

CONGREGATION  
& BOARD

POLICY MANUAL



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**First Unitarian Church**

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## 1.0 OVERVIEW

Church policies define lines of authority, organizational accountability and the relationships between governance, programs and ministry. Governance is how we manage our affairs, set goals, identify priorities and oversee the day-to-day activities of the church. The church's programs, services and ministries are what we manage to fulfill the church's mission. Our policies delineate the authority and responsibilities of the congregation, the board, committees and staff.

**Many policies are directly related to church bylaws and will include a reference to the specific bylaw (i.e., "Article 1, Section 1"). Church bylaws are located on the website.**

Each policy has an "owner," which is the entity or group that has the authority to make changes and create new policies. Policies are hierarchal in nature, as follows:

### **Congregation**

Adopts bylaws and may make or change any church policy.

### **Standing Committees**

Defined in bylaws includes the board, Endowment and Leadership Succession committees. Standing committees are responsible for developing own policies.

### **Board**

Adopts policies made by the congregation lines of authority as well as roles and responsibilities for the board, ministers, staff and lay leaders. The board is subject to the congregational policies.

### **Board Committees and Teams**

Adopts policies that help them carry out their work.

### **Staff**

Adopts policies within their established areas of authority.

The *Congregation & Board Policy Manual* is divided into seven categories providing the framework for its organization. Individual policies are sections within a category. These categories are:

- **1.0 Governance**  
Establish roles and responsibilities for the board, ministers, staff and lay leaders. They also define the lines of authority among these groups.
- **2.0 Finance**  
Govern how we manage our financial resources.

- **3.0 Affiliation and Participation**  
Establish membership as well as behavioral expectations of all persons participating in our activities or using our property.
- **4.0 Programs**  
Establish frameworks for committees, councils, teams or task forces and programs.
- **5.0 Employees**  
Set expectations for the management of paid staff.
- **6.0 Safety**  
Guide us in maintain a physically and emotionally safe campus.
- **7.0 Facilities**  
Guide us in managing our physical property.

**Table 1: Policy Framework Matrix**

This matrix can help readers quickly locate topics and where they are contained in this manual.

2.0 GOVERNANCE	3.0 FINANCE	4.0 AFFILIATION AND PARTICIPATION	5.0 PROGRAMS	6.0 EMPLOYEES	7.0 SAFETY	8.0 FACILITIES
2.01 Church Governance	3.01 Financial Overview	4.01 Affiliation Policy	5.01 Board Committees and Task Forces	6.01 Personnel Manual	7.01 Disruptive Behavior	8.01 Use of Church Facilities
2.02 Policy Creation	3.02 Endowment Committee	4.02 Civil Participation	5.02 Program Teams and Councils	6.02 The Church as an Employer	7.02 Threats, Violence and Harassment	8.02 Green Sanctuary
2.03 Board Communications	3.03 Endowment Fund		5.03 Programs	6.03 Personnel Committee	7.03 Persons Required to Register as Sex Offenders	8.03 Alcohol Policy
2.04 Delegation of Authority	3.04 Finance Committee		5.04 Membership Committee	6.04 Sabbatical Leave for Program Directors	7.04 Child Protection Policies	8.04 General Display Policy
2.05 Conflict of Interest	3.05 Stewardship Function		5.05 Selection of Delegates and Scholarship Recipients		7.05 Professional Misconduct	8.05 Social Hall Display Policy
2.06 Leadership Succession Committee	3.06 Confidentiality of Financial Records		5.06 Communications		7.06 Privacy Policy	8.06 Animals on Campus
2.07 Confidentiality	3.07 Gifts				7.07 Healthy Community Committee	8.07 Campus Maintenance
2.08 Special Congregation Resolutions	3.08 Marketable Securities					8.08 Buildings and Grounds Committee
	3.09 Church Sales					8.09 Landscape Committee
	3.10 Donation Solicitation					

As the board approves policies, they are included in the manual and posted on the church website at [www.uuabq.org](http://www.uuabq.org). Go to the About tab, select Governance and organization from the drop down menu, selected Resources and Documents from the second drop down menu, then scroll down to Governance Documents and select Policy Manual.

