

Congregational Polls ⓘ

There are two Congregational Polls this year.

1. Congregational Poll on Draft Statement of Conscience (SOC): We approve placing the Draft SOC "Peacemaking" on the Final Agenda for General Assembly (GA) 2010.

Yes No Abstain

2. Congregational Poll on Proposed Congregational Study/Action Issues: Vote for no more than five.

Ending Slavery

Yes No Abstain

Energy, Peace, and Justice

Yes No Abstain

Immigration as a Moral Issue

Yes No Abstain

National Economic Reform: A Moral Imperative

Yes No Abstain

Nuclear Disarmament

Yes No Abstain

Revitalizing American Democracy

Yes No Abstain

Once you have all of your information go to dyn.uua.org/congregation and log in to your Data Services account. Click on **Begin Certification of Membership 2010** to fill out the online form.

Form Information

1) Congregation Contact Information

Please note that we reserve the right to abbreviate some words in the Congregation Name due to space constraints in some printed materials. The congregation contact information, including meeting address, telephone number, and email, appear in the UUA Directory, as well as online at uua.org.

2) Religious Education

Your congregation's Director of Religious Education should provide the official number of those enrolled in Religious Education. This total should equal the number of children and high school youth who are registered within the congregation's religious education program. For safety reasons, the UUA suggests that all children in the program be officially registered. If you need help designing a registration system that works for you, please contact your district staff.

If there are children or high school youth who attend Religious Education but are not yet officially registered, you may include them in your total count. But please make a point of registering everyone so that reported totals in the future will include only these children and high school youth who are officially registered.

3) Average Weekly Attendance

Here's how to calculate your congregation's average weekly attendance:

- Gather attendance figures for all 52 Sundays, as follows. If you hold services for only part of the year, gather attendance figures for the Sundays you meet.
- Congregations with alternatives to Sunday morning worship should include unduplicated attendance at these services in their weekly count. In the following directions, interpret "Sunday" to include these other services as well.
- For each Sunday, count the total number of people of any age who attended or who served as a leader in one or more of the following: worship/ other services; church school for children, youth or adults; nursery care during worship. Count each person only once for a given weekend. Total all 52 weeks and divide by 52 to compute an average attendance for that year. (Adjust this if you meet only part of the year - total and divide according to the number of Sundays you meet.)
- If you have special holiday services that would tend to skew attendance figures when they fall on Sunday or Saturday evening (e.g., primary Christmas service), eliminate that Sunday and count twice the attendees for the following Sunday. Don't adjust for Easter Sunday or any other holiday that ALWAYS falls on a Sunday -- continue to count those within with your regular attendance figures.
- If you have less than six months of data, please wait until next year to submit average attendance numbers.

4) Fiscal Year

If your fiscal year ends June 30, please report statistical information totals that are budgeted for your current fiscal year. If your fiscal year ends December 31, please report totals that correspond to your just-ended fiscal year.

5) Total Operating Expenses

Total Operating Expenses should not include capital expenses.

6) Total Pledge Income

Total Pledge Income given by members and friends.

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7) Congregation Membership Numbers

UUA Board Policy states, if you submit your Membership numbers on or before the February 1 deadline and are certified for GA representation, you may not change your number again between February 1, 2010 and July 1, 2010.

Any requests for an exception to the above shall be submitted to the Secretary of the Association for review and response, in consultation with the Executive Vice-President if deemed appropriate.

8) What Is a Member?

A member is an individual with full or partial voting rights at business meetings of the congregation, according to its procedures and/or bylaws. The UUA will use the number of members reported to determine the number of delegates to General Assembly in 2010 as well as the Fair Share for the UUA and district dues in 2010/11.

9) Multi-Denominational (federated or united) Congregations

Multi-denominational (federated or united) congregations report both their total membership (including UUs) and their UU membership. You can calculate your UU membership in one of two ways:

- Count or estimate the number of members who identify as UU.
- Or, Divide your total membership by the number of denominations.

Guide to Voting in the Congregational Poll can be found online at: www.uua.org/socialjustice/issuesprocess/

Who can vote?

Any congregation that

- submits their completed membership certification form (online or hardcopy) between November 13, 2009 and 5 p.m. PST on Monday, February 1, 2010 and
- made a financial contribution to our UUA between July 1, 2008 and June 30, 2009

can vote and will have their vote counted in the Congregational Poll.

What's the deadline?

5:00 p.m. PST on Monday, February 1, 2010! You can vote anytime between November 13, 2009 and 5:00 p.m. PST February 1, 2010, but the deadline is firm.

What are you voting on?

There are two Congregational Polls this year.

Poll #1: Congregational Poll on Draft Statement of Conscience (SOC): For a Draft Statement of Conscience (SOC) to appear on the 2010 General Assembly Final Agenda, our UUA bylaws require a minimum of 25% of certified congregations to participate in the ballot vote on whether the Draft SOC should be placed on the Final Agenda.

