

# Proposed Bylaw Amendments for the 2010 General Assembly

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underlining = insertion; brackets = deletion

The Board of Trustees passed a motion to place bylaws changes related to the election of President and Moderator on the 2010 agenda. The text of these proposed changes are being included in the 2009 Agenda Book for the purpose of broad congregational discussion. This proposed Bylaw change will not be voted on until the 2010 General Assembly.

### Section 5.1. Committees of the Association.

The standing committees of the Association shall be:

- (a) the Nominating Committee;
- (b) the Presidential Search Committee;**
- ~~(b)c~~ ) the General Assembly Planning Committee;
- ~~(c)d~~ the Commission on Appraisal;
- ~~(d)e~~ the Commission on Social Witness; and
- ~~(e)f~~ the Board of Review.

### Section 5.2. Election and Terms of Office.

Elected members of all Section 5.1 committees shall take office at the close of the General Assembly at which they are elected and shall serve until their successors are elected and qualified except as otherwise provided herein.

One-half as nearly as possible of the elected members of the General Assembly Planning Committee and the Commission on Social Witness shall be elected at the regular General Assembly held in each odd-numbered year. The elected members of the General Assembly Planning Committee and the Commission on Social Witness shall serve for terms of four years. One-third of the members of the Nominating Committee and the Commission on Appraisal shall be elected at the regular General Assembly held in each odd-numbered year. The elected members of the Nominating Committee and the Commission on Appraisal shall serve for single terms of six years. Any member of the Nominating Committee or the Commission on Appraisal in office for a period of more than three years shall be deemed to have completed a six-year term for the purposes of re-election. **The elected members of the Presidential Search Committee shall be elected at the regular General Assembly held four years before the General Assembly at which there is to be a presidential election at the expiration of a President's term. The elected members of the Presidential Search Committee shall serve for terms of six years.**

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## **Section 5.7. Presidential Search Committee.**

**The Presidential Search Committee shall consist of five members elected by the General Assembly, one member appointed by the Unitarian Universalist Ministers Association and one member appointed by the Board of Trustees. The election and appointment of members shall occur at the regular General Assembly held four years before the General Assembly at which there is to be a presidential election at the expiration of a President's term. Each appointment and election of a member shall be for a term of six years. The Committee shall nominate candidates for the office of President.**

## **Section 8.3. Term of Office.**

- (a) Elected Officers. The elected officers shall be elected at a regular General Assembly in an odd-numbered year and shall take office immediately after the close of such General Assembly.
- (1) President. The President shall serve for a term of **[four] six** years and until his or her successor is elected and qualified. No President shall serve more than **[two successive terms] one term**; and any partial term of more than two years served by reason of appointment and/or election to office pursuant to subsection 8.7(a) below shall be considered a full term for purposes of this subsection.
  - (2) Moderator **[and Financial Advisor]**. The Moderator **[and Financial Advisor]** shall **[each]** serve for a term of **[four] six** years and until his or her successor is elected and qualified. No Moderator **[or Financial Advisor]** shall serve more than **[two successive terms] one term**; and any partial term of more than two years served by reason of appointment and/or election to office pursuant to subsection 8.7(a) below shall be considered a full term for purposes of this subsection.
  - (3) **Financial Advisor. The Financial Advisor shall serve for a term of four years and until his or her successor is elected and qualified. No Financial Advisor shall serve more than two successive terms; and any partial term of more than two years served by reason of appointment and/or election to office pursuant to subsection 8.7(a) below shall be considered a full term for purposes of this subsection.**
- (b) Appointed Non-salaried Officers. The appointed non-salaried officers shall serve for one or more terms of two years and until their successors are appointed and qualified.

## **Section 9.4. Nomination by Nominating Committee.**

The Nominating Committee shall submit one or more nominations for each elective position at large to be filled, except Moderator and President, including those to fill any vacancies occurring prior to October 1 of the year before the election. Only one person from any one member congregation shall be thus nominated to serve on the Nominating Committee. The report of the Nominating Committee shall be filed with the Secretary of the Association and be mailed to all certified member congregations, associate member organizations, and trustees on or before December 10 of each even-numbered year.

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## Section 9.5. Nomination of President and Moderator.

- (a) President. The Presidential Search Committee shall submit no fewer than two nominations for the office of President for an election at the end of a presidential term or when a vacancy occurs in the office prior to October of the year before the election. The report of the Presidential Search Committee shall be announced at the General Assembly held one year before the General Assembly at which there is to be a presidential election, except in the case of an election to fill a vacancy occurring after that date.
- (b) Moderator. The Board of Trustees shall submit one or more nominations for the office of Moderator for an election at the end of a moderator term or when a vacancy occurs in the office prior to October of the year before the election. The report of the Board of Trustees shall be announced at the General Assembly held one year before the General Assembly at which there is to be a moderator election, except in the case of an election to fill a vacancy occurring after that date.

## Section [9.5] 9.6. Nomination by Petition.

- (a) For Moderator and President. A nomination for the office of Moderator or President, or to fill a vacancy in an unexpired term occurring prior to December 1 of the year before the election **[shall], may** be by petition signed by no fewer than twenty-five certified member congregations, including no fewer than five certified member congregations located in each of no fewer than five different districts. A certified member congregation may authorize the signing of a petition only by vote of its governing board or by vote at a duly called meeting of its members. Such a petition shall be filed with the Secretary of the Association, only in such form as the Secretary may prescribe, not later than February 1 of the year of the election and not earlier than the preceding March 1. **[If no valid and timely nomination is made by certified member congregations, the Board of Trustees shall nominate one or more candidates for the office.]**
- (b) For Other Elective Positions at Large. A nomination for any other elective position at large or to fill a vacancy in an unexpired term occurring prior to December 1 of the year before the election may be by petition signed by not less than fifty members of certified member congregations, with no more than ten signatures of members of any one congregation counted toward the required fifty. A separate petition, in form prescribed by the Secretary, shall be filed for each nomination not later than February 1 of the year of the election and not earlier than the preceding October 1. Nominations for youth trustee at large shall be so designated.