

Board Statement on Proposed Bylaw Amendments

Bylaw Amendment for Co-Moderators

The role of Moderator is the highest volunteer position in the Unitarian Universalist Association. Our bylaws were written in a time when the single leader model was dominant. In the 50+ years since that time, our world and culture have changed dramatically. The Moderator position has expanded to the point where the expectations of this volunteer exceed the scope of the role as originally envisioned. Throughout the year, many people have supported the role of Moderator. Your Board of Trustees has committed itself to modeling shared leadership throughout the Association by proposing this model of collaborative leadership that provides for more than one Moderator. Your Board of Trustees has seen this model work in the past 12 months and experienced the many benefits of a new way of being in relationship and moving forward towards our dreams and aspirations. Your Board strongly endorses this bylaw amendment

Bylaw Amendment for Committee Terms

This amendment provides flexibility so that committee members may be appointed to staggered terms, helping ensure smoother transitions so that a committee has fewer members cycling off at any one time, which helps committees retain memory of their prior actions and practices. This change was requested of the Board by committees of the Board and the Board strongly endorses this bylaw amendment.

Bylaw Amendment for Commission on Social Witness

The social witness process has seen many changes over the past decades. Increases in the speed of communication as well as our understanding of who joins together in Unitarian Universalist communities has changed the way we do the work of expanding justice in the world. The proposed amendments enable us to respond more quickly to urgent issues by shortening the process of witnessing for justice. Further, the proposed amendments expand the circle of Unitarian Universalists in covenant who can study and take action on these issues. These amendments come to us from the Commission on Social Witness after years of deliberation. Your Board strongly supports these changes to our formal justice making process

Bylaws Amendment: Gender Neutral Language

As our understanding of gender has evolved, it is necessary to modernize the language of the Bylaws to replace pronouns which limit gender with pronouns that allow for more inclusive interpretations of gender. The Board supports this alteration of the language of our bylaws for the use of gender neutral pronouns.

Bylaw Amendment for Regions/Districts

Over the past several years, most, but not all, UUA districts have disbanded in favor of becoming regions. This amendment reflects that structural change by including both districts and regions in determining the eligibility and geographic distribution of congregations needed to call for a Special General Assembly. In the absence of this change, congregations which are located in regions rather than districts would be ineligible to call for a Special General Assembly. The Board strongly endorses this change.