## 2.0 GOVERNANCE

Approved by the board 8-18-2015; Revised 5/21/2019; Last revision approved 9/20/2022.

First Unitarian is a self-governing, democratic congregation. First Unitarian is governed by its elected board, including the senior minister as the head of staff, and is responsible for many specialized tasks delegated to various committees staffed by volunteers. The most important issues of governance are reserved for the congregation, including calling a minister, elections, approval of property purchases, construction or sale, borrowing money and amending bylaws. Standing committees of the congregation include the board and the Leadership Succession and Endowment committees. The board oversees these standing committees on behalf of the congregation subject to congregational approval.

### 2.01 Church Governance

Approved by the board 8/18/2015; Last revision approved 5/21/2019.

#### Overview

1. At annual meetings, the congregation elects members of standing committees, as needed, to fill vacancies. The standing committees include the Board of Directors, Leadership Succession and Endowment. The board oversees the work of the other standing committees on behalf of the congregation and subject to congregational approval.
2. The congregation elects a board to function as its governing body and calls the senior minister to serve as its spiritual, programmatic and administrative leader. The board governs with emphasis on vision, strategic leadership, open communication and information and diversity of perspectives. The board represents the membership by creating and adopting written policies, conducting long-range strategic planning, ensuring responsible stewardship of our resources, developing annual goals and monitoring performance. The board delegates authority to the senior minister as head of staff for the operations of the church.
3. For help with specialized functions, the board may form long-term committees or short-term task forces. The board provides a charge to each committee or task force, which consists of board and non-board members. Committees provide expertise to the board in specific areas, such as finance, stewardship, personnel and healthy community relationships.
4. Program teams and councils manage activities, which enrich the lives of the church's constituents and its community. They include: community caring, religious education (RE), social justice and worship. Church staff is responsible for supporting the effectiveness of program teams and councils.

5. Councils are formed when multiple teams in crucial areas of the church’s ministry (such as RE and social justice) need an umbrella structure for sharing information, leadership and administrative tasks. Church members run the programs of the church, such as worship, social justice, community building, and care of persons with management help from the staff. RE is staffed with assistance from volunteers. The staff also runs some programs directly.
6. The management of the church is shared between the board and staff with the senior minister serving as head of staff. Areas of responsibility may change from time to time by mutual agreement. The division of management and program responsibilities between the board and staff is detailed in the policy manual. The board will update policies as needed.
7. Table 2 shows the responsibilities of the congregation, board and staff under the shared governance policy model.

**Table 2**

<b>Owner</b>	<b>Responsibilities</b>
<b>Congregation</b>	Budget, elections, authorizing indebtedness, bylaw amendments, calling a minister, ordaining Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) ministers
<b>Board</b>	Asset protection
	Budget approval
	Capital campaign
	Endowment fund
	Financial condition and planning
	Healthy community
	Leadership succession
	Property improvement
	Stewardship campaign
<b>Staff Management</b>	Budget preparation
	Coordination of ministry
	Facilities management
	Program team
	Rental management
	Staff management



## Senior Minister Management Responsibilities

1. The senior minister leads and directs the spiritual, programmatic, administrative and caring work of the church as of head of staff. The board delegates to the senior minister the authority and responsibility to make all operational decisions, adopt administrative policies and allocate congregational resources, except as specifically limited by the bylaws or policies.

The senior minister shall protect the nonprofit and tax-exempt status of the church and will not cause or allow any practice, activity, decision or organizational circumstance that is unlawful or in violation of commonly accepted business and professional ethics. The senior minister, as head of staff, is authorized to establish additional policies, make decisions, take actions and develop activities using a reasonable interpretation of the manual and bylaws. New policies as established by the senior minister shall be written and incorporated into the manual.

