

**Saturday, June 25, 2011**

**TODAY**

**Proposed Actions of Immediate Witness**

**Plenary IV – 8:30 a.m. – 12 noon – Proposed Actions of Immediate Witness (AIW) – Hall C.** We'll vote whether to admit up to six proposed Actions of Immediate Witness to the Final Agenda.

**Mini-Assemblies on proposed Actions of Immediate Witness – 1:00 p.m.-2:15 p.m.**

These Mini-Assemblies are your ONLY opportunity to suggest amendments to the text of the proposed Actions of Immediate Witness admitted to the GA Agenda during the morning Plenary. Debate on each AIW as amended occurs during the Sunday Plenary VI. The proposed AIWS and the sites of their corresponding mini-assemblies are:

**Charlotte Convention Center 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Rooms**

**AIW-1 Protest Rep. Peter King's Hearings on Muslim "Radicalization" – Room 201 AB**

**AIW-2 Support Southern California Supermarket Workers' Struggle for Decent Wages and Benefits – Room 202 AB**

**AIW-3 Toward Ending the U.S. Military Engagement in Afghanistan – Room 207 A**

**AIW-4 Oppose Citizens United – Support Free Speech for People – Room 207 BC**

Following the mini-assemblies, the CSW will meet to consider all proposed amendments. A revised draft text, with all unincorporated amendments listed and prioritized, will appear in Sunday morning's CSW Alert.

**Plan Ahead for Tomorrow!**

**Debate and voting on the amended AIWs are slated for Sunday's Plenary VI, from approximately 11:00am – 1:00pm.**

**Questions? Visit the CSW at Booth 313 in the Exhibit Hall  
UUA Commission on Social Witness – [www.uua.org/csw](http://www.uua.org/csw)**

## Proposed Actions of Immediate Witness

### Proposed AIW #1

#### 1 **Protest Representative Peter King’s Hearings on Muslim “Radicalization”**

2 Because Unitarian Universalist principles affirm the goal of a just community, representing unity in our  
3 multi-racial world;

4 Whereas: The hearings of Peter King, the Chair of the House Homeland Security Committee, which  
5 profess to present the ‘radicalization’ of the Muslim community, have begun as of March 10, 2011, and  
6 he intends on pursuing these hearings;

7 Whereas: on March 6, thousands of interfaith protestors demonstrated in Times Square against the  
8 Muslim radicalization hearings;

9 Whereas: such hearings lead to more hatred, racism and division along racial lines;

10 Whereas: such divisions foster the notion that the Middle East wars are against Muslim “terror”.  
11 However, Washington’s quest for oil and control of natural resources has become apparent in Iraq, and  
12 since the early 90’s, the US planned to build a lucrative gas pipeline through Afghanistan (TAPI), a plan  
13 finalized on May 28, 2011, in Ashkhabad. This "New Great Game" (Journal of Energy security: 2010)  
14 and competition among world powers– a war over the control of energy resources--is being promoted as a  
15 war against Islamic terror by the US;

16 Whereas: the first amendment to the Constitution states that, “Congress shall make no law respecting an  
17 establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof;

18 And whereas: on May 21, a coalition of Unitarian Universalist congregations, 25 civil rights and interfaith  
19 groups, including chapters of the NY Civil Liberties Union, local mosques and peace activists  
20 demonstrated in front of Peter King’s office in Massapequa Park, Long Island, NY;

21 Therefore, be it resolved that the 2011 General Assembly of the Unitarian Universalist Association  
22 affirms to uphold multiracial unity and interfaith solidarity in the interest of world peace and calls upon  
23 member congregations to:

24 \* urge our local congressional representatives to halt Peter King’s hearings.

25 \* demonstrate as interfaith coalitions against the divisive promotion of Muslim “radicalization” and  
26 instead advocate multi-racial unity.

