

Amendments to Bylaws

November 15, 2020

The following amendments were APPROVED:

1. Amend Article I, Section 4: Purpose

Delete all of the proposed text and revert to the Purpose from the 2017 Bylaws:

“The purpose of the First Unitarian Church of Pittsburgh is to be a spiritual home for Unitarian Universalists and friends and to represent and promote Unitarian Universalist values in the Pittsburgh region.”

2. Amend Article IV, Section 6: Online, Absentee, and Proxy Votes

Replace the sentence:

“A Member may hold only one (1) proxy at a given Congregational Meeting.”

With:

“A Member may hold up to two (2) proxies at a given Congregational Meeting.”

3. Amend Article IX, Sections 1 and 5

In both sections, replace “Letter of Agreement:” by “Ministerial Agreement (sometimes also called Letter of Agreement).”

4. Amend Article IX, Section 5: Vacancy

Correct typo, replacing “Section 4” with “Section 3.”

5. Amend Article III, Section 2: Becoming a Member

Replace the sentence:

“This action is a commitment to the covenantal statement of purpose of The First Unitarian Church of Pittsburgh.”

With:

“This action is a commitment to the statement of purpose of The First Unitarian Church of Pittsburgh and the covenants among its members.”

6. Amend Article III, Section 4: Termination of Membership

Between the first and second sentences add:

“Absent a waiver, failure to provide a financial contribution of record during the previous year will be taken as a voluntary resignation. At least two weeks prior to recording the resignation the minister or an officer of the Board will attempt to contact the member, using the most recent available contact information known to the church, to provide the opportunity to make a donation, a pledge, or request a waiver.”

7. Amend Article III, Section 4: Termination of Membership

Replace the sentence:

“Membership may be terminated by the Board for actions causing or threatening harm to the Congregation, to property of the Congregation, or to any individuals associated with the Congregation.”

With:

“Guided by the Behavioral Covenant, membership may be terminated by the Board for actions causing or threatening harm to the Congregation, to property of the Congregation, or to any individuals associated with the Congregation.”

The following amendment, proposed from the floor, was REJECTED:

Amend Article IX, Section 1: Duties (of the Called Minister)

Replace the sentence:

“The Minister is Head of Staff and as such has hiring and firing authority in consultation with the Board of Trustees.”

With:

“The Minister is Head of Staff and as such as hiring and firing authority in full consultation with the Board of Trustees, and with any hiring and firing of program staff requiring approval of the Board.”