

Bylaws Background for BOARD MEETING August 9, 2021

UUA Bylaws revision and renovation 2021-22

The charge:

- The goal is to create agile, supportive bylaws that encourage flexibility, adaptability, and innovation. (Bylaws should not be rigid) Bylaws should facilitate and uphold our vision and mission of Beloved Community in which everyone thrives.
- Examine the entire UUA Bylaws and Rules document to define the revision work.
- Create draft UUA Bylaw recommendations

Timeline:

Bylaw recommendations, first draft to the Board of Trustees December 2021. Feedback
Revised 2nd draft to the BOT by February 2022. Vote for wider sharing/ feedback to UU communities.
Revised 3rd draft (final?) to BOT by April 2022 for board vote on next steps.

Next step options:

Keep working b/c bylaws are not ready. More focus groups. Bylaws workshops or webinars. Informal BOT ambassador “presentations” to UU groups? Presentation to GA of specific revisions relevant to 2023. The “first reading” of final bylaws recommendations” at GA 2022. Note: Adoption of major bylaws revision/rewrite is a 2-step process

A few important facts.

1. Piecemeal bylaw revisions were helpful in jump-starting the COIC changes and interest.
2. Reviewing and *recommending* streamlined bylaws wholistically will be energizing, build momentum and is a major step toward our Beloved Community vision.
3. High level discussions about our BOT’s self-governance and values in implementing specific COIC governance recommendations would be very helpful. (Beyond AR/AO/MC< we already agree, what other values are important?)
4. Communication – output and input - with as many UU’s as possible, as soon as possible, is critical to success. Board bylaw literacy will be important this year.
5. Every Board member should listen / read the Governance Section of the Commission on Institutional Change, (COIC)
<https://www.uua.org/uuagovernance/committees/cic/widening/governance>
or read the book, **Widening the Circle of Concern.**

The format:

- A small, agile, intense “writers’ team” (SFG, ST, TS and BDL) midday Wednesdays, weekly, (start mid-August – early Nov.2021)
- The Board’s “Deep Divers,” (could include non-BOT members) (1-2x monthly, evenings, Zoom) “reflecting on big questions”, making suggestions for lines of thinking and responding to the writing team’s drafts. Less intense BUT critical! (Starting mid-August)

BOT possible considerations:

2021-2022 BOT’s explicit agreement on:

- a) Determining priority values for revising bylaws
- b) Incorporating COIC bylaw recommendations
- c) Timeline / process for communication and feedback from greater UU community
- d) 2) Board literacy - understanding “What are by laws*? What do they do?”

An organizational document that describes / structures the organization: (The BONES)

1. Name and purpose
2. Membership categories and responsibilities
3. Board structure – size, standing cites)
4. Roles and terms of BOT members and officers
5. Elections
6. Membership Meetings- Kinds, notice, quorum
7. Compensation and indemnification of board members
8. Role of chief executive(s)
9. Conflict of interest policy
10. Amendment of bylaws
11. Dissolution of the organization. *(some states Bylaws = Constitution)