Please base your vote here on whether your congregation, or its representatives, believe the Draft SOC is worded well enough to be considered by the General Assembly, as refined by congregational comment before and during the 2010 General Assembly.

The complete text of the Draft SOC on Peacemaking appears at

www.uua.org/socialjustice/issuesprocess/currentissues/peacemaking/121606.shtml. Be aware that comments and suggestions on the wording of the Draft SOC are invited by February 1, 2010. After logging in to your congregation's account at dyn.uua.org/congregation, you will see a link to an online survey.

Once you have all of your information go to dyn.uua.org/congregation and log in to your Data Services account. Click on **Begin Certification of Membership 2010** to fill out the online form.

Poll #2: Congregational Poll on Proposed Congregational Study/Action Issues: The text of the six CSAIs is at www.uua.org/socialjustice/issuesprocess/currentissues/152637.shtml

Vote for no more than five:

- Ending Slavery
- Energy, Peace, and Justice
- Immigration as a Moral Issue
- National Economic Reform: A Moral Imperative
- Nuclear Disarmament
- Revitalizing American Democracy

For more information on Statements of Conscience, see www.uua.org/csw.

Be aware that comments and suggestions on the wording of the Draft SOC are invited by March 1, 2010 through www.uua.org/csw or via mail. Please base your vote here on whether your congregation, or its representatives, believe the Draft SOC is worded well enough to be considered by the General Assembly, as refined by congregational comment before and during the 2010 General Assembly.

Use the checkboxes to vote “Yes,” “No,” or “Abstain” based on the preferences that your congregation has expressed through a congregation-wide vote, work by your Social Action or Social Justice committee or other body, or whatever other method your congregation has selected. If your congregation wants to vote on a paper ballot and wants to certify on a hard copy form, contact Nick Rafeal in Data Services at the UUA (617-948-4654 or data_services@uua.org) and request hard copy forms and hard copy text of the Draft SOC and CSAIs.

How many votes does a congregation get?

One! One congregation, one vote (in each of the two polls)!

Can you change your mind once your vote has been cast?

Yes, as long as you cast your final vote before the deadline. Go to dyn.uua.org/congregation and log in with your congregation’s ID number and password. Click the “Begin Certification of Membership 2010” button and recast your vote.

How will you know that your congregation has been certified and that your Congregational Poll vote has been recorded?

Once you certify, you receive a confirmation e-mail. This goes to your congregational address in the database and to the e-mail address entered on the certification form. Your vote on the Draft SOC and CSAIs is confirmed in this same communication. A list of certified congregations, with an indication of which have voted in the poll, is at dyn.uua.org/congregation/certlist.php

Why should our congregation vote?

Because you can! Ours is a democratic process of participation in our Unitarian Universalist Association. The quality of our democracy depends on your participation! Your participation in the Congregational Poll is part of the process for deciding on what and how our Association of congregations should take action.

What if I have other questions?

Read the information about the Draft SOC and CSAIs at www.uua.org/csw and the instructions for voting at dyn.uua.org/congregation. If you have other questions, email data_services@uua.org.

Once you have all of your information go to dyn.uua.org/congregation and log in to your Data Services account. Click on **Begin Certification of Membership 2010** to fill out the online form.

Certification of Membership General Information:

UUA Bylaws require that member congregations complete the **Certification of Membership**. This information is used to:

- Update the annual UUA Directory and on our Website.
- Report your congregation's official membership number.
 - This determines your congregation's number of member **delegates** at General Assembly 2010.
 - It is the basis for calculating your **Annual Program Fund Fair Share** (FY 2011) contribution to the UUA and your district dues.

UUA Bylaws:

***SECTION C-3.5. Certification of Membership.**

A member congregation shall be recognized as certified during the fiscal year of the Association in which it becomes a member and during each subsequent fiscal year in which it established that during the immediately preceding fiscal year it:

- (a) conducted regular religious services;
- (b) held at least one business meeting of its members, elected its own officers and maintained adequate records of membership; and
- (c) made a financial contribution to the Association.

Member congregations must furnish the Association with a report of their activities showing compliance with subsection (a) and (b) above.

Compliance with subsection (c) above shall be determined by appropriate financial records of the Association. A member congregation shall also be considered to be certified for that part of any particular current fiscal year which precedes the deadline established by the Board of Trustees for submitting proof of compliance with subsection (a) and (b) above if during the next preceding fiscal year such a congregation made a financial contribution to the Association and filed the report required by this section during that year.

A member congregation which has not been certified for three consecutive fiscal years shall be deemed inactive and placed in an "inactive congregation" category.

The Board of Trustees shall make rules to carry out the intent of this section and shall determine which member congregations meet the requirements set forth herein for any fiscal year of the Association.

Delegates:

More information online at www.uua.org/events/generalassembly/businesssocial/12738.shtml

Annual Program Fund Fair Share:

More information online at www.uua.org/giving/annualprogram

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