

Board-Approved Bylaw Changes for 2019 General Assembly Business Agenda

DRAFT 5.10.19

I. Full Ministerial Fellowship

Section 5.11. Board of Review.

- (a) Members. The Board of Review shall consist of eight members, as follows:
- (1) Three members who are ministers, each of whom at the time of election is in **[final] full** ministerial fellowship with the Association and has held such fellowship continuously for the preceding seven years; and
 - (2) One member who is a Credentialed Religious Educator – Master Level; and
 - (3) Four members who are not ministers or credentialed religious educators, each of whom at the time of election is a member of a certified member congregation and has been a member of one or more such congregations for not less than three years as an officer or a member of the governing bodies of one or more such congregations.

Section 7.6. Ministerial Fellowship Committee.

The Ministerial Fellowship Committee shall consist of no fewer than fourteen members as follows:

- (a) at least six members who are not ministers appointed by the Board; and
- (b) at least eight members who are ministers in **[final] full** fellowship with the Association, four appointed by the Unitarian Universalist Ministers Association and the remainder by the Board.

Section 11.3. Admission to Fellowship.

A minister may be admitted to fellowship by the Ministerial Fellowship Committee, upon complying with the requirements of these Bylaws and the rules, policies, procedures and requests of the Committee. A minister who is admitted to fellowship shall be admitted to preliminary fellowship for a period of at least three years, be evaluated in ministry, and may thereafter be admitted to **[final] full** fellowship.

Section 11.5. Termination of Fellowship and Administrative Suspension.

The fellowship of a minister may be terminated by the Ministerial Fellowship Committee for unbecoming conduct, incompetence or other specified cause. **[Final] Full** fellowship may be terminated only after notice by the Committee and opportunity for a Fellowship Review before the Committee. During an investigation or the pendency of a complaint, the Ministerial Fellowship Committee may suspend a minister until a final determination can be made on the minister's fellowship status.

Section 11.7. Appeal.

A minister in **[final] full** ministerial fellowship whose fellowship is terminated may appeal the determination of the Ministerial Fellowship Committee to the Board of Review. The Board of Review shall have exclusive jurisdiction to hear and decide such appeals. No other appeal shall be allowed from any decision of the Ministerial Fellowship Committee

II. Committee Membership

Section 5.2. Election and Appointment.

(a) Elected members. Elected members of all standing committees of the Association shall take office at the close of the General Assembly at which they are elected and shall serve until their successors are elected and qualified, except as otherwise provided herein.

(b) Appointed members. The terms of any appointed members of standing committees of the Association shall begin at the close of the regular General Assembly [~~in odd-numbered years~~]. The Board of Trustees shall make each appointment no later than 120 days after the beginning of the term. Appointed members shall take office upon the effective date of their appointments and shall serve until their successors are appointed and qualified, except as otherwise provided herein.

III. Ministerial Fellowship Committee Membership

Section 7.6. Ministerial Fellowship Committee.

The membership of the Ministerial Fellowship Committee shall be determined by the Board of Trustees and shall consist of no fewer than ~~fourteen~~ five members and no more than fourteen members. [as follows:

(a) ~~at least six members who are not ministers appointed by the Board]~~ At least 50 percent of the members must be ministers in full fellowship with the Association and members in good standing with the Unitarian Universalist Ministers Association, half [; and

(b) ~~at least eight members who are ministers in final fellowship with the Association, four]~~ appointed by the Unitarian Universalist Ministers Association and the remainder by the Board. The committee shall have jurisdiction over ministerial fellowship with the Association as provided in Article XI hereof. The Board of Trustees shall designate a staff person of the Unitarian Universalist Association ~~[who is not a member of the committee]~~ to be its Executive Secretary and keep its records.

IV. Preliminary Fellowship

Section 11.3. Admission to Fellowship.

A minister may be admitted to fellowship by the Ministerial Fellowship Committee, upon complying with the requirements of these Bylaws and the rules, policies, procedures and requests of the Committee. A minister who is admitted to fellowship shall be admitted to preliminary fellowship for a period ~~[of at least three years, be evaluated in ministry, and may thereafter be admitted to final fellowship]~~ that allows the Committee to evaluate ministry, and may thereafter be admitted to full fellowship. The term of preliminary fellowship shall be defined in the rules of the Committee.

V. Voting and Ballot Procedures

Section 9.10. Conduct of Elections at Large.

