importance of respecting the leadership of local leaders representing those who are most affected by a problem. Unfortunately, we heard that the proposed resolution could not be introduced because of convention rules stipulating that a resolution must address an issue identified in a report to GA. Considering how passionately delegates opposed detention centers, the specter of remaining silent was extremely disheartening. However, when people combed through GA reports, they were able to find that immigration had been mentioned in one, and so during the final business session a resolution was proposed in response to that report. Delegates enthusiastically supported the nonbinding resolution reaffirming the Association's commitment to relationally-grounded organizing and solidarity work.

Other observations:

Mini GA – instead of clarifying issues by presenting the problem to be solved and how the proposals would solve them, I found that the mini session just managed to highlight the complexities that confronted delegates and left me wondering whether the UUA should be a membership organization with delegates making these decisions.

Amendment to bylaws – at the heart was whether a volunteer committee which meets infrequently should be making decisions in situations when there were concerns about the previous placement of an interim or developmental minister. The vote did not approve of the amendment, so my takeaway was that paid staff who were more familiar with the minister were in a better position to make a timely decision.

A business resolution was quintessential UU – create a task force to study an issue. It passed.

The Protection of natural resources AIW was easily passed. It opposes rollbacks to environmental protections, public lands rules, and the endangerment finding.

Jean Pierce

This was the first time I have ever attended GA as a delegate. (Actually, it's the first time I have attended as a registered attendee. I went to the Sunday worship service once when GA was in Portland, but that's about it.) So I had only a vague notion of what to expect.

I wound up being impressed with how well, in general, the business portion was organized and conducted, and the care that delegates took in considering the items and resolutions before them. I think the other First Church Portland delegates have described the discussions and votes, so I don't feel a need to duplicate their efforts. Instead, I'd like to discuss two other items I came across outside of the business portion of General Assembly 2026.

The introductory briefing on Meet the Moment, presented by senior GA leadership (including GA President Rev. Dr. Betancourt) was impressive and informative.

<https://www.uua.org/congregations/meet-the-moment> I would hope that we at First U PDX undertake this analysis. The page at the link above contains a wealth of resources and stories to get us started.

Another initiative I just learned about through attending GA was the current Congregational Study and Action Item (CSAI). I don't know where we currently are in our congregation's process of studying this issue; resources to enable study and going through the process of discernment are available through this page at the Church of the Larger Fellowship. In an interesting occurrence of confluence (which seems to be happening these days), I have just finished reading a recently published book, *Ecocivilization*, that takes a holistic approach to an alternative society to our current one (with examples of existing initiatives across a variety of aspects: agriculture, technology, government ... and law) which the project of abolition of the prison-industrial complex (PIC) slots neatly into. The book would be a valuable resource in study of the CSAI.

Daniel Karnes

I remain impressed by how the UUA provides delegates with detailed background materials so they can enter GA as prepared as possible. I have never attended a meeting so focused on ensuring that everyone who wanted to speak was heard. In today's national climate, conducting ourselves with politeness, care, and inclusion is especially important and this GA modeled that behavior. First Unitarian should consider how it can model this approach to governance in meetings, elections, and other interactions with congregants.

It was exciting that GA members gave near-unanimous support to the Action of Immediate Witness (AIW), *Defend Against the Assault on Environmental Protections: Public Lands Rules and the Endangerment Finding*. Proposed by the Bellingham Unitarian Fellowship in Bellingham, WA, and the Northwest UU Justice Network, the AIW emphasizes the need to act against the destruction of national parks, monuments, protected public lands, and Tribal sacred sites. It also notes that rescinding the Greenhouse Gas Endangerment Finding that removes the federal responsibility to regulate greenhouse gas emissions, worsening climate-related impacts on public health, infrastructure, and Tribal subsistence. The AIW's goals are directly relevant to conserving Oregon's natural resources and support the work of our church's social justice action group, Community for Earth (CFE). As a CFE member, I hope we can collaborate with our Washington UU counterparts to put this AIW into action in Oregon.

I also attended an inspiring and informative workshop on abolition connected to the 2025 CSAI, *Abolition, Transformation, and Faith Formation*. The CSAI defines abolition as "a holistic approach to systemic social change" that includes abolishing slavery; replacing systems and cultures of violence, coercion, and control with transformative justice and relational practices; and dismantling the prison-industrial complex as we know it. Speakers connected abolition work to protests across the country responding to actions of the Trump Administration, ICE protests in Minneapolis, and direct support for incarcerated people, including incarcerated UUs.

Finally, passage of the Responsive Resolution "**Where are the youth?**", which calls on the UUA to provide resources to recruit, train, and cultivate youth leadership and attendance, is an important reminder for all UU churches—especially ours—to take action that lifts up the voices of young adults in our congregation.

Cathy Tortorici

Having been to around twenty General Assemblies my experience was different. I got tired of the introspection – the reports of the Process Observers and the Care Team and the Accessibility Team, and others. It's fine for them to do their work, but they don't need to tell me about it.

Two Responsive Resolutions that passed urged more actions of the administration to support youth. In response, the staff provided a description of current programs that I passed on the Rev Leah.

The AIW, "Defend Against the Assault on Environmental Protections: Public Lands Rules and the Endangerment Finding," was proposed by Deborah J. Cruz, president of JUUstice Washington, the UU state action network for Washington. <https://juustwa.org/> I've been in contact with JUUstice, and they may be able to provide support for the social justice

committees of our church. There is a workshop recording at <https://vimeo.com/1201837150?share=copy&fl=sv&fe=ci>

The Volunteer Service Award honored Minnesota UUs who stood up for immigrants. “Throughout this crisis, our Minnesota congregations banded together and with community partners in defense of neighborhoods and communities, showing up powerfully in support of our values,”

The UUA magazine *UU World* report is at <https://www.uuworld.org/articles/uua-ga-business-session-together-everywhere> or just go to <https://www.uuworld.org>

Arthur Ungar