2. As head of staff, the senior minister has three major areas of responsibility: people, staff and resources.

### *Care for people*

- a. **Child protection.** Because of our special responsibility for children and youth in the congregation's care, the head of staff will establish clear, written procedures for the selection, training and supervision of all paid staff and volunteers who work with persons age eighteen and younger.
- b. **Health and safety.** All facilities will be maintained in a safe, sanitary and secure condition, assuring that required licenses and inspections are kept up-to-date and that problems are corrected promptly.
- c. **Volunteers.** Volunteers are an important resource for this church. Volunteers provide important services and an important message about our mission to the larger community. Volunteers will be recruited, trained, supervised and recognized for their contributions and shown appreciation. When necessary, they will be terminated in a professional and caring manner.
- d. **Sexual harassment.** Employees, volunteers and members are prohibited from acts of sexual harassment against any member or participant in congregational activities or any employee or applicant for employment. In response to violations of this policy, the head of staff will take disciplinary action, which may include termination of employment, of membership, or exclusion from congregation property and activities or a recommendation to the board to have their membership revoked. (See Article 3, Section 01 (6)). When necessary, the board or healthy community team will be consulted.
- e. **Non-discrimination.** No one acting for the congregation will discriminate because of race, color, age, sex, marital status, sexual orientation, disability, national origin or ancestry, economic status, union membership or political affiliation. Employment will be based solely on merit and qualification. Religious opinions and affiliation may be considered only in the case of paid staff or volunteers that include religious teaching or worship leadership.

- f. **Universal access.** The congregation intends to make its premises and activities accessible to persons with disabilities and special needs.

#### *Care for staff*

- a. **Staff:** The senior minister is responsible for maintaining a productive and effective staff, ensuring that its efforts are directed toward fulfilling the congregation's mission and vision of ministry, and compliance with all bylaws and board policies. Performance reviews of each employee will be conducted annually.
- b. **Staff compensation and benefits.** The congregation's goal is fair and just compensation. Staff salaries will be set with consideration of UUA guidelines. All staff members working more than 20 hours per week will receive a uniform benefits package. See the Personnel Policy Manual for details.
- c. **Personnel manual.** The senior minister is responsible for maintaining an up-to-date personnel manual covering matters not specifically addressed in these board policies. The personnel policies cover areas required to ensure that the church complies with legal requirements and denominational norms for employment practices.

#### *Care for resources*

- a. **Financial Performance.** The senior minister, as administrative leader, is accountable for the organization's financial performance and condition and for the planning, budgeting and management of the church's financial and capital resources. These responsibilities will be carried out in a professional and prudent manner and in ways consistent with our mission statement, bylaws and board policies.
- b. **Financial Management.** Written procedures will govern the handling of receipts, access to cash and bank balances, approval of expenditures, payment of invoices and other obligations and management of invested funds. The congregation's financial accounts will follow generally accepted accounting principles, known as GAAP, for those practices that are generally followed by congregations of our size.
- c. **Asset Protection.** The church's financial and physical assets shall be protected, adequately maintained and not unnecessarily risked. The following measures will guide this work:
- i. Utilize reasonable financial controls sufficient to meet generally accepted standards to receive, process and disburse funds.
  - ii. Insure buildings and other physical assets against property losses and liability for injuries to others.
  - iii. Do not unreasonably expose the church, its board or staff to claims of liability and insure against corporate liability and personal liability of board members and staff.
  - iv. Create a rolling church maintenance plan estimating the time and cost of adequate routine maintenance and the repairing or replacement of all church-owned property, including buildings and capital equipment.
  - v. Protect intellectual property, information and files from loss, significant damage or breach of confidentiality or privacy.

