

Proposed Bylaw Amendments

Underlining indicates insertion; brackets indicate deletion.

These Bylaw amendments broaden the definition of the word "congregation." If these Bylaws are amended, corresponding Rules will be amended by the Board of Trustees. **These proposed changes were given first-year approval at the 2011 General Assembly and, if approved this year, will change the bylaws.**

The Mini-Assembly for this item is Thursday 3:15 pm - 4:30 pm in Room 121

528 **Section C-3.1. Member Congregations.**

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

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

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

537 **Section C-3.6. Termination of Membership.**

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

- 542 (a) the [local] congregation in question, whenever possible; and
- 543 (b) the President of the district in which the congregation is located or such other authorized official
544 as the district designates in writing to the Association. ; **and]**
- 545 **[(c) the trustee representing the district in which the congregation is located.]**

This proposed Bylaw amendment corresponds to new Ministerial Fellowship Committee Rules that have eliminated the category of "Associate Ministerial Fellowship." **The proposed change was given first-year approval at the 2011 General Assembly and, if approved this year, will change the bylaws.**

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546 **Section C-10.9. Pension System.**

547 The Association shall establish and maintain a pension system for ministers in [full] fellowship with the
548 Association.

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Following the 2009 defeat of a proposal to amend Article II of the UUA Bylaws, the Principles and Purposes, General Assembly delegates passed a resolution calling on the UUA Board to review the bylaws that govern the amendment process. The proposed amendment to Article XV retains the current process for amending Article II, with a study commission followed by votes at two General Assemblies. However, the new process lets the first GA propose amendments to the study commission's Article II language using a Mini-Assembly process similar to the one used for many other business actions. **These proposed changes were given first-year approval at the 2011 General Assembly and, if approved this year, will change the bylaws.**

The Mini-Assembly for this item is Thursday 3:15 pm - 4:30 pm in Room 121

549 Article XV Amendment

550 Section C-15.1. Amendment of Bylaws.

551 (a) **Amendments to Bylaws.** These Bylaws may be amended by a two-thirds vote at
552 a regular General Assembly if a proposed amendment has been placed on the
553 agenda; provided, however, that proposals to amend[**or**], repeal, **or add a new**
554 section of these Bylaws whose section number is preceded by a "C" (hereinafter
555 a "C Bylaw"), **or to add a new such section,**] shall be governed by subsections
556 (b) or (c) hereof.

557 (b) **[(1)] Amendments to C Bylaws Other Than in Article II.** A proposal to amend,
558 repeal or add a new C Bylaw, other than those C Bylaws in Article II of these
559 Bylaws, shall be subject to a two-step approval process.

560 **(1)** Such proposals must be placed on the agenda of a regular General
561 Assembly and approved preliminarily by a majority vote at such regular
562 General Assembly. Following such preliminary approval, the proposal to
563 amend, repeal or add a new C Bylaw shall be placed on the agenda of the
564 next regular General Assembly for final adoption. Final adoption shall
565 require a two-thirds vote.

566 (2) The text of a proposed amendment **[to a C Bylaw, other than those**
567 **bylaws in Article II,]** which has been approved by one General Assembly,
568 may be amended at any time prior to final adoption. If the Moderator
569 rules that the amendment to the proposal is substantive, final adoption
570 shall only be by a subsequent General Assembly. **Any except that any**
571 such proposal that has been under consideration for final approval at
572 three successive regular General Assemblies shall not be subject to
573 substantive amendment **and shall be submitted to a vote for final**
574 **approval** at the third such regular General Assembly.

575 (3) **Such a [A]** proposal **[to amend a C Bylaw, other than those Bylaws in**
576 **Article II,]** which, on any vote for final adoption, receives a majority but
577 not a two-thirds vote, shall be placed on the agenda of the next regular
578 General Assembly, at which it may be finally adopted if it receives the
579 requisite approval. If the proposal is not passed by a two-thirds vote at
580 the third regular General Assembly at which it is considered for final
581 approval, neither the proposal nor another proposal that is substantively
582 similar shall be placed on the agenda of **[a] the next regular** General
583 Assembly **[for two years].**

584 (c) **[(1)] Amendments to C Bylaws in Article II.** A proposal to amend, repeal or
585 add a new C Bylaw in Article II of these Bylaws shall be **[admitted to the] subject**
586 **to the following process.**

587 **(1) Such a proposal shall be admitted to the** agenda of a regular General
 588 Assembly for the **[sole]** purpose of determining whether the proposal
 589 shall be referred to a commission appointed by the Board of Trustees for
 590 **[review and]** study. Such a **[review] study** shall involve member congregations. A
 591 majority vote at a regular General Assembly shall be required to refer
 592 such a proposal to the study commission. Once the **[review and]** study of
 593 the proposal is complete, which shall be completed in no more than
 594 **[three] two** years, the study commission shall submit to the **[Planning**
 595 **Committee] Board of Trustees** for inclusion on the agenda of the next
 596 regular General Assembly **[following completion of the review and study**
 597 **process the proposal in the form originally presented to the regular**
 598 **General Assembly and]** any amendments to **[the proposal] Article II** that
 599 the study commission recommends **[as a result of the review and study**
 600 **process]. The Board of Trustees shall also include on the agenda any**
 601 **amendments that it recommends to the study commission proposal.**
 602 **[All proposals regarding Article II of the Bylaws that are placed on the**
 603 **agenda after review and study (including amendments to such**
 604 **proposals recommended by the study commission) shall require a two-**
 605 **thirds vote for adoption. If the proposal does not receive the requisite**
 606 **approval at the General Assembly following the completion of the**
 607 **review and study process, neither the proposal nor another proposal**
 608 **that is substantively similar shall be placed on the agenda of a General**
 609 **Assembly for two years.]**

