

## UUCGT BYLAWS AMENDMENTS APRIL 2022

Following direction from the UUCGT Board at its March 9, 2022 a **Bylaws Task Force** was formed to draft proposed changes to the Bylaws regarding **ARTICLE IV.**

**MEMBERSHIP.** During their work additional changes were suggested for **ARTICLE II. PURPOSE.** Task Force members: Chris Lautz (*Membership*), Mike McDonald (*Finance*), Judy Myers (*Stewardship and Board*), Mary Van Valin (*Program Council*), Chris Walter (*Board and Membership*), Jane Watts (*Membership and Program Council*), and Rick Walter (*ex-officio, Program Council*).

**Following are the proposed changes.** Current words suggested for change are printed in red strikethrough and new proposed words are green.

### ARTICLE II. PURPOSE

The purpose of this Congregation shall be to encourage and strengthen each other in the search of free minds toward a valid experience of liberal religion. To further this purpose this Congregation declares and affirms its special responsibility to promote the full participation of ~~its members in all~~ **REPLACE WITH: all in our community in** activities and endeavors without regard to race, color, gender, disability, affectional or sexual orientation, age, gender expression, class or national origin.

**RATIONALE:** Task Force believes that as we widen our welcome, UUCGT wishes to invite **all** to participate in activities and endeavors, not just members.

### ARTICLE IV. MEMBERSHIP

The Task Force proposes reversing Paragraphs A. and B., which is how they will be presented here:

A. Membership is open to all sixteen (16) years of age or older who find value in the purpose of this Congregation and have signified their commitment by signing the membership ~~register~~ **REPLACE WITH: book** in the presence of the Minister or a Board member. Membership is open to all without regard to race, color, gender, disability, **ADD: affectional or** sexual orientation, gender expression, class or national origin. ~~Members actively support the operation of the Congregation through attendance, service, and an annual pledge commitment.~~ **REPLACE WITH:**

**Membership entails a covenantal relationship with the Congregation by actively supporting its mission through attendance, service, and financial contributions.**

B. Membership carries with it the privileges of voting on matters affecting the Congregation, serving in any elected or appointed leadership positions, and serving as a delegate to the annual meetings of the Unitarian Universalist Association and the Mid America Region. **ADD: These privileges take effect after four weeks of membership.** All persons are welcome to take part in Sunday services, serve on committees, and participate in activities of this Congregation without regard to membership.

**RATIONALE FOR REVERSAL:** Explaining membership qualifications and the process should precede the explanation of membership privileges

**OTHER RATIONALE:**

A. 1) The term “membership book” is more accurate. 2) The words “affectional or” are added to be consistent with the listing in ARTICLE II. PURPOSE. 3) ***Requiring*** an annual pledge to obtain and maintain membership is removed in order to be consistent with our congregation’s inclusivity and welcoming stance. It will still be made clear to all prospective and current members that Financial support is vital for the ongoing work and Mission of UUCGT. All members will continue to be asked to make a financial contribution of whatever amount they are able.

B. It should be made clear ***when*** privileges of membership are effective.