



PUBLIC EXPRESSION BY THE CONGREGATION COUNCIL FOR FAITH IN ACTION

Background/Purpose

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

- Expressing our position on a current social, racial or economic justice issue;
- Endorsement of the work of an outside organization, including being identified as a supporter of the organization or member of a coalition;
- Endorsement of an outside event, including being listed on promotional materials and being present with a UUCWC banner or sign.
- [Expressions in print and electronic media or social media platforms.](#)

A practical procedure is needed to allow UUCWC to be able to make the decision to express itself in the public arena. UUCWC's Council for Faith in Action serves as the umbrella for our community's social justice initiatives and is therefore suited to assume the responsibility for the decision-making process, in conjunction with input from the Congregation [and the Board of Trustees](#).

Placing a banner in support of an issue or principle on our grounds is outside the scope of this policy and would require approval through a congregational meeting.

Policy

The Congregation may express itself publicly, on any issue, in alignment with Unitarian Universalist Principles. Such expression will be approved through the Council for Faith in Action (CFA) [and the Board of Trustees](#) on behalf of and with input from the Congregation.

UUCWC does not engage in partisan politics, and does not endorse candidates for public office.

Procedure

- The group or individual requesting UUCWC to make a public expression or endorsement will complete a form (Appendix) that provides information about the organization, event or issue to be endorsed and/or supported and details of what is requested of UUCWC. If a financial commitment is part of this support, that should also be indicated.
- The individual/group making the request will forward the completed form to the CFA chair(s) and, [if requested by CFA](#), arrange to attend a CFA meeting to present the request and answer any questions that CFA members may have. If it is not possible to attend the meeting in person, arrangements may be made to be present through other means, such as a conference call.



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- After the discussion on the request, CFA members will vote on whether to proceed with the request; a two-thirds vote will be required to do so.
- The CFA chair, or a designee, will inform the UUCWC Board President and minister of the request and **whether or not it will be proceeding further with the request. The Board will provide input as it deems fit.**
- If the request is approved, CFA will seek input from the congregation on the request for public expression or endorsement.
- This input will occur over a four-week period.
- The input will include at least one listening session, as well as comments via email and phone to CFA.
- Following the four-week comment period, CFA will vote on approval the request. A two-third majority of CFA members is required. Votes can be in person or submitted electronically.
- CFA will communicate its decision in writing to the **UUCWC Board President for review and final sign-off by the Board of Trustees.**
- **After receiving the approval of the Board of Trustees, CFA will inform, in writing, the requestor, the minister, and the UUCWC Community.**

Appendix

Public Expression Request Form (Being developed)