

Proposed Bylaws Revisions for the June 2016 Congregational Meeting (tracked)

MOTION #1: Revision to Bylaws for Membership

Explanation:

Currently our membership by-law means that we must keep people as members who no longer have any connection with the church. We want membership to mean something and requiring an annual response to the pledge campaign should be a responsibility of membership.

Imagine this: A member makes a pledge in March 2016. In April 2016 they move out of town and do not leave a forwarding address. According to our current bylaws, we would be required to consider this person as a member until June 30, 2018. Each year, during the stewardship drive, we encounter frustrations such as "why are you contacting me? I haven't had any contact with the church in almost two years."

This new by-law change allows us to remove people from membership when it is clear they are no longer a part of the church. It also preserves the ability of people who experience financial hardship to remain members in good standing.

3.2. Membership

Any person may become a voting member of the church who:

- is sixteen (16) years of age or older;
- is in sympathy with the mission, vision and covenant of the church;
- has attended an Orientation session;
- has made a recorded financial pledge; and
- has signed the membership book.

Those under sixteen years of age may join with full rights of membership after participating in a Coming of Age Program and meeting all other requirements for membership.

A member's name shall be removed from the Membership Roll in case of: (1) the member's death; (2) written request by the member to the church office; (3) failure to maintain a financial pledge ~~for a period of at least one year~~, unless waived by the Minister; or (4) removal by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Board for actions that threaten the well-being of the congregation.

3.3. Associates

An Associate of the church is a person who supports the church through a ~~financial contribution~~ pledge of record but chooses not to be a member. Associates do not have voting privileges.

MOTION #2: ADD AN INDEMNIFICATION SECTION

Explanation: The church carries liability insurance that protects us from damages incurred in good faith. This new section of the bylaws assures staff and volunteers that the church will likewise protect them from damages incurred in good faith. The language was recommended by the UUA, and discussed with our insurer and by the board.

10. INDEMNIFICATION

The Church shall indemnify any person who is or was an employee, agent, representative, or member of the Board of Trustees of the Church against any liability asserted against such person and incurred in the course and scope of his or her duties or functions within the Church to the maximum extent allowable by law, provided the person acted in good faith and did not engage in an act or omission that is intentional, willfully or wantonly negligent, or done with conscious indifference or reckless disregard for the safety of others. The provisions of this article shall not be deemed exclusive of any other rights to which such person may be entitled under any bylaw, agreement, insurance policy, vote of members, or otherwise.