

## Preparing to Vote on May 19: You are invited into conversation

At our May 19<sup>th</sup> Annual Congregational Meeting we will elect congregational leaders, vote on the proposed 2024-2025 Operating Budget, and consider a resolution titled *The Unitarian Church of Evanston Israel-Gaza Ceasefire Resolution*. A UCE working group has submitted the resolution for vote by the membership and links to the [resolution](#) and [resources](#) are provided here and below. Per our [Bylaws](#) passage of Statements of Advocacy require a two-thirds vote of the members present at the meeting where twenty percent of the total number of eligible voting members shall constitute a quorum. If passed, public reporting of the resolution shall state either the actual numbers or the percentages of the vote supporting and opposing the resolution.

Statements of Advocacy are significant decisions by a congregation. And I am calling on members to participate in conversations about the resolution. I especially call on those members in leadership positions on the Board, Councils and Committees to engage in review and discernment of the process and the resolution to be as informed as possible about this important vote. To support congregational conversation and engagement, two zoom sessions are being hosted for participation by all members of the congregation. The dates are May 8th and 14th at 7 pm. The [zoom link](#) is provided here and below.

These sessions are intended to supplement the town hall opportunities previously offered by the Working Group and provide further opportunities to engage in discussion, understanding and discernment. The zoom sessions and Congregational Meeting are intended to provide a safe and brave space for dialogue so that we can engage with each other in a respectful and caring manner, recognizing and honoring our fundamental humanity across our differences in opinion and perspective, while reflecting our values and mission.

As a community of faith, with common values and principles, we are called to seek and offer more conversation and engagement about the issues that challenge us the most, and to participate in our congregational governance. Let us seek to embody this calling. Please plan to participate in one or both conversations and attend the meeting on May 19th.

Yours in gratitude,  
Carla Williams, President, Board of Trustees  
Carla Williams at [BOT@ucevanston.org](mailto:BOT@ucevanston.org)

[The Unitarian Church of Evanston Israel-Gaza Ceasefire Resolution](#)

[Resolution Resources](#)

[Zoom link](#) Meeting ID: 880 2352 6443 Passcode: 819570