

Bylaws Change Purpose Statement

The UUA's bylaws were first drafted in May 1961, and have been amended in piecemeal fashion over the past 57 years. Our bylaws necessarily carry the biases and limitations of the times when they were written. Historically, the UUA was organized as a nonprofit corporation modeled on the New England businesses that emphasized fiscal conservatism and "prudence". Our bylaws need to reflect the faith community we are and that we want to be: adaptive, creative, flexible, centered and grounded in relationships and linkage, while striving toward being an anti-oppressive, anti-racist and multicultural organization. Currently, our bylaws are not accessible, have dates and times that are no longer relevant, and are rooted in distrust of authority. As we reimagine what our faith could look and act like moving into the future, we should have a smaller set of bylaws that can liberate our leaders and members to do faithful, sustaining ministry. This year we are proposing bylaw changes that are necessary for our faith to reimagine what our leadership and governance model could become. Over the next year and a half leading into General Assembly 2019 we will be having conversations and dialogues about what a new set of bylaws should and could be.