

**To: UUA Board of Trustees**  
**From: Committee on Committees**  
**Re: Proposed bylaw change**

**Current Version:**

**Section 7.6. Ministerial Fellowship Committee.**

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

- a. six members who are not ministers appointed by the Board;
- b. six members who are ministers in final fellowship with the Association, appointed by the Board; and
- c. two members appointed by the Unitarian Universalist Ministers Association.

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

**Proposed:**

**Section 7.6. Ministerial Fellowship Committee.**

The Ministerial Fellowship Committee shall consist of no fewer than fourteen members as follows:

- a. at least six members who are not ministers appointed by the Board;
- b. at least eight members who are ministers in final fellowship with the Association, four appointed by the Unitarian Universalist Ministers Association and the remainder by the Board.

The committee shall have jurisdiction over ministerial fellowship with the Association as provided in Article XI hereof. The Board of Trustees shall designate a person who is not a member of the committee to be its Executive Secretary and keep its records.

### **Summary of changes and rationale:**

Adds “no fewer than” before fourteen to provide flexibility in creating additional panels. The current practice uses two panels of seven but the MFC wants to experiment with three panels, Fourteen members cannot provide the range of perspectives needed if there are three panels.

Retains the fourteen minimum to assure credentialing does not rest in the hands of just a few.

Adds “at least” to a. and b. for same purpose but retaining intent of lay-minister ratio.

Incorporates UUMA appointments into b. but gives them four rather than two appointments. Adding flexibility in the numbers yet retaining the ratios of lay to minister and board-appointed and UUMA-appointed was quite a challenge. With 14 it was easy but the ratios just don't work when adding one or two or more appointees. If we left the UUMA appointments at two, would two be sufficient if the MFC went to three panels of 7 or 21 total? We could specify one UUMA appointment per panel but that requires locking in the number of panels which even the current bylaws don't do. Raising the UUMA appointments from 2 to 4 acknowledges the respect we have for our ministers' professional organization and what they bring to the credentialing process yet it also retains to the board the responsibility for making just as many minister appointments - at least four - and all additional minister appointments should the MFC require them.

Omits “Two members of the committee, and only two, shall be trustees.” Eliminates the requirement that trustees serve on the MFC but does not prohibit such appointments. Requiring board members to serve on various “outside” committees in addition to their already significant board duties not only overloads trustees and diverts them from their essential governance work, but limits the pool of potential trustees to those persons with extraordinary time availability and flexibility.

UUA’s attorney has reviewed the proposed language. Separate conversations with the chair of the MFC and the president of the UUMA informed the proposed changes and we have requested their feedback on this draft.