

Association Working Group Agenda Friday, October 17th

7:00-7:15 PM	Check In
7:15-7:25 PM	Review of Agenda and Assignment of Process Observer
7:25-7:55 PM	Independent Affiliate Update Discussion Lead by Pat Solomon
7:55-8:00 PM	Stretch Break
8:00-8:15 PM	Review of Election Process Changes Hearing at General Assembly
8:15-8:45 PM	Election Process Changes Recommendations (see attached)
8:45-8:55 PM	Process Observations
8:55-9:00 PM	Agenda and Action Items
9:00 PM	Adjourn

Draft Recommendations for New Election Process for President and Moderator

Moderator

Term: 4 years, may serve up to 2 terms

Rationale: Term mirrors terms of Trustees. Well informed Board leadership and experienced leadership as Chief Governance Officer is in the best interests of our Association. The option of a second term is beneficial because of the length of time it takes the Board and Board Committees to research, discuss and address issues.

Nomination Process:

- Two well qualified Moderator candidates nominated by the UUA Board of Trustees
- Aspiring candidates for Moderator may also run by petition as currently outlined in the bylaw requiring “twenty-five certified member societies, including not less than five certified member societies located in each of not less than five different districts”.

Rationale: To provide the best leadership to the Board, the candidates must be well versed in the current issues of the Board and its Committees. Having the Board nominate candidates ensures that candidates are well qualified for the providing Board leadership and that the Board feels that it will work well with the candidates. Maintaining the nomination by petition will allow dissenting and marginalized perspectives to enter the election and bring issues to the public debate.

President

Term: 6 years, may serve only one term

Rationale: Term of 6 years recognizes that a four year term allows for limited effectiveness in building relationships for interfaith partnership and institutional stability. As it is likely that most of our Presidential candidates will continue to be ministers, the limited 6 year term allows ministers to return to the parish or other ministry, thus hopefully allowing for ministers to serve at President who still hope to serve our congregations as parish ministers. Interrupting a term of President to run another campaign after four years is not a good use of Association resources as it diverts the attention of the President. The clear end point of the Presidential term also supports more a predictable leadership transition timetable, eliminating speculation of changes at a midpoint of service.

Nomination Process:

- A Presidential Search Committee will be formed two years prior to an election
- The Presidential Search Committee will consist of
 - o Two UUMA Members (Appointed by UUMA)
 - o One UUA Board of Trustees Member (Appointed by Board)
 - o One District President (Appointed by the DPA)
 - o One Youth (Appointed by Youth)*
 - o One Young Adult (Appointed by CUUYAN)*
- The Presidential Search Committee will begin their process with a broad based, three month congregational focus group and survey process to determine what

- congregations identify as the current issues and priorities for our Association President. This will inform the profile for their search for UUA President.
- The Presidential Search Committee will nominate no fewer than three candidates for UUA President.
 - Presidential candidates will be announced at General Assembly one year prior to the election.
 - Dissemination of information on the candidates, including such things as DVD of the Candidates Forum, biographies of the candidates and UUWorld advertisements, etc will be determined by UUA staff.
 - Aspiring candidates for President may also run by petition as currently outlined in the bylaw requiring “twenty-five certified member societies, including not less than five certified member societies located in each of not less than five different districts”.

Rationale: This new approach to electing our Association President is geared to moving the process away from mirroring a political election and toward a sense of “call” from our congregations. This process will identify well suited candidates that may not have stepped forward on their own to pronounce themselves as the best leader for our Association. Instead the focus will be on serving our Association at a time when the candidates are particularly well positioned to meet the needs of our congregations. The Presidential Search Committee’s initial engagement with congregations will provide vital current linkages with congregations in the discernment of what our Association needs are at the time of nomination and election. Maintaining the nomination by petition will allow dissenting and marginalized perspectives to enter the election and bring issues to the public debate.

* These groups are currently in transition. An appropriate process for appointment by these groups will be determined as their structure is created.