

Church of the Larger Fellowship, Unitarian Universalist  
Bylaws adopted 06-06-2021

**Article I Name**

Section 1 The name of this incorporated Congregation shall be "The Church of the Larger Fellowship, Unitarian Universalist." Herein also referenced as "the Church", "the congregation", "the corporation", and/or "CLFUU".

**Article II Purposes**

Section 1 The Church of the Larger Fellowship provides a global Unitarian Universalist ministry and spiritual community rooted in profound love, which cultivates wonder, imagination and the courage to act for justice.

Section 2 The Church of the Larger Fellowship promotes the understanding, growth and accountability of Unitarian Universalism and institutes programs to that end.

Section 3 As a member of the Unitarian Universalist Association, the Church of the Larger Fellowship Unitarian Universalist supports equitable, faithful action, grounded in the Principles of the Unitarian Universalist Association, towards our shared commitment to become anti-oppressive and equitable and to serve the full diversity of those who resonate with our theological tradition.

**Article III Membership**

Section 1 Persons shall be members of the CLFUU who have expressed their solidarity with the spirit of this congregation by signing the Membership Covenant, committing to uphold the CLFUU mission and who adhere to the membership policies of the congregation.

Section 2 Unitarian Universalists who are members and/or religious professionals of local congregations as well as persons who are not otherwise affiliated may become members of the Church of the Larger Fellowship Unitarian Universalist.

**Article IV Senior Ministry Leadership**

Section 1 The Senior Ministry Leadership of the Church of the Larger Fellowship shall be called by and be responsible to the Board of Directors and Executive Committee and shall serve at the pleasure of the Board and have such duties as set forth in these bylaws and as the Board shall determine.

Section 2 The Senior Ministry Leadership of the Church shall be the Executive Officer of the Church with responsibility to appoint and supervise staff members.

Section 3 Senior Ministry Leadership Emeriti of the Church of the Larger Fellowship Unitarian Universalist shall be appointed by and be responsible to the Board of Directors and Executive Committee and shall serve at the pleasure of the Board and have such duties as the Board shall determine.

### **Article V Meetings for Worship**

Section 1 Meetings for worship sponsored by the Church of the Larger Fellowship Unitarian Universalist may be held in-person and/or virtually as the Board of Directors shall approve.

### **Article VI Relationship to the Unitarian Universalist Association**

Section 1 At General Assembly meetings and special meetings of the Unitarian Universalist Association, the Church of the Larger Fellowship shall be represented in conformity with the UUA Rules and Bylaws.

Section 2 Member delegates to the General Assembly and other special meetings of the Association shall be appointed by the Senior Ministry Leadership, ensuring that member delegates equitably represent those with historically marginalized identities and they are supported throughout the process--from invitation and preparation through financial support and post-General Assembly debrief.

### **Article VII Meetings of the Congregation**

Section 1 The Annual Meeting of the Congregation shall be held each year, preferably in May or June at such time as the Directors or the Senior Ministry Leadership shall determine for the purpose of electing the Board of Directors, the Nominating Committee, the Clerk and the Treasurer and conducting any other business which properly may come before the meeting. The meeting shall be held using electronic virtual meeting technology or a combination of in-person and electronic virtual technology.

Section 2 At the opening of each meeting of the Congregation, a member, not an officer or member of the Board of Directors, shall be elected to serve as Moderator of that meeting only. The Moderator shall have no other duties.

Section 3 Special meetings may be called by the Chair of the Board of Directors or by petition of at least 25 members.

Section 4 Reasonable notice of all meetings shall be given by the Clerk or other officer who shall set forth an agenda of matters to be acted upon at the meeting. No matter may be acted upon that is not included in the agenda.

Section 5 Votes will be determined by a majority of those who are present at the annual meeting or who have submitted a written ballot. Voting by proxy is not allowed. Paper ballots will be made available to members who do not have internet access, when feasible.

Section 6 The Annual Meeting of the Congregation shall include a report of the following items:

- anti-oppression training completed by the Board, Senior Ministry Leadership and staff
- anti-oppression training opportunities available to membership
- the percentage of Church Board members, Senior Ministry Leadership, staff and membership who are Black, Indigenous, People of Color and/or who hold other historically marginalized identities, to the extent that this information is available
- the percentage of the budget that is devoted to anti-oppression work on an annual basis
- the number of complaints received around racial concerns
- evidence of investment in long-term relationships that uplift and support equity, inclusiveness and diversity.

## **Article VIII Board of Directors and Executive Committee**

Section 1 There shall be a Board of Directors (sometimes referred to herein as the Board) that shall have charge of all affairs of the Church. The Board shall have fiduciary responsibility for the Church. The Board shall create policies.

Section 2 The Board of Directors shall be composed of 9-11 members of the congregation elected at the Annual Meeting of the Congregation.

Section 3 The Directors shall serve for terms of three years each. A Director can serve no more than two consecutive full terms plus, if the situation arises, finish a partial term created by a position vacated before a term ends. Board members will be eligible to serve again after the lapse of one year. Board members are expected to attend board meetings regularly.

