

**Notes**  
**UUCSV Town Hall Meeting**  
**December 11, 2016**  
By Rebecca Allen

Board members present: Robert Hurt (facilitator), Monica Singh-Smith, Amy Fielder, Jim Peters, Dottie Cox, Sal Vasta

Constitution & By-Laws Adjunct Committee (C&BLAC) present: Robert Hurt, Jim Peters, Cal Allen, Mark Lore, Bob Haskins

Introductory Comments:

- Mission Statement is to be approved separately
- C&BLAC worked with present Constitution, two undated versions of By-Laws and Articles of Incorporation to reduce redundancy and inconsistencies
- Today's discussion is Q&A and not for the purpose of formulating amendments
- Remember the C&BL is a "living document", which can be amended as needed in the future
- Congregants may propose amendments for consideration at next week's Annual Meeting by submitting them to Robert Hurt ([robthrt@gmail.com](mailto:robthrt@gmail.com)) or Monica Singh-Smith ([monsismith@gmail.com](mailto:monsismith@gmail.com)) ASAP.

Note: Following are congregant comments and follow-up explanations.

Discussion: (Refer to Draft un-dated By-Laws recently mailed out)

II.1 Comments:

- Specify 501.c.3 articles that apply
- Add founded date, etc.
- Give some history

Explanation:

- Some of this clarified in Articles of Incorporation

IV Comments:

- "Principles" might be confused with "Seven Principles"

IV.1 Comments:

- Add period
- Replace "Empathy" – more of a concept which is not quantifiable

- Too clinical?
- I will help with writing
- Mission is too long; recommend the mission that was read during newcomer ceremony today
- Should Promises be included?

Explanation:

- Mission was discussed at workshop over a year ago
- “Empathy” was discussed extensively at workshop
- Mission has been publicized and available for comment regularly since

IV.3 Comments:

- Hard to understand

Explanation:

- This is UUA wording

V.1.A Comments:

- Strike the pledge requirement because non-inclusive
- How much does a membership cost the church?
- Commitment to pledge should be part of membership celebration
- Shows we don’t trust each other
- Is this socioeconomic discrimination? Does this contradict our Welcoming Congregation policy not to discriminate?
- Tighten up wording in waiver
- Asking for waiver can be embarrassing or demeaning
- Wording might be awkward but clearly states expectations of membership and the availability of a waiver
- What happened to “friend” designation?

Explanation:

- Understand that this is controversial
- Trying to recover some of the costs of membership while not discouraging membership

V.1.B Comments:

- Loosely written; could be challenging to implement

V.2.5 Comments:

- Change “Directors” to Board of Directors

V.3.A Comments:

- “Fulfillment” sounds like have to have fulfilled pledge
- Add waiver clarification

Explanation:

- If waiver has been granted then minimum annual financial requirement would be considered met

VI.3.E Comments:

- Have we considered electronic, absentee or proxy voting?

VII.6.E Comments:

- Is the treasurer elected by congregation or Board of Directors (BOD)?
- If by BOD, it could look like treasurer reports to them which can be open to abuse
- If by congregation, then treasurer reports to them
- Aside... Treasurer of Endowment Fund accountability also needs to be reviewed. Is system tight enough? Need to eliminate doubts.
- Bonding. Two signatures
- Prevention of fraud vs. appearance of fraud
- What is term of treasurer and secretary?

Explanation:

- Treasurer is elected by BOD
- Treasurer is bonded
- Good comments
- Terms are 1 year

VII.6.F Comments:

- Add responsibility for maintaining church records, including charters and by-laws.
- Do we need a list of committees in the By-laws?

VIII. Comments:

- Is there anything that should be changed that precludes what happened with previous settled minister's termination?

Explanation:

- This is spelled out in ministerial agreement which should be followed

IX.1 Comments:

- Permanent Committees: Is this new?
- If someone is self-nominated or nominated outside the Nominating Committee, do they also have to prepare a biography to be distributed by April 15?
- Include a statement whether or not nominations from the floor are accepted.
- What happened to Leadership Development and Nominating?
- Minutes of committees are not required to be posted (RSA - I don't understand my notes here.)

Explanation:

- Yes, biographies required of those nominated outside the NC process.
- Nominations from the floor should be accepted.
- Leadership development is not included at this time.

X. Comments:

- Inconsistent outlining
- Don't we take stands on political/social issues currently? Is this policy changing?

Explanation:

- Yes, outlining is inconsistent and will be fixed.
- Individuals or groups within the church may not take a stand in the name of the church. This policy is not changing.
- Individuals may take a stand endorsed by church, but only in the individual's name.

Other Comments:

- Where are Personnel Committee guidelines? Expl: In their handbook.

Emeritus Citation:

- What is this? This is new; please provide more details about what it means

Explanation:

- An honorary designation common in UU congregations with valued former ministers
- Allows emeritus minister to speak from pulpit, no ministerial duties, name on letterhead
- Will negotiate exact responsibilities and prohibitions with each settled, interim or part-time minister.