

Rule 3.8.1. Application for Independent Affiliate Status.

Each applicant for independent affiliate status shall submit with its application:

- j. a statement outlining how its purpose, mission and structure models interdependence through engagement with our member congregations, coordination or collaboration of effort and resources; and a statement outlining how the organization supports the transformation of institutions and our world to be aligned with those values expressed in our Principles;

Unitarian Universalist Partner Church Council

UUPC strives to "establish global citizenship as a common commitment of liberal religion, transforming ourselves and our congregations, and thus make international engagement a moral and spiritual principle of UU congregational life."

UUPC connects and supports North American congregations in partnerships around the world. These partnerships create transformational opportunities for pilgrimage, hospitality, learning and service. Our members develop creative, vital partnerships between North American UU congregations and Unitarians and Universalists internationally so that together we may promote international awareness, human rights and a better world.

UUPC reaches across all boundaries to collaborate with old and new partners. Please contact us to learn more about congregational partnerships. We invite conversations with all who desire to make global community integral to congregational life.

Unitarian Universalist Ministry for Earth

OUR VISION: that UU's will recognize and embrace the moral imperative to live in covenant with the interdependent web of life.

OUR MISSION: to support UU's who are working to make this vision a reality within the UUA, in congregations, and in their personal lives.

OUR MINISTRY FOR EARTH includes:

The Green Sanctuary Program inviting congregations to build spiritually-centered environmental awareness, choose more sustainable practices, and create environmental justice in their communities.

Educational resources for worship and RE

Speakers, workshops, worship services

Informative newsletters and two active list servs

Quality General Assembly programming

Advocacy within the UUA for Earth justice

Resources for spiritually-grounded individual and congregational action and advocacy on Global Warming and other environmental issues.

Unitarian Universalist Small Group Ministry Network

The purpose of the UU SGM Network is to support small group ministry and related shared ministry models in Unitarian Universalist congregations through the development of new resources, networking and training opportunities.

As an organization we are dedicated to creating healthy Unitarian Universalist congregations by supporting small group ministry and related shared ministry models. Small Group Ministry is transforming lives, congregations and our liberal religious movement. We are helping by facilitating the exchange of resources and information through this site and Covenant Group News, developing new resources and organizing regional small group ministry conferences.

Suggested Discussion Questions:
Election Process for Moderator and President
Submitted by Paul Rickter, UUA Secretary

(Please see the UUA Bylaws for the complete bylaws governing our current election process)

Current Process:

For Moderator and President, nominations made by petitions signed by 25 congregations (at least five each from at least five districts). Petitions are due between March 1 of the year before the election and February 1 of the year of the election. If no nominations are received, the Board of Trustees nominates one or more candidates.

Elements for Consideration:

Should the process for President and Moderator be the same or different?

Who makes nominations? Nominating Committee? Search Committee elected by GA? Search Committee appointed by Board? Search Committee made up of a combination of elected and appointed members? Board acting as Search Committee for Moderator?

How many nominations should be made? Should the nominating body be required to submit more than one nominee? What about elections when there is an incumbent? Should the nominating body be required to make more than one nomination if there is no incumbent and be allowed (but not required) to nominate only the incumbent?

What should the timing of the process be? If a nominating group is elected (whole or part) at GA, then should that election take place two years before the election? Or four years? Four years may be too much time and two years might be too little if the goal is to introduce the nominees at the GA before the election is held. We don't currently hold elections at GA in even-numbered years, so three years might not be practical.

Should the process allow for nominations by petition as is done currently?

Current Financial Issues:

Candidates can solicit contributions and spend money during "silent" phase and donations are treated as gifts to the candidate for IRS purposes. Financial reporting is required.

Elements for Consideration:

Should we set up a system for all donations to go directly to the UUA (making the contribution a charitable gift for IRS purposes)?

If donations go to the UUA, then distribute money to candidates in equal shares? Allow donor to designate recipient? Put all money into a fund paying UUA expenses for official campaigning (for example, travel expenses, technology)?

If we do go to a system of donations passing through UUA, should we consider banning private fundraising entirely? Allow candidates to raise their own money outside the UUA system, with a baseline of money/resources provided by UUA?

Current Values

What values are implied in our current process? Does the current process embody an anti-oppression identity? Who does the current process serve? What process would best serve our congregations and strengthen Unitarian Universalism in the world?