- (a) Election by Ballot. Voting shall be by ~~written or electronic~~ ballot, except that if only one person has been validly nominated for ~~each~~ an elective position at large the persons so nominated shall be declared elected and no ~~ballots~~ voting shall be required. Delegates will have access to electronic voting onsite at General Assembly or remotely, as described in Section 9.10(d), or by mail ballot as described in Section 9.10(c).
- (b) ~~Persons Entitled to Vote~~ Eligible Voters. ~~Ballots~~ Votes shall be cast only by accredited delegates from certified member congregations and certified associate member organizations to the regular General Assembly at which the election is held and by trustees. No person shall cast more than one ~~ballot~~ vote.
- (c) ~~Absentee Voting~~ Mail Ballots. ~~Those entitled to cast ballots in an election~~ Accredited delegates may cast their ballots ~~electronically or~~ as paper ballots by mail, if they request to do so. Mail ballots can be requested through the Secretary, and ~~Absentee ballots~~ shall be ~~mailed~~ requested at least forty-five days prior to the General Assembly at which the election is being held. ~~An absentee~~ A mail ballot that is ~~mailed~~ returned must be ~~received by the Secretary~~ postmarked not less than ~~seven~~ ten calendar days before the close of voting at General Assembly in order to be counted. ~~An absentee ballot that is transmitted electronically must be received by the Secretary prior to the closing of voting at the GA location. The closing date and time shall be designated in the General Assembly meeting announcement.~~
- (d) Electronic Voting. Accredited delegates may vote electronically either onsite at General Assembly or remotely. The Secretary shall designate the electronic voting period in the General Assembly meeting announcement and may add more time if justified. Electronic voting systems must be auditable, accessible, and secure.

Section 9.11. Counting of Ballots.

- (a) ~~For the position of President, Moderator, Financial Advisor, or Trustee. If there are no more than two duly nominated candidates for a position, the candidate receiving the greater number of votes is elected; provided, however, that (i) in construing the foregoing with respect to Trustee positions, each Trustee position number shall be considered a separate elective position; and (ii) in construing this section, a duly nominated candidate for the position of Moderator may consist of more than one person. If there are more than two duly nominated candidates for a position, the ballot shall be designed to permit the designation of first, second, third, etc., choice. If no candidate receives a majority of the first choice votes cast, the candidate receiving the lowest first choice vote shall be eliminated and the ballots cast for such candidate shall be redistributed in accordance with the second choice indicated thereon. This process shall be repeated until one candidate receives a majority of all votes cast or until only two candidates remain, at which time the one receiving the greater number of votes is elected.] Singular Positions. If there is more than one duly nominated candidate for a single position, not including the candidates for the position of Moderator and President, the candidate receiving the greater number of votes is elected.~~
- (b) ~~For Other Elective Positions~~ Multiple Positions of the Same Kind. ~~If there is one elective position at large to be filled, the candidate receiving the greatest number of votes is elected.] If there is more than one such elective position of the same kind to be filled, the candidates respectively receiving the greatest number of votes are elected.~~
- (c) Moderator and President Voting. For the positions of Moderator and President, if there are two duly nominated candidates, the candidate receiving the greater number of votes will be elected. If there are more than two duly nominated candidates a ranked vote will

be held in which voters indicate their ranked choices for candidates. If no candidate receives a majority of the first-choice votes cast, the candidate receiving the lowest first-choice vote shall be eliminated and the ballots cast for such candidate shall be redistributed in accordance with the second choice indicated thereon. This process shall be repeated until one candidate receives a majority of all votes cast or until only two candidates remain, at which time the one receiving the greater number of votes is elected.

Rule G-9.11.1. Tie Vote-Elected [Committee] Position.

If a tie vote occurs in filling an elected [committee] position when only one person is to be elected and when ranked voting is not being used, or occurs in filling a slate when the slate cannot be completed without resolving the tie, then a candidate or candidates shall be eliminated by random draw to determine the winner [as soon as possible before the final adjournment of the General Assembly involved, additional ballots shall be cast by those present and entitled to vote, except that initially the Moderator shall not vote. The additional ballots shall contain only the names of the candidates who are tied. These ballots shall be counted along with a recounting of the ballots cast for the tied candidates by absentee ballots, and the result of the foregoing procedures shall determine the election, unless there is still a tie, in which case the Moderator shall then cast a ballot to resolve it].

Rule G-9.11.2. Tie Vote- Ranked Voting[Moderator].

If the tie involves the election of a Moderator, the proceedings to resolve the tie shall be presided over by the Secretary of the Association who, in all matters involving the resolutions of the tie, shall have the rights and duties of the Moderator.] Should there be a tie for the fewest number of first preference votes, including absentee ballots, then among these, the candidate with the fewest number of second preference votes shall be eliminated. Should a tie persist, the procedure shall continue with third preference votes, et cetera. Should a tie still persist, the candidate with the fewest number of original first preference votes, shall be eliminated. Should a tie still persist, the procedures shall continue with original second preference votes, et cetera. Should a tie still persist, a candidate shall be eliminated by random draw.

