



PROPOSED BYLAW CHANGES REGARDING PUBLIC EXPRESSION **AMENDED VERSION (Additions and/or corrections are in red)**

RATIONALE FOR PROPOSED CHANGE TO BYLAW, ARTICLE III CONGREGATION, SECTION 3 PUBLIC EXPRESSION:

- The current bylaw was developed when UUCWC was small and issues moved more slowly. Our world now requires a nimbler ability to respond to issues of life. UUCWC operates under policy governance where by empowerment of our committees & ministries through policies enables a more participatory response. The proposed bylaws and related policy enables this process to be more fluid.

Current Bylaw:

Section 3.1 Public Expression. The Congregation may express itself publicly on any issue of a moral nature, provided the position is approved by two thirds (2/3) of the members present at a Congregational meeting. The minority vote, if any, must be taken, recorded and included in any public announcement of this position.

Proposed Revised Bylaw 3.1:

Section 3.1: Public Expression outside of Church. The Congregation may express itself publicly on external issues and debates that are in alignment with Unitarian Universalist Principles. Such Congregational expression will be approved through the Council for Faith in Action (CFA) and the Board of Trustees, in accordance with current law governing tax-exempt organizations.

Proposed Additional New Bylaw 3.2:

Section 3.2. Public Expression On Church Property. The Congregation may wish to express itself on an issue by placing a sign or banner on its property. These expressions, intended for public view, would require a majority vote during a congregational meeting

Section 3.2. Public Expression on Church Property. The Congregation may wish to express itself on an issue. ~~by~~ Such expressions shall include, but not be limited to placing a sign or banner on its property. ~~These~~Such expressions, intended for public view, would require a majority vote during a congregational meeting.

RATIONALE/EXPLANATION FOR PROPOSED SECTION 3.1 AND 3.2 PUBLIC EXPRESSION BYLAWS:

The Unitarian Universalist Church at Washington Crossing (UUCWC) may wish to express itself publicly in alignment with our principles. This expression could include (but not be limited to):

- Endorsement of the work of an outside organization, including being identified as a supporter of the organization or a member of a coalition and/or expressing viewpoints on a current issue of social, racial or economic injustice or related issues.
- Endorsement of an outside event, including being listed on marketing/promotional materials and being present with a UUCWC banner or sign(s), etc. (Examples: Gay Pride

March in New Hope and UUCWC wishes to utilize its banner in the parade; wearing of UUCWC T-shirts as a formal group at rallies/marches which infers the church supports the issue.

- Expressions by UUCWC on church grounds via a banner or sign is of a more permanent nature hence the requirement for a congregational vote.

Unitarian Universalist Church of Washington Crossing



PROPOSED CHANGE TO BYLAW ARTICLE VII –THE MINISTRY, SECTION 1:

Current Bylaw:

Section 1. Duties. Minister and any Minister of Religious Education or Associate Minister, shall provide guidance in the religious and spiritual life of the Church, and is expected to concern him/herself with all aspects of its activities and the furtherance of its programs. S/he shall have freedom of utterance as an individual, but shall issue statements on behalf of the Church only upon approval of the Congregation. S/he shall be a non-voting member of the Board, and shall bring to the attention of the Board such matters as seem pertinent to the welfare of the Church.

Proposed Bylaw Revision:

Section 1. Duties. The Minister, as well as any Associate Minister, or Minister/Director of Lifespan Religious Education, shall be responsible for furthering the religious and spiritual life of the Church and Unitarian Universalist purposes and principles. ~~The Minister~~ They shall have freedom of expression and freedom of the pulpit. ~~The Minister~~ They shall be a non-voting members of the Board and shall bring to the attention of the Board such matters as seem pertinent to the welfare of the Church.

RATIONALE:

- The original guideline is no longer practical due to the infrequent congregational meetings, and the increase in fluidity of social media. Responses need to be timely.
- Wording on what specific staff are covered is updated to allow more flexibility for future situations.
- When a minister is called, the congregation has full knowledge of the minister's intent, values, positions and through our covenant we understand that public expression by these professionals should remain at their discretion with no further need of approval by the congregation.
- It is important that our religious leaders represent UUCWC's and Unitarian Universalism's voice freely.
- New wording removes redundancies of statements in current bylaw ("provide guidance in the religious and spiritual life of the Church" is part and parcel to "expected to concern him/herself with all aspects of its activities and the furtherance of its programs.")