

2023 GA REPORT FROM MAC GOEKLER

UUA General Assembly 2023 Report

We Unitarian Universalists gathered for the multiplatform General Assembly, GA on June 21–25, with 1,768 online registrants and 2,380 in-person registrants in Pittsburgh, PA.

The big issue was the proposed UUA Article II. After amendments it passed with an 86.3% vote. Below/attached is a draft version of this amended document – the adds are BOLD (except titles) and the deletes are bracketed (both done by me). In December we will see the official amended version – with consistent language and grammar – same content. We will have a number of workshops here at UUSD this coming year to discuss this document. There may be more amendments. We will have the final vote at the next GA, a virtual GA. The final passage requires a 2/3 positive voter. Each UU congregation will decide whether they want to adopt this updated UUA Article.

Rev. Dr. Sofia Betancourt, who holds a Ph.D. in Religious Ethics and African American Studies from Yale University and an M.Div. from Starr King School for the Ministry, ran as the sole nominee, and was elected with 95.5 % vote. Her opponent withdrew (same situation as the last presidential election six years ago). Then six years ago the nominating committees asked for candidates to run by petition – with the result that Rev. Frederick-Gray who ran by petition and won. This time no one ran by petition – thus Rev. Betancourt ran unopposed.

A business resolution, “[Complete Divestment from the Fossil Fuel industry and Subsequent Reparations](#),” proposed by UU Young Adults for Divestment, was not adopted, as it received only a 31.7 % positive vote.

All three proposed Actions of Immediate Witness passed overwhelmingly: “[Rise Up to Stop Copy City](#)” (83.8 percent in favor); “[Organizing for Health Equity](#)” (85.8 percent); and “[Protect the Dreamers, the Recipients of Deferred Action for Childhood Arrival \(DACA\) with a Pathway to Permanent Residence](#)” (98.1 percent). No responsive resolutions were accepted for the agenda.

Imani Perry, the Hughes-Rogers Professor of African American Studies at Princeton University was this year’s Ware Lecturer.

In the only contested election, for four open positions on the UUA Nominating Committee, delegates elected Rev. Viola Abbitt (2,166 votes), Ben Gabel (1,855), Carrie Stewart (2,098) and Rev. Zackrie Vinczen (2,002). Dick Burkhardt, who was not elected, received 607 votes.