610 (2) A motion to dispense with the **[review and]** study process **and give**
 611 **preliminary approval [with respect]** to a proposal to amend, **repeal or**
 612 **add a new C Bylaw in** Article II shall be in order **during [at]** the General
 613 Assembly at which **consideration of a motion to refer the proposal to**
 614 the **[review and]** study process is authorized. A motion to dispense with the
 615 **[review and]** study process shall require a four-fifths vote for passage. **Such**
 616 **a proposal shall then be placed on the agenda of the next regular General**
 617 **Assembly for final adoption without amendment. Final adoption shall require**
 618 **a two-thirds vote.**

619 (3) **[After completion of the review and study process, proposals regarding**
 620 **Article II of the Bylaws shall not be subject to substantive amendment.**
 621 **The Moderator shall determine whether an amendment to such a**
 622 **proposal is substantive.] At the first General Assembly following the**
 623 **completion of the study process, amendments to the Article II proposal**
 624 **may be considered only as follows:**

625 (i) **During the General Assembly there shall be a mini-assembly**
 626 **held during which amendments to the Article II proposal**
 627 **recommended by the study commission shall be considered.**

628 (ii) **A delegate may submit in writing at the mini-assembly an**
 629 **amendment to an Article II proposal. All such amendments**
 630 **shall be made available in writing to the General Assembly. The**
 631 **Moderator, in consultation with the chair of the study**
 632 **commission, the parliamentarian and legal counsel shall**
 633 **prioritize proposed amendments for consideration by the**
 634 **General Assembly. A majority vote of the General Assembly is**
 635 **required for approval of any amendment proposed in the mini-**
 636 **assembly.**

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- 637 (iii) Following the vote on any amendments proposed in the
638 mini-assembly, the General Assembly shall vote on any
639 amendments proposed by the Board of Trustees. A majority
640 vote is required to adopt such amendments. Following the vote
641 on all amendments, the General Assembly shall vote on
642 preliminary approval of the Article II proposal. A majority vote
643 is required for preliminary approval.
- 644 (iv) If no amendments proposed in the mini-assembly are
645 adopted by the General Assembly pursuant to subsection
646 (c)(3)(ii) above, the Article II proposal shall be submitted for
647 final approval to the next regular General Assembly. Final
648 approval requires a two-thirds vote of the General Assembly.
649 No amendments may be considered.
- 650 (v) If one or more amendments proposed in the mini-assembly
651 are adopted by the General Assembly, the Article II proposal
652 shall be referred to the study commission. Within six months
653 after the close of the General Assembly, the study commission,
654 taking into account the decisions of the General Assembly, shall
655 prepare the proposal to amend Article II. The Board of Trustees
656 shall put this proposal on the agenda of the next regular General
657 Assembly.
- 658 (4) At the next regular General Assembly following the process described in
659 subsection (c)(3)(v), above, the Article II proposal is subject to
660 amendment only by a three-fourths vote in favor of an amendment
661 submitted to the General Assembly in writing by the Board of Trustees,
662 a district, or a minimum of fifteen (15) certified congregations, as
663 described in Section 15.2 of these Bylaws. Final approval of the Article
664 II proposal requires a two-thirds vote of the General Assembly.
- 665 (5) If the Article II proposal does not receive the requisite approval at the
666 General Assembly following the completion of the study process
667 described in subsection (c)(3)(iv) or subsection (c)(4), above, neither the
668 proposal nor another proposal that is substantively similar shall be
669 placed on the agenda of the next regular General Assembly.
- 670 ([4]6) If no [review and] study process of Article II has occurred for a period of
671 fifteen years, the Board of Trustees shall appoint a commission to
672 [review and] study Article II **for not more than two years** and to
673 recommend appropriate revisions, if any, thereto to the Board of
674 Trustees]. **The Board of Trustees shall review the recommendations of**
675 **the study commission and, in its discretion, may submit the**
676 **recommendations of the study commission to the Planning Committee]**
677 **for inclusion on the agenda of the next regular General Assembly. The**
678 **Board of Trustees shall also include on the agenda any amendments**
679 **that it recommends to the study commission proposal.** Notwithstanding
680 anything to the contrary contained herein, proposals to amend Article II
681 which are promulgated by a study commission in accordance with this
682 paragraph shall be subject to a two-step approval process **as described in**
683 **subsections (c)(3) and (c)(4), above.** [Such proposals must be approved
684 preliminarily by a majority vote at a regular General Assembly.
685 Following such preliminary approval, the proposal shall be placed on
686 the agenda of the next regular General Assembly for final adoption.
687 Final adoption shall require a two-thirds vote.]