

Proposed Bylaw Amendments

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underlining = insertion; brackets = deletion

Adoption requires a two-thirds vote.

The following proposed G-Rule change establishes the consolidation of the New Hampshire/Vermont and Northeast Districts as the Northern New England District.

This amendment was placed on the Agenda by the Board of Trustees.

Vote by the Board on the following amendment: For 24-0-0

77 **Rule G-12.2.1. Establishing Districts.**

- 78 (a) The districts shall be [twenty] nineteen in number and named Ballou Channing,
79 Central Midwest, Clara Barton, Florida, Heartland, Joseph Priestley, Massachusetts Bay,
80 Metropolitan New York, Mountain Desert, Mid-South, [**Northeast, New Hampshire**
81 **Vermont**] Northern New England, Ohio Meadville, Pacific Central, Pacific Northwest,
82 Pacific Southwest, Prairie Star, St. Lawrence, Southwestern, and Thomas Jefferson.

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The following proposed Bylaw changes reflect changes in Ministerial Fellowship Committee practices and Rules.

The following amendments were placed on the Agenda by the Board of Trustees.
Vote by the Board on the following amendments: For 24-0-0

83 ARTICLE VII Committees Of The Board Of Trustees

84 Section 7.6. Ministerial Fellowship Committee.

85 The Ministerial Fellowship Committee shall consist of fourteen members as follows:

- 86 (a) Six members who are not ministers appointed by the Board;
87 (b) Six members who are ministers in **[full and]** final fellowship with the Association,
88 **[with at least one from each category of ministry including community ministry,]**
89 appointed by the Board; and
90 (c) Two members appointed by the Unitarian Universalist Ministers Association.

91 Two members of the committee, and only two, shall be trustees. The committee shall
92 have jurisdiction over ministerial fellowship with the Association as provided in Article
93 XI hereof. The Board of Trustees shall designate a person who is not a member of the
94 committee to be its Executive Secretary and keep its records.

95 ARTICLE XI Ministry

96 Section C-11.1. Ministerial Fellowship.

97 Each member society has the exclusive right to call and ordain its own minister or
98 ministers, but the Association has the exclusive right to admit ministers to ministerial
99 fellowship with the Association. Fellowship may be for the purposes of parish, religious
100 education and/or community ministry as determined by action of the Ministerial
101 Fellowship Committee. No minister shall be required to subscribe to any particular creed,
102 belief, or interpretation of religion in order to obtain and hold fellowship.

103 **Section 11.2. Ministerial Fellowship Committee.**

104 The Ministerial Fellowship Committee shall have exclusive jurisdiction over ministerial
105 fellowship except as otherwise provided **[herein] in these bylaws.** It shall make rules
106 governing ministerial fellowship, subject to the approval of the Board of Trustees.

107 **Section 11.3. Admission to Fellowship.**

108 A minister may be admitted to fellowship by the Ministerial Fellowship Committee, upon
109 complying with the requirements of these Bylaws and the rules, **policies, procedures and**
110 **requests** of the Committee. A minister who is admitted to fellowship shall be admitted to
111 preliminary fellowship for a **[probationary]** period of **at least** three years, **be evaluated in**
112 **ministry,** and may thereafter be admitted to final fellowship. **[Three years as an**
113 **accredited director of religious education may be considered as satisfying the time**
114 **requirement for granting of final fellowship as minister of religious education.]**

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115 **[Section 11.4. Classes of Ministerial Fellowship.**

116 **The Ministerial Fellowship Committee shall adopt rules related to classes of ministerial**
117 **fellowship which shall include full and associate fellowship.**

118 **(a) Ministers in full fellowship are those admitted to fellowship who are:**

119 **(1) engaged in full-time active ministerial service;**

120 **(2) actively seeking positions in such service and have recently so served; and**

121 **(3) retired from such service by reason of advanced age or illness.**

122 **(b) Ministers in associate fellowship are those in fellowship who are not currently in**
123 **full fellowship.]**

124 **Section [11.5.] 11.4 Fellowship Records.**

125 The Executive Secretary of the Ministerial Fellowship Committee shall maintain up-to-
126 date records of all ministers in fellowship with the Association. **[Such] These** records
127 shall be available only to members of the Committee, persons designated by the
128 Committee, and, in cases of appeals, the Board of Review.