### Proposed AIW #2

#### 1 **Support Southern California Supermarket Workers’ Struggle for Decent Wages and Benefits**

2 BECAUSE our Unitarian Universalist Principles affirm “the inherent worth and dignity of every person”  
3 and call for “justice, equity and compassion in human relations”;

4 BECAUSE our denomination has a long history of opposing racism and sexism;

5 WHEREAS, fulltime supermarket workers in Southern California (SoCal) earn an average of less than  
6 \$30,000 per year, despite the high cost of living in the area;

7 WHEREAS, many workers get only 24 hours of work per week and therefore earn far less;

8 WHEREAS, SoCal supermarket workers are disproportionately African-American and Latino;

9 WHEREAS, SoCal supermarket workers are disproportionately female;

10 WHEREAS, the 5-month strike/lockout of these workers in 2003 resulted in reductions in health  
11 insurance and pensions;

12 WHEREAS, despite that, the 62,000 members of United Food and Commercial Workers voted  
13 overwhelmingly April 21, 2011 to authorize a strike against the three major SoCal supermarket chains—  
14 Ralphs, Albertsons and Von’s;

15 WHEREAS, the supermarket chains are demanding further increases in workers’ payments for health  
16 insurance;

17 WHEREAS, by authorizing a strike the supermarket workers acted on behalf of all workers, courageously  
18 rejecting the Great Recession rhetoric of “shared sacrifice,” which has so far meant primarily that only  
19 workers (employed and unemployed) and their families sacrifice;

20 WHEREAS, in 2003 the supermarket chains adopted a “national strategy,” relying on profits from  
21 operations throughout the US to offset losses in Southern California;

22 WHEREAS it appears likely that the workers will strike within a few weeks of this General Assembly;

23 THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the 2011 General Assembly of the Unitarian Universalist  
24 Association:

25 • Calls upon UU congregations in Southern California to support the supermarket workers,  
26 including but not limited to educating our members, organizing petition campaigns and pledges  
27 not to shop at supermarkets on strike, holding demonstrations, walking picket lines, serving meals  
28 to the workers if they strike, and organizing congregations of other denominations and the  
29 community in general to do the same;

30

31 • Calls upon congregations outside Southern California to hold demonstrations and picket lines at  
32 stores owned by the parent companies of the three supermarket chains: Safeway (Von’s), Kroger  
33 (Ralphs), and Supervalu, Inc. (Albertsons), and to collect pledges not to shop at stores owned by  
34 the chains if the workers strike, and to urge members of the community not to shop at those stores  
35 until the strike is settled, and to support the workers in other ways.

Proposed AIW #3

1 **Toward Ending the U.S. Military Engagement in Afghanistan**

2 **Because** we covenant in our *Principles and Purposes* to promote “Justice, equity and compassion in  
3 human relations,” and to seek “. . . world community with peace, liberty and justice for all”;

4 **Because** the 2010 Statement of Conscience, *Creating Peace* calls upon our Unitarian Universalist  
5 Association, congregations and individuals “to speak truth to power” and “to engage with more depth,  
6 persistence, and creativity in the complex task of creating peace”;

7 **Because** we honor the valiant efforts of the men and women in the armed services in Afghanistan, and  
8 mourn the losses of lives and disabling injuries of all involved- military and civilian; and

9 **Whereas** the United States continues to pursue a military solution to the political conflicts in Afghanistan  
10 and in the region in spite of an announced timetable for military withdrawal starting this summer;  
11

12 **Whereas**, after almost 10 years of U.S. military engagement in Afghanistan, and in spite of defeating al  
13 Qaeda there and eliminating Osama bin Laden, the current goal of building a central government with  
14 democratic institutions continues to be elusive and likely unattainable;

15 **Whereas** the intensive presence of U.S. troops required by counter-insurgency strategy is resented by the  
16 majority of Afghans, and contributes to the recruitment of armed resistance fighters and to terrorists  
17 around the world;

18 **Whereas** the economic costs to our nation, as well as to Afghanistan, are tremendous at a time of  
19 recession and unemployment when our resources could be effectively used to strengthen our domestic  
20 economy; and

21 **Whereas** American popular support continues to decrease, thus encouraging continued fighting among  
22 warring Afghan groups;

23 **Therefore**, be it resolved that the 2011 General Assembly of the Unitarian Universalist Association calls  
24 upon the United States government to change its course in Afghanistan from a policy of combating  
25 insurgents to a policy of supporting international assistance to the Afghan people in their developing and  
26 maintaining their own security and governance;

27 **Furthermore**, we call upon the government and peoples of Afghanistan to resolve conflicts through  
28 democratic processes and to support human rights, especially the rights of women and religious freedom;  
29 and

30 **Be it further resolved** that we urge the United Nations to help mediation among the hostile parties and  
31 facilitate rebuilding and reconciliation;

32 **And finally**, we urge the Unitarian Universalist Association, our congregations and their members to  
33 participate fully in local, national, and interfaith efforts to bring an end to the U.S. combat mission in  
34 Afghanistan.

