

St. John's Unitarian Universalist Church Special Congregational Meeting Minutes
November 2, 20252025 in-person, online, absentee

Presiding: Wanda Craford, Board President
 Additional Speakers or Presenters: Rev. Jenn, members of the congregation
 Parliamentarian: Bill Gordon
 Zoom Host: Claire Wagner

Topic	Discussion/Action	Motion	Made by: 2 nd by:	Vote
Reading, Chalice Lighting	1:12 PM			
Verify Quorum	55 in person and online			
Meeting Format and Voting Instructions	Wanda provided instructions for online and in person participation and voting. Vote tallies will include all absentee ballots received by the start of the meeting, unless there are substantial changes to the proposals. There were no absentee ballots submitted. All voting was conducted after the review of the Bylaw Proposals			
Approve Prior Meeting Minutes	Approve meeting minutes from the June 1, 2025 Annual Meeting	Motion to approve	Monica Pellman Jim McDonough	Motion passed with 2 abstentions
Bylaw high-level review	Wanda led a high-level review and clarification of the 8 proposals. 1. Textual improvements 2. Method of Selection of Minister 3. Eligibility of Minister 4. Minister Responsibility for Worship 5. Minister Membership on Committees, including clarification of what is "ex officio" 6. Dismissal of Minister 7. Leadership Committee 8. Ministerial Search			
Bylaw Motions Page 1	Textual Updates and improvements	Motion to approve nonsubstantive textual updates throughout the Bylaws	Alanna Oakwood Jim McDonough	55-0-0
Page 2	Article XIII Sec 1. Method of Selection of the Minister	To approve bylaw revision on Selection of Type of	Erna Olafson Ann Schuur	54-0-1

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	<p>Carol Fencl commented that she could vote in favor of this change once she understood that the congregations will always have the opportunity to vote to approve any recommendation from the Board for ministerial selection type.</p>	<p>Ministry (Article XIII, Section 1)</p>		
<p>Page 3</p>	<p>Article XIII Sec. 2 Eligibility of Candidate Alicia Rosselot, raised a question about whether the minister and congregation give up autonomy by agreeing to this, and what is the enforcement mechanism if a minister gives up fellowship. Melissa Rowland asked for Rev Jenn's input. Meredith Green commented that she joined the UUA, not a store front church and this includes joining in agreement with UUA best practices. Alanna Oakwood asked for clarification of the term "Fellowship". Joetta Prost described fellowship as the credentialing of the minister, and that the credentialing indicates the minister's commitment to the UUA. Rev Jenn commented that ministry is hard, and so when there is accountability among ministers and UUA guidelines, this helps, not hinders ministers, and helps prevent sliding into misconduct. Jessica Meeker asked how the congregation knows if the minister gives up their fellowship. Erna Olafson emphasizes that fellowship provides both accountability and support for the minister. Chris Wagner from online commented that requiring fellowship does not mean we give up agency as a congregation.. Melissa Rowland commented that prospective ministers will see this provision in our bylaws and will let us know if they cannot abide. Meredith Green suggested this review of fellowship status could be included in Board annual procedures.</p>	<p>Motion to approve Bylaw revision requiring Minister to stay in fellowship with the UUA (Article XIII Sec 2)</p>	<p>Joetta Prost Amy Monson</p>	<p>53-1-1</p>
<p>Page 4</p>	<p>Article XIII Sec 6 Worship Alicia question about if this Bylaw applies only to Sunday worship? Clarification that this Bylaw includes rites of passage services. Rev. Jenn explained that this provision is standard practice. General question: can the minister's letter of agreement be made available to members? Rev Jenn explained that yes we can make available the letter of agreement, and she also indicated that there is a new UUA template for ministerial agreement. The Board has access to this new template.</p>	<p>Motion to approve revision to Minister's role in Worship</p>	<p>Shannon Tubb Melissa Rowland</p>	<p>55-0-0</p>

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	Meredith Green asks how ministers communicate with each other on rights of passage events. Rev. Jenn commented on the importance of this communication between UU ministers.			
Page 5	Article XIII Sec 7 Minister Membership on Committees Carol Fencil expressed concerns about history of misconduct, and the fact that ministers are human and ministers naturally have more influence in committees and how this can be misused. Nancy Johnson expressed support for the proposal, asking why wouldn't we trust our minister to be on two really important committees, and the message it sends if we prevent ministers' involvement. Emily Hodges spoke as Leadership Committee member, on the minister's positive influence to advise. Melissa commented in favor, that ministers are in short supply, and we should give prospective ministers bylaws that align with UUA Best Practices.	Motion to approve revision that Minister is ex officio member of all committees, teams, task forces, except Ministerial Search Committee. (Article XIII Sec 7)	Melissa Rowland Alanna Oakwood	51-3-1
Page 6	Article XIII Sec 8 Dismissal of a Minister No further discussion	Motion to approve the change to bylaws to add Art XIII Sec 8 Dismissal	Sally Larson Dot Wehrmeyer	53-0-2
Page 7	Article X Special Committees Reporting to the Congregation Sec 1. Leadership Committee No further discussion	Motion to approve changes the Art X Sec 1 Leadership Committee	Nancy Henry Lyn O'Brien	55-0-0
Page 8	Article X Special Committee Reporting to the Congregation Sec.2 Ministerial Search Committee No further discussion	Motion to approve changes to Art X Sec 2 Ministerial Search Committee	Greg Terhune Alicia Rosselot	55-0-0
Voting	All voting and tabulating occurred at this time. Rich Overturf from the Leadership Committee announced the results from in person and online voting. Also see vote tally above. Yes-no-abstain 1. 55 -0-0 2. 54- 0-1 3. 53-1-1 4. 55-0-0 5. 51-3-1 6. 53-0-2 7. 55-0-0 8. 55-0-0			
Adjourn	2:19 PM	Adjourn	Monica Pellman Melissa Rowland	unanimous

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Unapproved minutes,
Monica Pellman, Secretary