



Jargon Buster

Use this handy jargon buster to get a grip on some of the words and acronyms you might see and hear used at the Annual Meetings.

Anniversary Service	An annual worship service held at the Meetings, likely the largest Unitarian worship service in the UK. It is believed that it marks the Anniversary of the foundation of the B&FUA (the first organised Unitarian national association), which held an Anniversary Service at its yearly general meeting in May.
B&FUA	British and Foreign Unitarian Association, Inc (founded 1825), its main function is to act as Custodian Trustee for the GA and various Unitarian Trusts and churches. It manages a pooled investment portfolio for the Trusts for which it is a sole Trustee.
Earth-Spirit Network	A group of people whose spirituality is centred on a spiritual connection to nature rather than particular revelation.
EC	The Executive Committee – The elected trustee body, successor to GA Council.
ECU	East Cheshire Union (District).
Essex Hall	A building in London owned by the Essex Hall Trust, built on the site of the first church called Unitarian in Britain (in 1774) and housing the administrative offices of the General Assembly – sometimes also used to refer to our Headquarters and Staff.
EU	Eastern Union (GA District).

FOY	The Foy Society – founded in 1924 as FOY (Fellowship of Youth) the Foy Society is a fellowship of men and women who, in a spirit of free enquiry, seek to understand the nature of present day issues and problems, political, social and religious. People of all ages are welcome to join – currently the youngest member is a teenager and the oldest are in their nineties!
GA	General Assembly – used in two senses (1) the collection of congregations and members which comprise the denomination; (2) the annual gathering of representatives of these congregations and other Unitarian bodies (from North American usage).
GA Zette	The daily news sheet produced at the Annual Meetings, without which it can be hard to keep abreast of issues and personalities.
Great Hucklow	Derbyshire village containing the Nightingale Centre. This residential centre is the focus for many events for churches, districts and special interest groups and also the base for the National Youth Programme. The Centre is often affectionately known as “Hucklow”.
IARF	International Association for Religious Freedom, an interfaith organisation started in 1900 primarily by Unitarians; membership includes Unitarian national organisations as well as “liberal” movements from almost every world faith. A ‘Congress’ is held every three years.
ICUU	International Council of Unitarians and Universalists, the international organisation for national Unitarian and Universalist bodies.
Inquirer, The	Denominational fortnightly newspaper – subscribe to it!
IRF	International Religious Fellowship – an international (primarily European) young adult group with links to the IARF.
LDPA	London District & South Eastern Provincial Assembly of Unitarian and Free Christian Churches (Inc), (GA District).
LLSG	Local Leadership Strategy Group

MCO	Manchester College Oxford, now officially called Harris Manchester College – one of the main training centres for Unitarian Ministers in Britain.
MDA	Manchester District Association (GA District).
MDMA	Merseyside District Missionary Association (GA District).
MPF	Ministers Pension Fund.
MSG	Ministry Strategy Group
NELUM	North & East Lancashire Unitarian Mission (GA District).
Nightingale Centre	The working name for the Unitarian Holiday & Conference Centre at Great Hucklow.
NSPCI	Non-Subscribing Presbyterian Church in Ireland, a separate church in its own right with historic close links with the General Assembly.
NUA	Northern Unitarian Association (GA District).
NUF	National Unitarian Fellowship, a religious organisation that attempts to provide contact, church services and fellowship for those isolated, geographically or otherwise, from a local Unitarian Church.
SUA	Scottish Unitarian Association or Southern Unitarian Association (GA Districts).
UALM	Unitarian Association of Lay Ministry – The organisation bringing together those who exercise “spiritual” leadership with our churches who do not qualify as ministers or lay pastors (formerly known as the Unitarian Association of Lay Leaders, UALL).
UCA	Unitarian Christian Association.
UMS	Unitarian Music Association.
URG	Unitarian Renewal Group – a “ginger” group that promotes inclusivity and tolerance of diversity in Unitarian congregations.
USPS	Unitarian Society for Psychical Studies (often referred to as ‘The Psychical Society’).

UUA	Unitarian Universalist Association – The national organisation for Unitarians in the USA, with close links to the Canadian Unitarian Council (though now separate).
UWG	Unitarian Women’s Group.
WL	Women’s League.
YUU	Yorkshire Union of Unitarian and Free Christian Churches (GA District).