

# Special Meeting on Bylaws Changes on Sunday, Jan. 10, 2016

**The Board of Trustees of the First Unitarian Universalist Society has called a Special Meeting of the Society on Sunday, January 10 at 11 AM (immediately after the service).**

The purpose of the meeting is to consider several amendments to the Society's bylaws relating to nominations for certain offices, meetings of the Society's Councils, and meetings and membership of the Committee on the Professional Ministry. The resolutions to be voted upon are shown below.

## **Why is the Board proposing these changes?**

The Board approved these changes to enable certain committees and councils to operate more efficiently and effectively. Now they need to be approved by a 2/3 vote of our congregation.

The proposed resolutions:

- Remove the requirement that the Program Coordinating Council, Religious Education Council and Social Responsibilities Council meet at least six times per year, allowing them to meet as often as they determine is needed (Resolution #1).
- Eliminate the requirement for contested elections for positions on the Board of Trustees and the Endowment Trust (Proposed Resolution #2).
- Make it easier for candidates for congregational office to self-declare (Proposed Resolution #3).
- Reduce the number of required members on the Committee on Professional Ministry (Proposed Resolution #4).
- Remove the requirement that the Committee on Professional Ministry meet at least quarterly, allowing them to meet as often as they determine is needed (Resolution #5).

## **Learn more about the proposed changes:**

- Attend a congregational conversation on Sunday, January 3 in Emerson after the service.
- Participate in a Zoom videoconference on Thursday, January 7 at 8 PM. Go to <https://zoom.us/j/3710181454> or call +1 646 568 7788 (US Toll) or +1 415 762 9988 (US Toll), Meeting ID: 371 018 1454.

## **Resolutions to be considered at the Special Meeting on January 10, 2015**

(Additions to the bylaws are underlined and deletions are marked with a strike-through)

### **Proposed Resolution #1**

**To amend Section 1 of Article VI (Councils) of the Bylaws as follows:**

Section 1.

- A. Each council shall meet ~~at least six times a year~~ at a frequency, such time and place as it shall determine.

### **Proposed Resolution #2**

#### **To amend Section 2 of Article IX (Nominations and Elections) of the Bylaws as follows:**

##### Section 2. Duties

- A. The Nominating Committee shall be responsible for supervising the nomination and election procedure for all elected positions including the Nominating Committee.
- B. It shall receive nominations by request ~~petition~~, ascertain that all nominees are qualified and willing to serve, and inform each nominee of the duties of the position.
- C. It shall at its discretion nominate candidates in addition to those nominated by request ~~petition~~ and ensure that there is at least one nominee for each position of officer, trustee, endowment trustee, council chair, assistant treasurer, elected council member; and at least two nominees for each position of Nominating Committee member, ~~trustee, and endowment trustee~~.

### **Proposed Resolution #3**

#### **To amend Section 3 of Article IX (Nominations and Elections) of the Bylaws as follows:**

##### Section 3. Nominating Procedure

- A. By February 15 the Nominating Committee shall publicize the nominating procedure, the positions to be filled, and a call for nominations.
- B. Until a deadline six weeks prior to the annual meeting, nominations of candidates for any position may be made by presenting the Nominating Committee with a request to seek office ~~nominating petition signed by twenty five active members of the Society~~.
- C. The slate of candidates shall be included in official notices of the meeting and, along with statements by the nominees, shall be mailed to all members at least ten days prior to the annual meeting.
- D. No distinction shall be made between those nominated by request ~~petition~~ and those nominated by the committee.

### **Proposed Resolution #4**

#### **To amend Section 3 of Article X (Staff) of the Bylaws as follows:**

##### Section 3. Ministerial Staff

##### F. Committee on the Professional Ministry

- 1. This committee shall consist of no fewer than three and no more than six active members of the Society appointed in June by the Board in consultation with the minister. They shall serve for overlapping three-year terms; no individual may serve more than four consecutive years.

### **Proposed Resolution #5**

#### **To amend Section 3 of Article X (Staff) of the Bylaws as follows:**

##### Section 3. Ministerial Staff

##### F. Committee on the Professional Ministry

- 3. Meetings shall be held at ~~least quarterly~~ a frequency, time and place as the committee determines.