Proposed AIW #4

1 **Oppose Citizens United – Support Free Speech for People**

2 **BECAUSE** Unitarian Universalists believe in the inherent worth and dignity of every person, and in the  
3 use of the democratic process in society at large,

4 **WHEREAS** the U.S. Supreme Court decision of January 21, 2010 in *Citizens United v. FEC* enshrined  
5 corporations as persons, and equated money with speech, and

6 **WHEREAS** this unprecedented ruling has already resulted in unlimited spending by corporations in state  
7 and federal elections in 2010, flooding the political marketplace with corporate money, drowning out the  
8 voices of individuals, and jeopardizing the very democracy that we hold dear, and

9 **WHEREAS** Congress cannot pass a law to overturn the Supreme Court decision, once the Supreme  
10 Court has interpreted the Constitution to say that corporations have the First Amendment rights of people,  
11 and

12 **WHEREAS** continuing this precedent may result in ever increasing gaps between rich and poor,  
13 concentrated efforts by the wealthy to control elections by vast infusions of money into campaign front  
14 groups, and increasing corruption of the democratic process, and

15 **WHEREAS** we are entering the first Presidential election cycle where this ruling takes effect, so the  
16 urgency is for people to speak up NOW in opposition to this ruling and in support of a Constitutional  
17 amendment to overturn it, so that this is part of the Presidential debates in 2012,

18 **THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the 2011 General Assembly urges member congregations to  
19 sign the resolution for The People’s Rights Amendment proposed at [www.freespeechforpeople.org](http://www.freespeechforpeople.org) and  
20 encourage their Congressional representatives to sponsor such a resolution in opposition to the SCOTUS  
21 decision in Citizens United. Find your U.S. Representatives at [www.house.gov](http://www.house.gov),

22 **AND BE IT RESOLVED** that the 2011 General Assembly encourages member congregations to support  
23 similar motions of other organizations such as MovetoAmend, People for the American Way, and Public  
24 Citizen. (See [www.movetoamend.org](http://www.movetoamend.org), [www.pfaw.org](http://www.pfaw.org), [www.citizen.org](http://www.citizen.org)),

25 **AND BE IT RESOLVED** that the 2011 General Assembly encourages member congregations to press  
26 their state Senators and Representatives to file similar state and local resolutions opposing the equation of  
27 corporate political speech with the free speech of individual persons, and use as models the 2011 state  
28 resolutions of the states of Massachusetts, New Mexico, Oregon, Vermont, and Washington State, and the  
29 local resolutions of the towns of Brewster, Chatham, Dennis, Great Barrington, Orleans, Provincetown,  
30 Truro, Wellfleet, and Williamstown, Massachusetts. See [www.freespeechforpeople.org](http://www.freespeechforpeople.org), 2011  
31 Resolutions.

32 **AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that GA 2011 encourages the existing eleven UU legislative  
33 ministries in the UU State Advocacy Network (UUSAN, [www.uustatenetwork.org](http://www.uustatenetwork.org)) to consider adopting  
34 “Oppose Citizens United—Support Free Speech for People” as a core issue among their statewide efforts,  
35 and encourages member congregations in states that do not YET have a legislative ministry to start one by  
36 contacting Interim Administrator, Nancy Banks, at [nancy.banks1@verizon.net](mailto:nancy.banks1@verizon.net) or 617-835-5426.

37 Working together we can grow our souls, help heal the world, and perhaps make a significant impact in  
38 2011-2012 to restore free speech to people and strengthen the voices of WE the People in our democracy.