129 **Section [11.6.] 11.5 [Suspension or] Termination of Fellowship and Administrative**
130 **Suspension.**

131 The fellowship of a minister may be **[suspended or]** terminated by the Ministerial
132 Fellowship Committee for unbecoming conduct, **incompetence** or other specified cause.
133 Final fellowship may be **[suspended or]** terminated only after notice **by the Committee**
134 and opportunity for a **[hearing] Fellowship Review** before the Committee. **[at which the**
135 **minister shall have the right to be represented by counsel, to introduce evidence, to have**
136 **any relevant and material evidence in the possession of the Association produced, and to**
137 **cross-examine and rebut adverse evidence.] During an investigation or the pending of a**
138 **complaint, the Ministerial Fellowship Committee may suspend a minister until a final**
139 **determination can be made on the minister's fellowship status.**

140 **Section [11.7.] 11.6 Reinstatement [in] to Fellowship.**

141 The Ministerial Fellowship Committee may reinstate or readmit to fellowship a minister
142 who has previously resigned from fellowship or whose fellowship has been suspended or
143 terminated.

144 **Section [11.8.] 11.7 Appeal.**

145 A minister in final ministerial fellowship whose fellowship is terminated may appeal the
146 determination of the Ministerial Fellowship Committee to the Board of Review. The
147 Board of Review shall have exclusive jurisdiction to hear and decide such appeals. No
148 other appeal shall be allowed from any decision of the Ministerial Fellowship Committee.

149 **Section [11.9.] 11.8 Procedure on Appeal.**

150 An appeal to the Board of Review [shall] may be heard by a panel of the Board selected
151 as provided in its rules. The **Board of Review or its** panel hearing an appeal shall [not
152 try the case de novo but shall only review the record made before the Ministerial
153 Fellowship Committee, except that the Board of Review by rules may permit the
154 introduction of newly discovered evidence.] **limit its review to an examination of the**
155 **Ministerial Fellowship Committee's decision, and the information presented to the**
156 **Committee, including the documents and other evidence compiled during the**
157 **Fellowship Review, and the reasons articulated by the Ministerial Fellowship**
158 **Committee for its decision terminating the minister's fellowship. If the minister**
159 **requests consideration of newly discovered evidence, not previously presented to the**
160 **Ministerial Fellowship Committee, then the matter shall be returned to the**
161 **Ministerial Fellowship Committee for consideration of that evidence before the**
162 **Board proceeds with the appeal.** These Bylaws and the rules of the Ministerial
163 Fellowship Committee shall be binding upon the **Board of Review or its** panel. **The**
164 **Ministerial Fellowship Committee's determination of fact and/or credibility will not**
165 **be overturned unless no reasonable fact finder could have reached such**
166 **determination, and disputes of fact are to be resolved in favor of the Ministerial**
167 **Fellowship Committee's Review Team's determination.** [The panel shall uphold the
168 decision of the Ministerial Fellowship Committee if it can be sustained by a
169 reasonable view of the record.] The **Board of Review or its** panel may set aside the
170 decision of the Fellowship Committee or the Religious Education Credentialing
171 Committee only where necessary to correct or prevent manifest injustice. The **Board of**
172 **Review or its** panel may remand the case in whole or in part to the Committee or take
173 such other action as may be just. The [decision of the panel, which shall be the
174 decision of the Board,] **Board of Review or its panel** shall set forth its finding and
175 conclusions and [shall be served] **will serve** upon the affected minister and the
176 Ministerial Fellowship Committee. The decision shall be entered in the appropriate
177 records and shall be final and binding upon all parties. No appeal shall be allowed from
178 the decision of the Board of Review. The Board of Review shall make rules to carry out
179 the intent of this section.