

To: The UUA Board of Trustees

From: The Religious Education Credentialing Committee

Date: May 16, 2024

May this attached resolution to the Bylaws serve to expand the size of the Religious Education Credentialing Committee, a committee appointed by the Board of Trustees. These recommended changes will transform the Religious Education Credentialing Committee to expand the work of reaching more religious professionals, nurturing more candidates through successful credentialing journeys, and to support the deeply needed work tended to by credentialed leaders within our congregations. The change we're requested will increase the size of the Committee to a minimum of seven members including membership determined by the committee, and may include members holding varied religious credentials such as, a minister with faith formation in their portfolio, and a lay member with educational teaching experience. We have determined that these skillsets are necessary to include those not currently at the table, distribute the increased capacity of supporting more candidates, and to live into our ambitious, transformative, five-year strategic goals adopted in 2023.

We would also hope that the work of the UUA Nominating Committee, in sourcing members for the Religious Education Credentialing Committee, would consider these various identities and factors in achieving the fullest expansiveness in our representation as possible: race, neurodivergence, varying socioeconomic statuses, gender identity and sexual orientation, disability, and family structure, as well as diversity of church size and geographical location. (We are grateful to our work with Mmapeu Consulting for guidance on this and other related matters.)

We hope this requested resolution is accepted.

With sincere thanks for your consideration,

The Religious Education Credentialing Committee

Members of the Committee as of April 2024 are:

- The Rev. Emily Gage - Representing a Parish Minister perspective.
- Ms. Jill Sampson - Representing a congregational lay leader perspective.
- Ms. Sara Lewis - Committee Chair, representing a Credentialed Religious Educator—Master Level perspective.
- Ms. Mia Morse - Representing a congregational lay leader perspective.

- Role Vacant - Representing a congregational lay leader perspective.
- The Rev. Bob Renjilian - Representing a Faith Development Minister perspective.
- The Rev. Claudia Jimenez - Representing the Liberal Religious Educators Association (LREDA)

The following UUA staff members serve as non-voting ex-officio members of the Committee:

- Rev. Cecelia Kingman  
Co-Director of the Ministry and Faith Development staff group, serves as Executive Secretary.
- Ms. Aastha Poudel  
Professional Development Assistant, serves as Recording Secretary.
- Rev. Sarah Gettie McNeill  
Professional Development Programs Manager, Lifespan Faith Engagement.

877 **Section 7.13. Religious Education Credentialing**

878 **Committee.**

879 The Religious Education Credentialing Committee shall consist of

880 a minimum of seven members as follows:

881 (a) **two [-three]** members, none of whom is a parish minister, minister

882 of religious education, community minister, a credentialed

883 religious educator, or a director of religious education, which has  
educational teaching experience

884 appointed by the Board;

885 (b) one member who is a parish minister or community minister,

886 appointed by the Board;

887 (c) one member who is a minister with faith formation in their portfolio,

888 appointed by the Board;

**(d) one member who is a parish religious professional whose portfolio**  
**may include one or more of the following: religious education,**  
**social justice, membership, finance, or youth/young adults,**  
**appointed by the Board;**

889 **(e)[-d]** one member who is a Credentialed Religious

Educator

890 at the highest level granted by the Religious Education

891 Credentialing Committee, appointed by the Board; and

892 **(f)[-e]** one member nominated by the Board of the Liberal Religious

893 Educators Association and appointed by the Board of

894 Trustees.

895 The Committee shall have jurisdiction over religious education

896 credentialing with the Association as provided in Article XII thereof.

897 The Board of Trustees shall designate a person who is not a

898 member of the committee to be its Executive Secretary and keep its

899 records