

BYLAW CHANGES RECOMMENDED BY CONGREGATIONS WORKING GROUP, JANUARY 2011

The Congregations Working Group is recommending changes to C Bylaws C-3.1, C-3.3, and C-3.3.6 consistent with our previously discussed interest in broadening the definition of a congregation. We are also suggesting changes to Rules 3.3.3, 3.3.5, 3.3.6, and 3.52. Our recommended changes appear below and are highlighted in yellow.

In C-3.1, we deleted "local churches and fellowships, referred to herein as" to similarly broaden the definition of congregation. Changes in C-3.3 and C-3.6 are intended to keep the language consistent with our other recommended changes.

We recommend the deletion of "solely" in Rule 3.3.3 and "local" in Rule 3.3.5 (b) to be consistent with our recommended bylaw changes.

We recommend the deletion of "including adult worship and/or discussion and when feasible establishment of a church school in the Unitarian Universalist tradition," in Rule 3.3.5 (d) after Nick Allen pointed out the restrictiveness of "adult" and we, as a committee, found the entire clause excessively restrictive.

In Rule 3.3.6 we recommend the substitution of "congregation" for "church or fellowship" for the sake of consistency. Other changes to 3.3.6 (a) and 3.3.6 (c) and Rule 3.5.2 substitute "UUA staff" for "Congregational Services," since Congregational Services no longer exists. "UUA staff" leaves to the administration the decision of where this responsibility lies.

Section C-3.1. Member Congregations.

The Unitarian Universalist Association is a voluntary association of autonomous, self-governing ~~local churches and fellowships, referred to herein as~~ member congregations, which have freely chosen to pursue common goals together.

***Section C-3.3. Admission to Membership.**

A ~~church or fellowship may become a~~ **congregation becomes a member** upon acceptance by the Board of Trustees of the Association of its written application for membership in which it subscribes to the principles of and pledges to support the Association. The Board of Trustees shall adopt rules to carry out the intent of this Section.

Section C-3.6. Termination of Membership.

A **member congregation** ~~church or fellowship~~ upon written notification to the Association may withdraw from the Association at any time. The Board of Trustees may terminate the membership of any congregation that, pursuant to the provisions of Section C-3.5, has been placed in an "inactive congregation" category maintained by the Association but shall do so only after consultation with:

- (a) the ~~local~~ congregation in question, whenever possible;
- (b) the President of the district in which the congregation is located or such other

authorized official as the district designates in writing to the Association; and
(c) the trustee representing the district in which the congregation is located.

RULES

Rule 3.3.3. Membership Requirements for Admission. A new congregation, to be recognized as a member of the Association, must have thirty (30) ~~of its~~ adult members ~~be members solely of the new congregation.~~

Rule 3.3.5. Rules and Regulations for New Congregations.

(b) The Association interprets its statements of purpose to mean that no congregation may be accepted into membership if its bylaws exclude from its ~~local~~ membership any person because of race, ethnicity, gender, disability, affectional or sexual orientation, language, citizenship status, economic status, or national origin. All member congregations must be congregational in polity; the final authority to make decisions must be vested in the legal membership of the congregation.

(d) Member congregations shall project and embark upon a balanced program of religious activity. ~~including adult worship and/or discussion and when feasible establishment of a church school in the Unitarian Universalist tradition.~~

Rule 3.3.6. Order of Administrative Procedure.

The order of administrative procedure:

(a) Application for ~~church or fellowship~~ **congregation** membership in the Association will first be referred to ~~the Congregational Services UUA~~ staff. (b) ~~The Congregational Services UUA~~ staff will seek information and advice with respect to all applications as follows:

U.S. Congregations - District President

Other Congregations – Executive Officer of appropriate Unitarian or Universalist or Unitarian Universalist international group, if any.

(c) ~~The Congregational Services UUA~~ staff will make its recommendation to the President of the Association, and the President shall then make recommendations to the Board of Trustees of the UUA for its final action.

Rule 3.5.2. Inactive Congregations

In September of each year ~~the Congregational Services Director~~ **UUA staff** shall initiate the process of contacting congregations in the inactive category to determine their status.