

Suggested Discussion Questions:
Election Process for Moderator and President
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(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?