

*Proposed changes to Bylaws of
The Boise Unitarian Universalist Fellowship*

When studying these changes, please refer to the existing bylaws which can be found at:
<http://www.boiseuu.org/resources/BUUFBylaws.pdf>

The following change addresses the issue of removing a Board member who is not attending meetings.

Add a new paragraph 7 to Article V:

7. If a director misses three (3) consecutive regular Board meetings, he or she may be removed from the Board if a majority of the directors then in office vote for the removal.

The Board recommends this change so the board can get back to full strength after a board member stops attending but doesn't resign for some reason. This wording is compatible with Idaho statute 30-3-70(9), which can be found at:

<http://www3.state.id.us/cgi-bin/newidst?sctid=300030070.K>

The following changes consolidate numerous references to Robert's Rules of Order into one place, and clarifies what edition should be used as the parliamentary authority. It also removes conflicts between the bylaws and Robert's Rules when the procedure in Robert's is better.

Strike subparagraph 4d of Article IV:

- ~~d. Roberts Rules of Order shall govern all meetings. A Parliamentarian will be appointed by the Board prior to the annual and special meetings of the Fellowship.~~

In Article V, subparagraph 1a, strike "Robert's Rules of Order" and insert "the parliamentary authority stated in Article VIII."

In Article V, paragraph 4, strike "except that the presiding officer may vote only when the vote is by ballot or a tie breaking vote is needed" and also strike "Robert's Rules of Order shall govern all meetings."

Add paragraph 4 to Article VIII:

4. Parliamentary Authority: The rules contained in the current edition of Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised, shall govern the Fellowship in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with Idaho statutes, the articles of incorporation, these bylaws, and any special rules of order the Fellowship may adopt.

Article IV subparagraph 4d is deleted because Robert's Rules is now declared as the parliamentary authority in Article VIII, paragraph 4. Robert's Rules spells out in detail how a Parliamentarian should be appointed (if at all), and responsibility for this should rest with the chair, not the Board.

The wording about a tie-break is deleted from Article V paragraph 4 because Robert's Rules goes into detail about when the presiding officer should and should not vote, and those rules make more sense. For example, if eight board members are present and a very controversial issue (which the president opposes) is passed by a counted vote of 4-3, the president should be allowed to vote to make a tie and therefore defeat the motion. Our current bylaw disenfranchises the president in this situation, which is not good.

The following changes create a more formal process for adding and removing names from the official membership roll.

In Article III, paragraph 1, strike “~~may join by signing the Membership Book~~” and insert the following sentences: “may join by 1) completing the path to membership, and 2) signing the Membership Book. The path to membership is a process approved by the Board and published in the Fellowship Manual. Membership is effective when 1) the Board has acknowledged that the path to membership has been completed, and 2) the Membership Book has been signed.”

In Article III, paragraph 1, insert the word “secretary” between “The Board” and “shall maintain an official updated list.”

After the last special Congregational meeting, concern was expressed about several people gaining instantaneous membership by simply signing the book prior to the start of the meeting. There needs to be a procedure which verifies the person's good intent. The Board, in consultation with the membership committee, acknowledges completion of the procedure to help ensure that it happens. Keeping track of the membership list is actually the responsibility of the secretary, not the whole Board.

Strike subparagraph 3a of Article III:

- a. ~~Any member may vote at any annual or special meeting except that only persons who have been members for at least one year may vote on questions of (i) involuntary resignation of the minister, (ii) expulsion of a member, (iii) dissolution of the Fellowship, and (iv) acquisition and sale of real property.~~

The remaining subparagraphs will be renumbered if subparagraph 3a is deleted.

In subparagraph 3b of Article III, strike “~~on issues other than questions i, ii, iii, and iv above. The Board shall~~” and insert “and”.

Paragraph (a.) and part of paragraph (b.) can be removed if changes to Article III above are approved. Having the Board acknowledge that a member is joining in good faith is better than imposing a 1-year probation period for all new members. A person with ill intent could simply wait out the 1-year probation period, and we don't want to alienate new members who have joined in good faith and pledged time, money, and effort to a large project which we are voting on.

In Article III, paragraph 3, add a new subparagraph d:

- d. The right of a member to receive notice of a Congregational meeting and the right to vote at a meeting is restricted by the dates of record as defined in Article IV.

This new subparagraph 3d is explained in more detail in Article IV, the new paragraph 5 (see below).

In Article III, paragraph 4, add a new sentence to subparagraph a.:

- a. Membership shall be terminated upon request of that member. The Board shall acknowledge the request so there is a record of the termination.

In Article III, paragraph 4, insert the following bolded words into subparagraph b.:

- b. If a member has not made an identifiable contribution in a one-year period and if the Board has not waived the contribution requirement, the member shall be contacted to reaffirm membership and make a contribution. Membership of those who do not reaffirm, or do not make a contribution, or cannot be contacted shall be terminated and notification shall be mailed to the last known address. The termination is effective when the Board acknowledges that a good faith effort was made to make contact.

We need a more formal procedure for changes to the membership roll. We need to have it stated in the Board meeting minutes that someone's membership status was changed. This would make it possible to reconstruct the membership roll from the meeting minutes if necessary.

In Article IV, add a new paragraph 5 with two subparagraphs:

5. Dates of record for determining members entitled to notice and vote:

a. For the purpose of determining members entitled to notice of a meeting, the Board may fix a future date of record. If the Board does not fix a date of record, the date shall be three (3) weeks prior to the meeting. Members who join after this date of record are not entitled to notice of the meeting.

b. For the purpose of determining members entitled to vote at a meeting, the Board may fix a future date of record. If the Board does not fix a date of record, the date shall be one (1) day prior to the meeting. Members who join after this date of record are not entitled to vote at the meeting.

This prevents the situation where people join on the day of a meeting just so they can vote. This change is recommended by Idaho statute 30-3-52. See

<http://www3.state.id.us/cgi-bin/newidst?sctid=300030052.K>

In Article X, paragraph 4, add the following line at the end:

May 18, 2008, Emmie Schlobohm – Elizabeth Greene