Rule G-9.11.3. Tie Vote-President, Moderator, Financial Advisor, or Trustee.

If, in the election of a President, Moderator, Financial Advisor, or Trustee, in any particular counting of the preferential ballots, including absentee ballots, there is a tie vote among candidates having the least number of votes, then each such tied candidate shall be eliminated, and in the next counting, the ballots accumulated for said candidate shall be redistributed among the remaining candidates on the basis of the highest effective preferences marked on all the ballots that have been cast. However, if in this process, such elimination leaves only a single candidate who in that counting still does not have a majority of the counted votes, or if only two candidates remain in the contest and they are tied, then there shall be as many run-off election procedures, conducted under the provision of Rule G-9.11.1, as are necessary to result in the election of a President, Moderator, Financial Advisor, or Trustee by at least a majority of the votes cast.

Rule G-9.13.1. Election Preparation [and Mailing of Ballot].

Unless no [ballot] voting is required according to Section 9.9(a), prior to each regular General Assembly at which an election is to be held, the Secretary shall prepare the voting system and ballots [upon] which shall [appear] include the names of all [persons] candidates who have been nominated for office in accordance with these Bylaws and whose nomination is contested by at least one other candidate. [One such ballot] Voting instructions shall be sent with each credential [card] issued by the Secretary.

Rule G-9.13.2. Order of Candidate Names ~~[on-Ballot]~~.

~~[On all ballots used i]~~In elections held by the Association, the order of names shall be determined ~~[by the drawing of lots done]~~ by the Secretary ~~[and witnessed by two other persons]~~; provided, however, that the order of names for elections to the Board of Trustees, other than Youth trustee, shall be by Board position number first, and then as determined above. ~~For~~ **For electronic voting, candidates shall be listed in random order for each separate ballot** ~~[The Secretary shall certify the results of the drawing of lots, the certificate shall be attested by the witnesses, and the certificate shall be filed in the Secretary's office. This Rule shall be printed on all official ballots or on the instructions accompanying them].~~

Rule G-9.13.3. Write-ins Prohibited.

In any election, the use of stickers or the writing in of the name of any person ~~[on a ballot]~~ shall not be permitted and no vote so attempted shall be counted.

Rule G-9.13.4. ~~[Absentee] Mail~~ Ballots.

A mailed ~~[absentee] paper~~ ballot shall be counted only if accompanied by ~~[the signed and certified ballot stub of the]~~ a valid credential ~~[card]~~ of the person casting the ballot. ~~[An electronic absentee ballot shall be counted only if the delegate has complied with established secure voting protocols.]~~

Rule G-9.13.5. ~~[Balloting] Voting~~ at General Assembly.

A person shall be qualified to ~~[cast a ballot] vote~~ at General Assembly only if that person presents to the Secretary of the Association or those employed by them a **valid credential** ~~[properly certified ballot stub]~~ plus a badge issued to that person and containing the same name as the name on the ~~credential~~ ~~[ballot stub. An electronic ballot shall be counted only if the delegate has complied with established secure voting protocols].~~

VI. Board Authority for Elections

Section 9.9. Supervision of Elections.

The Secretary shall supervise all elections for elective positions at large. The Secretary may appoint a committee of tellers to count ballots and perform other routine duties. The Secretary shall decide any question arising during such an election concerning:

- (a) the interpretation of any provision of these Bylaws or of Rules made hereunder relating to election procedures;
- (b) any procedural problem relating to the election which is not covered by these Bylaws or by the Rules; or
- (c) the interpretation of the intent of a voter in marking the ballot.

~~The Secretary's decision shall be final.~~ The decision of the Secretary may be changed by a two-thirds vote of the Board of Trustees. The Secretary shall remain neutral in the election and shall not engage in electioneering, except for advocacy of their own candidacy for offices for which they are nominated.

VII. Nomination by Petition

Section 9.6. Nomination by Petition.

For Moderator and President. A nomination for the office of Moderator or President, for a regular or special election, may be by petition signed by no fewer than ~~twenty-five~~ fifty certified member congregations, including at least one congregation from three of the regions of the Association. A certified member congregation may authorize the signing of a petition only by vote of its governing board or by vote at a duly called meeting of its members. Such a petition shall be filed with the Secretary of the Association, only in such form as the Secretary may prescribe, not later than February 1 of the year of the election and not earlier than the preceding March 1.