Section 4 There shall be an Executive Committee of the Board of Directors composed of the Chair, the Vice-Chair and the Treasurer.

Section 5 The Executive Committee is empowered to act on the Board's behalf between regular meetings of the Board but the Board has the power to overrule any action of the Executive Committee.

Section 6 The Board of Directors shall advise and assist the Senior Ministry Leadership in all matters pertaining to the upbuilding and the welfare of the Church and shall have the power to appoint such committees as may be necessary or convenient in carrying on the work of the Church

Section 7 Meetings of the Board of Directors and meetings of the Executive Committee shall be held on such dates as the Board or Executive Committee shall determine but no less than twice a year. In addition either the Chair or the Senior Leadership may call a special meeting of the Board or the Executive Committee. Reasonable notice of all Board and Executive

Committee meetings shall be given by the Clerk or other officer or by the Senior Ministry Leadership.

Section 8 A meeting of the Board of Directors must include a majority of the board to constitute a quorum. A meeting of the Executive Committee must include at least 2 members to constitute a quorum. A meeting of the Nominating Committee must include at least 3 members to constitute a quorum. Meetings mentioned in this article may be held in person, telephonically or electronically.

Section 9. It is the responsibility of the Board to hire Senior Ministry Leadership for the Corporation and to ensure that Senior Ministry Leadership is carrying out the mission of the Corporation.

## **Article IX Officers and Committees of the Church and Their Duties**

Section 1 The Chair and the Vice Chair shall be chosen by the board. In the event that Co-Chairs are chosen, the position of Vice-Chair shall not be filled. The Clerk and the Treasurer shall be nominated by the Board and elected by the congregation at the Annual Meeting of the Congregation. The Clerk shall be a resident of Massachusetts but need not be a member of the Board.

Section 2 A Nominating Committee shall be composed of four members of the Congregation. Three Nominating Committee members shall be elected at the Annual meeting and the fourth member shall be appointed by the Board of Directors from among its members. Elected Nominating Committee members shall serve for terms of three years. A Nominating Committee member will serve only one full term, plus, if the situation arises, finish a partial term created by a position vacated before a term ends. Nominating Committee members will be eligible to serve again after the lapse of one year.

Section 3 Vacancies in elective and appointive offices which occur between Annual Meetings shall be filled by the Board of Directors or the Executive Committee. Persons so appointed shall serve until the next Annual Meeting.

Section 4 The Chair shall preside at the meetings of the Board of Directors and the Executive Committee and shall perform such other duties as are assigned to this office from time to time by the Board of Directors or the Executive Committee. In the absence of the Chair, the Vice-Chair shall perform these duties.

## **Article X Nominations**

Section 1 The Nominating Committee shall nominate at least one candidate for each position to be filled at the Annual Meeting of the Corporation, at least sixty days prior to the Annual Meeting.

Section 2 The Nominating Committee shall receive additional nominations by petition of at least 1% of the membership until 30 days prior to the Annual Meeting of the Congregation.

Section 3 Voting shall be conducted by an electronic ballot, except that if only one person has been validly nominated for each position to be filled, the persons so nominated can be elected with an oral vote and no ballots shall be required. Paper ballots will be made available to members who do not have internet access, when feasible.

Section 4 Nominations shall be made only as provided in these bylaws and only persons so nominated may be elected.

## **Article XI Miscellaneous Provisions**

Section 1 The fiscal year of the Church shall begin April 1.

Section 2 In these bylaws, when more appropriate to the context, reference is made to “the Church” and “the Corporation”. However, they are one and the same for all purposes.

## **Article XII Commitment to Anti-Oppression, Equity, Inclusiveness & Diversity**

Section I The Church of the Larger Fellowship declares and affirms its responsibility to become anti-oppressive and equitable and to serve the full diversity of those who resonate with our theological tradition. As Unitarian Universalists, we carry the flame of love, burning bright, for all who yearn for its warmth, shadow, and light. This flame of love and justice requires our active and deep commitment to the flourishing and full-inclusion of Black people, Indigenous people, People of Color, and members of other historically marginalized groups. We hold our Board of Directors, Senior Ministry Leadership, staff, membership, and wider Unitarian Universalist movement accountable and active in promoting, engaging, reflecting upon, and implementing measurable systemic changes to combat oppression, racism, and white supremacy culture.

## **Article XIII Amendments and Dissolution**

Section 1 These bylaws may be amended by the members of the Congregation at any meeting of the Congregation, provided that notice of any amendment or amendments has been given in the Call for the Meeting, and the substance of any proposed change or changes has been set forth in said Call. A change in the bylaws shall require the affirmative vote of two-thirds of the members who are present at the meeting or who submit written ballots.

Section 2 Should this Church cease to function and the membership vote to disband, any assets of the Church will be transferred to the Unitarian Universalist Association for its general purposes, this transfer to be made in full compliance with whatever laws are applicable.