1.08 Policy on Special Congregation Resolutions

Approved 9/18/18

Congregation Level

1. At least fourteen days prior to any Special Congregational Meeting, notice of the meeting will be mailed or emailed to each member in a special mailing and/or published in the official Church newsletter. A special meeting may concern itself only with those agenda items included in the call for the special congregation meeting. (Article 1, Section 05 (b))

2. Following completion of the steps set forth in the Policy on Congregational Resolutions included in the *Congregation and Board Policy Manual,* a Congregational meeting will be called by the Board for the purpose of considering a Congregational stand on issues of social concern.

   A quorum of 30 percent of the members in good standing must be present, and 80 percent of those members in attendance must approve the resolution.

   So long as the requirements for Notice in these Bylaws and for a quorum under this subsection are met, this meeting may be convened immediately following any Annual or Special Meeting of the Congregation. (Article 1, Section 05 (g))

Board Level

In order to request the consideration of a Congregation stand on issues of social concern, church members will take the following steps:

1. Meet with the Senior Minister to discuss the process and the wording of the resolution.
2. A congregational resolution could be appropriate if it:
   a. Is grounded in Unitarian Universalist principles;
   b. Serves an articulated long-term goal. The process of passing a resolution should be viewed as an organizing tool, building support and momentum for action;
   c. Includes a larger action plan with a set of actions and activities that will be undertaken before the resolution is put on a congregational meeting agenda;
   d. Is supported by a team willing to commit to a multi-month process of education and open discussion;
   e. Demonstrates grounding, history, and identity of the congregation with the issue that makes passage likely.
3. Publicize and hold at least two congregation-wide meetings to help the congregation understand the activities involved and possible results, then refine resolution wording if needed. Assess the level of support and commitment of the congregation to the resolution as well as a sense of the likelihood of the resolution's passage.

4. Based on the outcome of the congregation-wide meetings, meet with the Board to request calling a special congregation meeting to act on the resolution.

In considering requests, the Board will adhere to the following:

5. No more than two resolutions may be in process at any one time.
6. The Board may waive any parts of this policy if the matter is of immediate urgency and there is clear reason to move more quickly (because many Albuquerque churches are taking a similar stand, for instance).