

## **Bylaws Renewal Team update to the Board of Trustees January 20, 2023**

September and October 2022

The Appointments Committee working with the original bylaws team, recommended four new members for the bylaws team to the Board of Trustees. The Board formed and charged the Bylaws Renewal Team in October 2022.

The Bylaws Renewal Team includes new members, the Reverend Connie Simon J.D, Larry Ladd, and Reverend Ariel Aaronson-Eves. They join continuing members, Barbara de Leeuw, Board member and convenor; Kathy Burek, Board member; Rev. Dr. Susan Frederick-Gray, UUA President, and Reverend Tom Schade. Brent Lewis, Executive Assistant for President, provides administrative support to the team. Each member has bylaws experience and brings a unique prospective to the work.

During October – December 2022, new members were oriented to the history, discussions, and documents of early phases (2020-2022) of the bylaws review. We refreshed our knowledge of the process, expected outcomes, timeline and reporting included in the 2022 General Assembly Business Resolution.

Late fall, there were general conversations about the limitations and strengths of the current UUA bylaws. We also imagined the UUA 5-10 years in the future asking for the renewed UUA bylaws to create structure yet allow for new organizational realities, without constant bylaws changes.

We had high level conversations about roles, authority, and accountability with respect to the Officers of the Association (Article 8), General Assembly (Article IV), Committees of the Association (Article V), and discussions of Membership (Article III), including questions about broadening the definition of membership beyond congregations.

Understanding that delegate consideration of the Article 2 Study Commissions proposal is the top priority for GA 2023, the Bylaws Renewal Team does not plan to bring any bylaws changes for consideration to GA 2023. Instead, we are working to organize conversations and key questions related to areas of the bylaws that may invite significant changes. In addition, we are also working on more straight forward recommended changes that address issues of clarity, simplicity, and moving details better suited for rules, policies, or procedures.

During the FY 2023-24 we intend to hold conversations with key stakeholders and thought partners to engage the bigger questions. We hope to have a strong and complete draft of the renewed UUA bylaws to present in early 2024 to the UUA Board and will work with the Board throughout the Spring of 2024 to host workshops and information sessions about the revised document with the goal of having a first vote on the changes at the 2024 General Assembly.

We wish to acknowledge and thank the original 'Deep Divers' 2020-2022 team of the Board – the Reverend Suzanne Fast, Bill Young, Reverend Sam Trumbore, Rev. Dr. Gregory Carrow-Boyd, Lucia Santini-Field, and UUA staff Carey McDonald, Executive Vice President, Stephanie Maron, Assistant to the Executive Vice President and Board of Trustees and Rev. Marcus Fogliano, Project Manager to the Office of the President for their many contributions over the course of two years and for their commitment to the ongoing bylaws work.