

Deep Divers October 4th, 2021

Questions the Deep Divers will take up.

- How would it feel to have Bylaws that drew the UUA toward our Mission and Vision?
- Where do you see obstacles in our current bylaws?
- Where are the bylaws currently drawing us toward mission and vision?
- How would it feel to have bylaws that focus on and offer support to a covenantal faith community?

Big Questions for deep discernment and consultation with constituencies:

- Committee Structures
 - There's no flexibility in the current bylaws.
 - Take things out of the bylaws, and empower the board to create committees that they need to do work
- Clarity about authority and responsibility.
 - More clarity about what the General Assembly is responsible for.
 - More clarity about what the Board is responsible for.
 - More clarity about what the Administration is responsible for.
 - What is the bylaws trying to prevent?
 - The purpose of checks and balances.
- Who is a member?
 - Should individuals be able to be members?
 - How are members represented?
 - How do we connect members to the Association beyond Staff connections?
 - Affiliate Organization
 - Stakeholder identity groups having representation.
 - We could really look at membership in a much broader way, to increase representation, without really changing the structure of the UUA.
- The role of the Moderator, President, and Financial Advisor.
- What is Ministry and what is the UUA's interest in defining it and credentialing religious professionals?
 - Lay ministry
 - Alternative pathways to ministry
 - Equity amongst religious professionals
- Role of General Assembly
 - Role of the Board in the General Assembly
 - What is the purpose of the General Assembly
- Article II Study Commission Process
 - Rewriting the very purpose of the UUA.
 - The covenant of the Association
 - Does it live in the bylaws?
 - The inclusion clause.
 - The freedom of conscience clause

Bylaws Project Plan

- There is a lot to address in the bylaws rewrite and a lot of deep questions that may not be able to incorporate in a bylaws rewrite in the short timeframe originally assumed.
- A project plan with a multi-year timeline would be helpful to set benchmarks and expectations.
- The plan should incorporate how this project incorporates the democratic process, and different constituencies.

Proposed 2022 General Assembly Business Resolution

- General Assembly has not directly authorized the bylaws rewrite.
 - This work is being done as a part of the Commission on Institutional Change recommendations, which was authorized by the General Assembly.
- In 2022 a General Assembly Business Resolution should be proposed to:
 - Call for Mission Focused Bylaws,
 - That allow for agility,
 - Addressing the Commission on Institutional Change Recommendations,
 - Recognizes the changing religious landscape, and,
 - Sets guiding principles for anti-racism, anti-oppression, and innovation.

To dos:

- Barbara follow-up with Charles and Tom to schedule bylaws focus groups with identified UU leaders.
- Barbara and Marcus will work to get a conversation set up between the Article II Study Commission and the Bylaws Rewrite Taskforce.

Presenting to the board

- Focus on General Assembly
 - Role of the General Assembly
 - GAPC – What is the process for engaging the GAPC and other commissions/committees in changes to the bylaws related to each commission/committee?
 - Agenda Setting
- Overview of the Bylaws Rewrite Process
 - Name the issues
 - Story the issues
 - Sequence the issues
 - What is and is not in scope for the bylaws?
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