- d. **Procurement.** Procurement of services and equipment must adhere to prudent expenditure of the church's financial resources. The execution of contracts and grants agreements must be within the scope of the church's missions, goals, budget and annual plans.
- e. **Records.** The church will maintain records as required by good business practices and the Internal Revenue Service. Transparency will be promoted by the timely posting of church documents of general interest to members or the public on the church's website.

## 2.02 Policy Creation

Approved by the board 8/18/2015; Last revision approved 10/15/2019.

*This policy governs the creation of church policies.*

### **Congregation Level**

1. The congregation-level policies regarding governance are in the bylaws.
2. The congregation may develop new policies that do not rise to the level of the bylaws by an affirmative vote at a duly called congregational meeting.
3. Members of the congregation may recommend to the relevant level (board, committees, teams or staff) development of a specific policy.

### **Board Level**

1. Board policies are those which the board has passed at one of its meetings and properly posted.
2. The board may delegate development of policy, as it deems necessary.
3. All policies have an "owner," the entity which has the authority to create and change them.
  - a. Congregational policies include the bylaws and resolutions passed at congregational meetings.
  - b. Board policies are created and revised by the board.
  - c. Staff policies are created by the staff in their areas of authority.
  - d. Committee and team policies are created by committees and teams themselves to help them carry out their work.
4. Church policies are hierarchal in nature.
  - a. The congregation may change any church policy. (Bylaws must be changed in accordance with the bylaws themselves.)
5. The board may change the policies of staff, teams and committees, except only the congregation may change the policy of the standing committees. The board directs that staff, committees, teams and councils make and document relevant policies to their areas of responsibility.
6. All congregation and board policies must conform to the policy template and be included in the *Congregation & Board Policy Manual*.
7. The official version of the Congregation & Board Policy Manual is kept on the church website.

### **2.03 Board Communications**

Approved by the board 8/18/2015; Last revision approved 12/18/2018.

*This policy defines how the board will communicate with the congregation and the staff.*

#### **Board Level**

1. Board meeting minutes will be posted within 40 days of the meeting date.
2. The board will ensure that an annual report detailing the work accomplished by the church is produced and posted to the website. (due each January)
3. Congregational meetings:
  - a. For complex matters and the budget, the board will hold hearings or town-hall gatherings prior to congregational meetings.
  - b. The board will ensure that an appropriate packet of information shall be available for congregational meetings and posted to the website.
4. The board will communicate to the staff through the head of staff.

### **2.04 Delegation of Authority**

Approved by the board 1/31/2015; Last revision approved 12/18/2018.

#### **Board Level**

1. The senior minister, as head of staff, will lead and direct the spiritual, programmatic, administrative and caring ministry work of the church, and is delegated authority and responsibility to make operational decisions, adopt administrative policies and allocate congregational resources except as specifically limited by the bylaws or policies.
2. The senior minister serves as head of staff and is responsible for maintaining a productive and effective team, ensuring that efforts are directed toward fulfilling the congregation's mission and vision of ministry, and ensuring staff compliance with all bylaws and board policies.
3. The senior minister is authorized by the board to establish additional policies, make decisions, take actions and develop activities using a reasonable interpretation of the board's policies and directions. In the absence of the senior minister, the board will appoint and authorize a member of the ministerial staff to perform senior minister functions as appropriate.

### **2.05 Conflict of Interest**

Approved by the board 8-18-2015; Last revision approved 12/18/2018.

*This policy defines conflict of interest and action that must be taken to avoid a conflict of interest.*

#### **Board Level**

1. Conflict of interest exists when a church official or leader has a duty to more than one person or organization and cannot do justice to the actual or potentially adverse interests of both parties. This includes when an individual's (financial or other) interests or concerns are in conflict with the

best interests of the church, or when a leader's personal interests are contrary to his or her loyalty to the church.

2. A church official or leader must avoid even the appearance of conflict of interest. They must disclose potential conflicts of interest and potentially recuse himself or herself from decision making when a conflict may or may appear to exist. If another individual believes a conflict of interest exists, they should disclose the appearance of such a conflict to the appropriate leader.

