

Bylaws of the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Central Michigan

ARTICLE 1: Identity

The name of this religious organization shall be the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Central Michigan. This Fellowship shall be registered as an ecclesiastical corporation of the State of Michigan and operate in conformity with the purposes described in Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

ARTICLE 2: Purposes

The purposes of this Fellowship are many, but its primary reason for existence is to create and maintain a diverse, inter-generational liberal religious community that will:

- a) Provide a worshipping and celebrating community engaged in a search for truth and meaning through spiritual growth so that we may live and share it;
- b) Affirm, nurture, and promote our Unitarian Universalist faith, responsibility, freedom of belief, principles, and universal interdependence;
- c) Provide a supportive and stimulating environment through which we can recognize and achieve our human potential and strengthen our own personal value system;
- d) Strengthen and sustain our efforts to live our values by constructively influencing the larger community;
- e) Join together in celebrating life's joys, wonders, and rites of passage while supporting and comforting one another in times of need.

ARTICLE 3: Membership

3.0 Membership in the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Central Michigan is open to persons age sixteen (16) years and older who are in sympathy with the purposes and programs of the organization, have signed the Membership Book, and make an annual contribution of record. It is generally understood that all Members should have an understanding of the Unitarian Universalist faith. It is specifically understood that Membership is open to all qualified persons regardless of race, color, gender, gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, disability, age, national origin, or other irrelevant criteria, and without requiring adherence to any particular interpretation of religion or to any particular religious belief or creed or dogma.

3.1 Only Members will be permitted to vote on Fellowship business.

3.2 The Fellowship may attract people who, for personal or other reasons, are unwilling to sign the Membership book and / or make an annual contribution of record. These people are still welcome and shall be referred to as "Friends." Friends do not have the power to vote and cannot be Board officers. Friends may be members of teams.

ARTICLE 4: Denominational Affiliation

This Fellowship shall be a Member of the Unitarian Universalist Association and of the MidAmerica Region. It is the intention of this Fellowship to make annual financial contributions equal to its full fair share as determined by the Association and the Region.

ARTICLE 5: Sunday Services and Meetings

5.0 Services shall be held every Sunday of each month.

5.1 All meetings of the Fellowship will be open, except the following: teams to evaluate performance of individuals holding paid positions, the Nominating Team, the Team on Ministry, and other meetings dealing with confidential information as determined by the Board.

ARTICLE 6: Board Meetings

6.0 The Board shall hold a regular meeting each month to deal with issues relating to the ongoing operations, health, and prosperity of the Fellowship. Special meetings of the Board may be called at the direction of the president or upon written request of a majority of the Board or upon written petition signed by 10% of the active Membership. At meetings of the Board, a majority of the Board Members shall constitute a quorum. Proposals shall be decided by a simple majority vote of Board Members present.

6.1 The ministers or his/her designees are ex-officio members.

ARTICLE 7: Congregational Meetings

7.0 This Fellowship shall hold an annual business meeting. The agenda for the Annual Meeting shall be available no less than (7) days prior to the meeting and shall include the proposed budget and the list of nominees for any elected position to be voted on at the meeting. At this meeting, time shall be provided for reports by Members of the Board and team chairs. Fellowship Members shall have the opportunity to offer suggestions and recommendations for future activities and policies of the Fellowship.

7.1 Special congregational meetings may also be called at the discretion of the Board or upon written petition signed by 10% of the active Membership. Such a petition shall fully state the purpose of the proposed meeting. The business considered at a special business meeting should be limited to that stated in the notice of the meeting.

7.2 Seven (7) days notice by mail or e-mail must precede all congregational business meetings.

ARTICLE 8: Voting and Quorum of Congregational Meetings

8.0 A simple majority shall decide all motions requiring a vote of the Members provided that the required quorum is present.

8.1 There shall be no absentee votes or proxy votes.

8.2 Thirty percent (30%) of the Members shall constitute a quorum except as otherwise provided in these bylaws.

ARTICLE 9: Board of Trustees

9.0 The Board of Trustees shall consist of the following Trustee positions to be filled by Members of the Congregation for the indicated term:

Trustee Position	Duration of Term
President	1 year
President-Elect	1 year
Secretary	2 years
Treasurer	2 years
Trustee-At-Large 1	2 years
Trustee-At-Large 2	2 years
Trustee-At-Large 3	1 year
Past-President	1 year

Elections shall occur annually so that the results are determined prior to the end of the UUFCM operating year on June 30 in accordance with Article 8 of these by-laws. Each Trustee shall assume responsibility of the office at the beginning of the next UUFCM operating year on July 1. At each annual election the Congregation shall elect a Member to each of the offices of President-Elect and Trustee-At-Large 3. In years ending in an odd digit (i.e., 1, 3, 5, 7, and 9), the Congregation shall elect a Member to each of the offices of Secretary and Trustee-At-Large 1. On years, ending in an even digit (i.e., 0, 2, 4, 6, and 8) the Congregation shall elect a Member to each of the offices of Treasurer and Trustee-At-Large 2.

On July 1 of each new UUFCM operating year, the President-Elect from the previous term shall succeed to the office of President; the outgoing President shall succeed to the office of Past-President; the outgoing Past-President shall leave the Board of Trustees.

The outgoing Past-President and other outgoing Trustees are eligible to be elected to a vacant office on the Board of Trustees.

Should a Trustee retire from the Board of Trustees prior to completing the term, the Board of Trustees shall find a suitable candidate(s) from among the Members of the Congregation to fulfill the term of the retiring Trustee. The Congregation shall indicate approval of the replacement Trustee by election in accordance with Article 8 of these by-laws.

