

May 30, 2014

Afternoon all,

Your faithful Governance WG has been faithfully working on revisions to our "One Voice" policy as specified in Policy Section 3. I know that some of you feel that the policy is sufficient as it is now stated; others feel the need for clarification / addition. So, here's a text to serve as the basis for discussion of this policy.

This memo is merely a "heads up." We will discuss this change at our October meeting. Our meeting at GA is always very full and our discussion of this change will likely be extensive. So, think about the changes proposed in the attached document and be ready for our October meeting.

There are minor changes (in red) to the existing procedural document and the additional paragraphs are at the end of the document (in bold).

See you soon in Providence,

Lew

DRAFT

Policy: 3.4 External Relations. Speaking with one voice is an important value of the Board. To achieve this, the board will formally delegate official authority to speak on behalf of the organization in the public arena.

Procedural elements for Policy 3.4:

Committee chairs, working group conveners and officers are authorized to communicate with members of the press concerning areas of Board discussion, deliberation and action within the scope of their authority following meetings of their respective groups.

1. *The Chief Governance Officer and President are the customary spokespersons for the UUA. Trustee's interaction with the public, press or other entities must recognize that no Trustee may speak for the Board except to repeat explicitly stated Board decisions.*
2. *Any Board member may be empowered and charged by the Board to be a Board representative in relationship with any group, and such empowerment, the charge and its responsibilities will be defined by the Board at the time of the assignment.*
3. *Board members may represent the Board or the Association at meetings and events where such representation is deemed desirable and where the CGO has agreed to the representation. Board members are entitled to represent themselves as UUA Trustees at ceremonial events where the Board member deems such representation desirable. Board members are responsible and accountable for avoiding any ambiguity about their representative role or authorization to speak for the Board of Trustees or the UUA.*
4. *For special electronic communications (e.g., the Board Face Book page), the CGO may appoint individual trustees to write inputs in areas in which they have knowledge or expertise.*
5. *The Chief Governance Officer will appoint a trustee or trustees to write a brief letter to UU ministers and congregational presidents following each quarterly board meeting, to apprise them of important decisions the Board made at that meeting and vital issues it discussed. Such a letter will be signed by the Secretary on behalf of the Board.*
6. *During elections for UUA positions, trustees shall not endorse any candidate unless the board has taken a position on the election.*
7. *During consideration of Actions of Immediate (AIWs) Witness, Congregational Study / Action Issues (CS/AIs), and Statements of Conscience trustees shall not take positions unless the Board has considered the issue(s) and established a board position. Should a trustee feel that an AIW, CS/AI, or Statement of Conscience is of a nature that the board should take a position, that trustee should take action to have that issue added to the board agenda for consideration. Similarly, during consideration of responsive resolutions, unless the board has discussed a responsive resolution and has taken a position, trustees shall not take a position.*