

# What changes are proposed.

## Article II – Purpose.

- The phrase “members and their children” is changed to “members and their family”.

## Article IV – Membership

- The requirement of being 18 years of age to be a member is moved to this section
- The provision for those 16 or older who have completed a coming of age course to be full members is added.
- The process for becoming a member has been revised
- The categories of Active (voting) and Supporting (Non-voting) members and the definition of these statuses has been added
- The review process for those no longer active has been modified.

## Article V – Administration

- Size of the board changed from 3 to 4 members
- Requirement for board members to be able to use current technology simplified.
- The roles of President, Vice President, Treasurer, and Secretary are defined.
- A provision for adding at-large members when the congregation exceeds 75 added.
- President and Vice President added as official signatories on financial instruments.
- Term limit for Board members changed from four to six years
- Ineligibility for holding a board position after limiting-out changed from four to two years.
- Board meeting language clarified, and minor grammatical changes added.
- Standing Committees – Search and Committee on Ministry defined.

## Article VI – Duties of Officers

- Complete revision (with the exception of section 6) due to newly defined roles.

## Article VII – The Minister

- The former section 6 of Article VI is deleted and moved to this article.
- New definition for the role of the minister.
- Minister no longer considered an officer of the church.
- Provision for called and contracted ministers defined.
- Requirements for congregational approval of a called minister defined.
- Provision for congregational dismissal of a called minister defined.

## Article VII – Congregational Meetings

- Article renumbered due to insertion of new article covering the Minister.

- Threshold for mandatory calling of Congregational Meeting changed from 10 members to 25% of voting eligible members.
- Quorum for a congregational meeting changed from 15 members to 33% of membership.
- Section on “special voting situations” added. Requirement for two years of membership before voting on high-value transactions eliminated.
- Provision for absentee attendance at congregational meetings by electronic means added.

#### Article XI

- Articles requiring supermajority (four-fifths) approval renumbered, due to the insertion of a new article. No significant change in meaning or effect.
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## Janet Hiller’s Notes from 4/16 Meeting

### UUCM Congregational Conversation April 16, 2023 on Bylaws revision

#### Notes:

**Art II Section 1:** “....provide for its members and their **families**...” This could go either way, but I think most people would sense that this word should be plural.

#### Art IV Sec 1:

Discussion re: **criteria for joining from another UU church**, or for **rejoining after a long time**. E.g., would an adult from another UU church need to go through our New Member Orientation? (Probably, because the class covers the history of UUCM and its governance.) Would Zach O’Brien need to go through the orientation? (Possibly not: he grew up in this church and participated in the Coming of Age curriculum.)

Re: 16-year-olds: Do they have to have completed UUCM’s Coming of Age curriculum, or could it be ANY UU Coming of Age program?

#### Art. IV Sec. 3 Categories of Membership:

- Should we say Active member or Voting member? Or “Active/Voting”? Is there good reason to leave it as is?
- “Volunteering in some manner” Should we say “in one or more of the following manners” and then list some possibilities? [Then there’ll probably be criticisms of our list!]

- “...extenuating circumstances, such as...” Should we say “...such as **but not limited to**” health, age, or gov’t service?
- There was some resistance to the way we’ve defined **Supportive** members:
  - There was a comment that we should confer with the member before changing his/her status. [Does this affect the way we determine the quorum for a meeting? See my comment at the end of **Section 4** below.]
- There was a sense that we should allow proxy voting. This would be in addition to voting at a hybrid meeting.

### **Something I just saw:**

#### **In Art VIII Congregational Meetings:**

**Section 2** reads “Special meetings may be called by the Board and must be called by the **S**ecretary upon written request of at least 25% of members eligible to vote.”

**Section 4** says “33% of the membership shall constitute a quorum...” I think we should change this to “33% of the membership eligible to vote shall constitute a quorum...” This would prevent a Supportive member who never attends and isn’t active in any way from being included in the calculation for a quorum.

#### **Other changes:**

Art X becomes XI

We added language for a Search Committee and a Committee on Ministry, both to be chosen by the congregation.