

CONSENT AGENDA

Underlining indicates insertion; [brackets indicate deletion.]

I. FULL MINISTERIAL FELLOWSHIP

These proposed amendments change the name of ministerial fellowship from “final fellowship” to “full fellowship.” This change was requested by the Unitarian Universalist Ministers Association, in recognition of the need to engage in ongoing learning and professional growth over the full course of ministerial fellowship.

178 Section 5.11. Board of Review.

179 (a) Members. The Board of Review shall consist of eight members, as follows:

180 (1) Three members who are ministers, each of whom at the time of election is in [final] full
181 ministerial fellowship with the Association and has held such fellowship continuously for
182 the preceding seven years; and

183 (2) One member who is a Credentialed Religious Educator – Master Level; and

184 (3) Four members who are not ministers or credentialed religious educators, each of whom
185 at the time of election is a member of a certified member congregation and has been a
186 member of one or more such congregations for not less than three years as an officer or
187 a member of the governing bodies of one or more such congregations.

188 Section 7.6. Ministerial Fellowship Committee.

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

190 (a) at least six members who are not ministers appointed by the Board; and

191 (b) at least eight members who are ministers in [final] full fellowship with the Association, four
192 appointed by the Unitarian Universalist Ministers Association and the remainder by the Board.

193 Section 11.5. Termination of Fellowship and Administrative Suspension.

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

199 Section 11.7. Appeal.

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

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II. COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

These proposed amendments provide flexibility to appropriately structure committee terms by removing requirements for when appointed members start their terms. This is a conforming change to this section for appointed members, which was revised for elected members at General Assembly 2018.

204 Section 5.2. Election and Appointment.

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

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

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IV. VOTING AND BALLOT PROCEDURES

These proposed amendments revise conduct of elections sections to normalize electronic voting, as used in the 2017 UUA presidential election, while preserving the ability to vote by mail. Electronic voting has been an essential tool in expanding voting access and security. Additionally provides for rank-choice voting for Moderator and Presidential elections, and revises how electoral ties are determined.

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

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

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

228 [On all ballots used i]In elections held by the Association, the order of names shall be determined [by
229 the drawing of lots done] by the Secretary [and witnessed by two other persons]; provided, however,
230 that the order of names for elections to the Board of Trustees, other than Youth trustee, shall be by Board
231 position number first, and then as determined above. For electronic voting, candidates shall be listed in
232 random order for each separate ballot [The Secretary shall certify the results of the drawing of lots, the
233 certificate shall be attested by the witnesses, and the certificate shall be filed in the Secretary's office.

234 This Rule shall be printed on all official ballots or on the instructions accompanying them].

235 **Rule G-9.13.3. Write-ins Prohibited.**

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

238 **Rule G-9.13.4. [Absentee] Mail Ballots.**

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

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

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

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V. BOARD AUTHORITY FOR ELECTIONS

This proposed amendment changes ultimate accountability for election decisions from solely the Secretary to the Board of Trustees.

332 **Section 9.9. Supervision of Elections.**

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

336 (a) the interpretation of any provision of these Bylaws or of Rules made hereunder relating to
election procedures;

337 (b) any procedural problem relating to the election which is not covered by these Bylaws or by the
338 Rules; or

339 (c) the interpretation of the intent of a voter in marking the ballot.

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

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248 Section 9.10. Conduct of Elections at Large.

249 (a) Election by Ballot. Voting shall be by [written or electronic] ballot, except that if only one person
250 has been validly nominated for [each] an elective position at large the persons so nominated
251 shall be declared elected and no [ballots] voting shall be required. Delegates will have access
252 to electronic voting onsite at General Assembly or remotely, as described in Section 9.10(d), or
253 by mail ballot as described in Section 9.10(c).

254 (b) [Persons Entitled to Vote] Eligible Voters. [Ballots] Votes shall be cast only by accredited
255 delegates from certified member congregations and certified associate member organizations to
256 the regular General Assembly at which the election is held and by trustees. No person shall cast
257 more than one [ballot] vote.

258 (c) [Absentee Voting] Mail Ballots. [Those entitled to cast ballots in an election] Accredited
259 delegates may cast their ballots [electronically or] as paper ballots by mail, if they request to
260 do so. Mail ballots can be requested through the Secretary, and [. Absentee ballots] shall be
261 [mailed] requested at least forty-five days prior to the General Assembly at which the election
262 is being held. [An absentee] A mail ballot that is [mailed] returned must be received by the
263 Secretary [not less than seven calendar days] by the last business day before the close of
264 voting at General Assembly in order to be counted. [An absentee ballot that is transmitted
265 electronically must be received by the Secretary prior to the closing of voting at the GA
266 location. The closing date and time shall be designated in the General Assembly meeting
267 announcement.]

268 (d) Electronic Voting. Accredited delegates may vote electronically either onsite at General
269 Assembly or remotely. The Secretary shall designate the electronic voting period in the
270 General Assembly meeting announcement and may add more time if justified. Electronic
271 voting systems must be auditable, accessible, and secure.

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BUSINESS RESOLUTION

BALLOU CHANNING DISTRICT MERGER

This proposed Business Resolution approves a merger with the Ballou Channing District, who has independently voted to merge with the Unitarian Universalist Association. This resolution is required to be approved by member congregations in order to complete the merger.

352 RESOLVED: That, in accordance with the recommendation of the Board of Trustees, the members of the
353 Unitarian Universalist Association do hereby authorize and approve the merger of the Ballou Channing
354 District of the Unitarian Universalist Association, Incorporated ("BCD") with and into the Unitarian
355 Universalist Association (the "UUA"), with the UUA as the surviving entity in such merger (the "Merger"),
356 after which BCD will cease to exist as a separate entity, and adopt the merger agreement relating to such
357 Merger as previously approved and authorized by the Board of Trustees.