9.1 The Board shall have general charge of the property of the Fellowship and the conduct of all of its business affairs and the control of its administration, including the appointment of such committees, as it may deem necessary. It may fill vacancies on the Board until successors are elected and installed. Officers and trustees-at-large shall perform duties ordinarily incumbent upon such officers and trustees-at-large, including but not limited to the specific duties described below.

9.2 The Board shall be responsible for long range planning.

ARTICLE 10: Board Officers and Trustees-At-Large

10.0 The president shall act as the official representative of the Fellowship. The president shall preside at all business and Board meetings. The president shall form committees as needed, subject to the approval of the Board. The president shall also be responsible for assuring preparation of periodic audits of the Fellowship's financial status, with the proviso that no Member of the Board shall serve as auditor.

10.1 The president-elect shall substitute for the president in the event the president is unable to fulfill the duties of the office, temporarily or permanently. The president-elect will succeed to the office of president after one (1) year.

10.2 The secretary shall assure the recording and filing of the minutes of the Board and of the congregational meetings of the Fellowship.

10.3 The treasurer is responsible for custody of the Fellowship's funds, for keeping financial records, and for preparing the draft annual budget. The Board may designate a co-treasurer to assist with treasurer responsibilities when needed.

10.4 The trustees-at-large shall attend and participate in the Board meetings and shall advise the officers. The trustees-at-large may be assigned team liaison responsibilities.

10.5 The Past President shall serve in this position for the year immediately following his/her tenure as President. This officer is to provide "institutional memory" to the Board, lead the nominating team during this term, and undertake committee liaison responsibilities.

ARTICLE 11: The Ministry

11.0 The Fellowship may call a minister to nurture the spiritual and intellectual life of the Fellowship, to be responsible for public worship services, and to perform other duties as are usual and customary or as may be mutually agreed upon with the Board, in cooperation with the Members. The minister shall be an ex officio member of the Board and of all teams except the Ministerial Search Team and the Nominating Team.

11.1 A minister shall be called by Members of the Fellowship upon recommendation of a Ministerial Search Team at a meeting held for that purpose. A quorum at such a meeting shall consist of forty percent (40%) of the Membership. An eighty percent (80%) majority vote of those present at such a meeting is required to call a minister.

11.2 The minister will be evaluated in accordance with UUA guidelines and action taken accordingly.

ARTICLE 12: Paid Positions

12.0 Paid positions may be, but are not limited to: minister, director of Religious Education, administrative secretary, and music director. Board approval shall be required for creating paid positions and setting the rate(s) of compensation.

12.1 The minister as head of staff or his/her designee shall evaluate all other paid staff in collaboration with congregational leadership when appropriate. The minister shall make recommendations to the board regarding the evaluated staff. Contracts will be developed as necessary reflecting the decision of the Board.

12.2 In the absence of a minister the Board shall appoint a team on evaluation who will evaluate the performance of Fellowship employees. Recommendations of the Team on Evaluation shall be subject to approval by the Board. Evaluations will be performed and contracts developed following guidelines approved by the Board.

ARTICLE 13: Ministerial Search

The search process, including electing the search team, will follow the best practices of the UUA.

ARTICLE 14: Fiscal Year

The fiscal year of the corporate Fellowship shall run July 1 through June 30.

ARTICLE 15: Teams

15.0 The Board each year shall staff needed standing teams to execute the regular business and activities of UUFCM shall be as follows:

Team	Description and Composition
Congregational Life	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Managing activities for membership, caring, hospitality, stewardship, communication, social fun, fundraising, and maintenance of the building and property; ▪ Comprising the Building Manager and other volunteers from the Congregation.
Finance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Advising the Board of Trustees on budgetary issues and long-term financial planning; ▪ Comprising the current Treasurer and past Treasurers.
Religious Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Organizing and staffing religious education programs for youth and Our Whole Lives (OWL) courses; ▪ Comprising the Director of Religious Education and volunteers from the Congregation.
Social Justice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Educating the Congregation of social justice opportunities; ▪ Organizing volunteers for social justice activities; ▪ Comprising volunteers from the Congregation.
Worship	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Organizing and planning worship and music for weekly services; ▪ Organizing adult religious education programs; ▪ Comprising the Minister, choir director, musicians, and other volunteers from the Congregation.

The President of the Board shall assign one Board member to each of the standing teams to act as board-team liaison.

15.1 The Board shall create special (ad hoc) task forces as needed. The Board shall define their responsibilities and duration of service.

ARTICLE 16: Amendments

Any individual Member may submit written changes to the bylaws to the president by January 1st for consideration at the annual meeting of that year. Changes to the bylaws must be proposed in writing to the entire membership at least 30 days before being voted upon at the annual meeting or other business meeting. Proposed changes become effective when approved by a simple majority vote of Members at the annual meeting or other business meeting.

ARTICLE 17: Indemnification

Any damage, risk, or loss due to or as a result of action by any member of the Board and/or employees of the Fellowship will not cause personal liability to those individuals, excluding gross negligence or personal malfeasance. The Fellowship will indemnify said officers/employees for any costs incurred to the fullest extent permitted by law.

ARTICLE 18: Dissolution

In the event of dissolution of the Fellowship, all outstanding debts shall be paid and the remaining assets, both real and personal, and including all property heretofore and hereinafter donated to said Fellowship, shall become the property of the Unitarian Universalist Association, 24 Farnsworth Street, Boston, Massachusetts, 02210-1409, or its successor, subject to all applicable laws. A court of competent jurisdiction shall dispose of such assets not so disposed of.

Approved May 18, 2015