

UUA Bylaw Changes

The following items were approved for 2018 General Assembly Agenda at the January 19-20, 2018 meeting of the Board of Trustees. The Board's approval for each of these changes is in concept, and the Board will need to approve the text of these changes before these changes are included in the GA tentative business agenda, which must be distributed by March 1. The Board reserves the right to add items to the final agenda, per Section 4.14(c), up to 30 days before General Assembly.

Compiled by Carey McDonald, Board Recording Secretary - February 5, 2018

1. Youth Trustee

- Language from Bylaw Working Group:

Section 6.3: Propose adding: (c) two Youth Trustees elected at large

Section 6.4: Propose adding: (c) one Youth trustee shall be elected on alternating years

Section 6.5: Propose adding: (b) Youth Trustees shall take office immediately after the close of the General Assembly at which they are elected and shall serve a two-year term

Section 6.6: Propose adding: (b) Youth Trustees shall be a member of a member congregation if that congregation allows for youth membership. If the congregation does not allow for youth membership, the President, Minister or Religious Educator may submit a written notice of the Youth trustee's affiliation with the church. Not more than one Youth trustee shall be a member of the same member congregation.

- Drafting notes from Board discussion
 - Youth Trustees will be nominated by the Nominating Committee, in consultation with the UUA staff (Youth and Young Adult Office)
 - COO will review limitations in Massachusetts law on minor service on governing Boards, and Board will make necessary accommodations in Board policy

2. Gender neutral pronouns

- Language from Bylaw Working Group:

Articles 5, 10: Change gender binary pronouns to gender neutral; define "they" and "their" as being singular in place of he/she and him/her

- Drafting notes from Board discussion – N/A

3. Ministerial Fellowship Committee terms

- Language from the Bylaw Working Group:

Section 7.6. Ministerial Fellowship Committee.

The Ministerial Fellowship Committee shall consist of no fewer than 14 members as follows:

- (a) at least six members who are not ministers appointed by the Board [with three members serving two year terms and three members serving three year terms all appointed in even years]; 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. [Of the four appointed by the Unitarian Universalist Ministers Association two members serve two year terms and the other two serve three year terms. Of the four members appointed by the board two serve two year terms appointed in odd years and two serve three year terms appointed in odd years.]*

The committee shall have jurisdiction over ministerial fellowship with the Association as provided in Article XI hereof. The Board of Trustees shall designate a person who is not a member of the committee to be its Executive Secretary and keep its records.

- Drafting notes from Board discussion: N/A

4. Social Witness process timeline

- Language from Bylaw Working Group:

Section 4.16. Additions to the Agenda of Regular General Assemblies

- a. same*
- b. get rid of #1*
- c. leave 1, 2, 4, 6, and 7- change working on 6 from adoption to affirmation #1*
- d. same except change working of 2 from adoption to affirmation #1 take out 5, leave 4, take out 3*

Section 4:12. UUA Statements of Conscience

- (a) First Cycle Year*

1. *Each member congregation or covenanted community may submit to the Commission on Social Witness on proposed Congregational Study/Action.....*
 2. *gone*
 3. *stays the same*
 4. *gone*
 5. *gone*
 6. *stays the same*
- (b) *Second Cycle Year - gone*
- (c) *Third Cycle Year*
1. *gone*
 2. *combine with 3 - Following the General Assembly, the Commission on Social Witness shall then compose a draft UUA Statement of Conscience. The draft UUA Statement of Conscience congregational comment form, and a ballot to place the draft UUA Statement of Conscience on the Final Agenda shall be included in the Congregational Poll.*
 3. *Combine with 2, as above*
 4. *gone*
 5. *stays the same*
- (d) *Fourth Cycle Year - stays the same*
- Drafting notes from Board discussion
 - Consult with Commission on Social Witness, who proposed the language, to ensure draft is accurate

5. Moderator role

- Language from Bylaw Working Group:

Sections 6.3, 6.11, 7.5, 8.1, 8.8 – “Moderator” becomes “Moderator(s)”

Section 9.11 - For (a) we need to change the language to reflect teams of people running together
- Drafting notes from Board discussion
 - Agreement that bylaws should explicitly entertain multiple moderators, recognize other language may be required beyond what was proposed by Bylaw Working Group
 - Additional changes TBD, following guidance from Co-Moderators

6. District/region updates

- Language from Bylaw Working Group

Section 4.4 – read districts or regions

*Rule 6.4.1 – Delete Rule 6.4.1 Division of Districts for Election Purposes.
The trustees representing districts are divided into the following two groups:*

- Drafting notes from Board discussion – N/A

7. Article II – Principles and Purposes

- TBD