## **2.06 Leadership Succession Committee**

Approved by the board 8/18/15; Revised 5/21/2019; Last revision approved 9/20/2022.

*This policy details the roles and responsibilities of the Leadership Succession Committee.*

### **Congregation Level**

1. The Leadership Succession Committee (LSC) consults with ministers and lay leadership concerning appropriate candidates for elected standing committee positions and provides a slate of nominations to the congregation whenever elections are held.
2. The LSC nominates candidates for the following leadership positions:
  - a. Standing committees:
    - i. Board of Directors – nine members plus the president and treasurer
    - ii. Leadership Succession Committee – shall consist of seven members
    - iii. Endowment Committee – shall consist of five members
  - b. Moderator – unlimited two-year terms
  - c. New Senior Minister Search Committee – when needed
  - d. Social Justice Council members – occasionally, the LSC may be requested to suggest replacement members.
3. The LSC will make recommendations to the board about any necessary interim appointments to standing committees.

### **Leadership Succession Committee Level**

1. The goal of the LSC is to seek qualified candidates who offer a balance of skills, life experiences and involvement in First Unitarian to serve on the elected standing committees.
2. Annually, the LSC will recruit and accept applications for candidates for vacancies on the standing committees.
3. Prepare a list of candidates for all elective positions and obtain biographical sketches from each prior to the Annual Meeting of the Congregation. The slate of candidates and their biographies will appear in the *Messenger*.
4. Maintain list of qualified potential candidates for board-appointed leadership positions, including for reference by board for possible vacancy appointments.
5. Support the board and staff in assuring that the election is conducted consistent with bylaws, on schedule and in a secure and ethical manner.

6. When a vacancy on a standing committee occurs during the year, the LSC will seek to fill that position. When this occurs, the time served filling the vacancy will not be counted toward term limits.
7. Maintain an up-to-date *LSC Resource Book* to inform committee members of their roles and responsibilities and aid in fostering continuity from year-to-year in committee activities.

## **2.07 Confidentiality**

Approved by the board 11/10/15; Revised 12/18/2018; Last revision approved 9/20/2022.

### **Board Level**

1. All church volunteers and leaders will respect the confidentiality appropriate to issues of a sensitive nature.
2. The board instructs the staff to create and administer privacy policies about member and financial information.
3. The board instructs the head of staff to enforce the confidentiality policy in the *Church Personnel Manual*.
4. The church does not distribute, sell or rent personal information to other organizations, including other Unitarian Universalist organizations.
5. The church's Confidential Information Form will be distributed and signed by each board and Radical Generosity Committee member at the start of the member's term of service.

## **2.08 Special Congregation Resolutions**

Approved by the board 9/18/2018; Last revision approved 12/18/2018.

### **Congregation Level**

1. At least 14 days prior to any special congregational meeting, notice of the meeting will be mailed or emailed to each member in a special mailing 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 & 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.
3. 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.
4. So long as the requirements for notice and for a quorum 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 the 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 congregational meeting to act on the resolution.

*In considering requests, the board will adhere to the following:*

1. No more than two resolutions may be in process at any one time.
2. 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).

## 3.0 FINANCE

First Unitarian must provide and manage the financial resources needed to pursue its core mission. The congregation entrusts the financial management of its affairs to the board, the senior minister, as head of staff, and the Endowment committee. The approval of the annual operating budget, the purchase, construction or sale of property and incurrence of debt are reserved to the congregation.

### 3.01 Financial Overview

Approved by the board 12/14/2015; Revised 12/18/2018; Last revision approved 3/15/2022.  
*These policies detail the accounting and financial principles used in the church's operations.*

#### **Congregational Level**

1. The business, property and affairs of the church are managed by the board acting collectively on behalf of and for the benefit of the congregation. The board has a fiduciary responsibility to the congregation to exercise due diligence for the safety and good stewardship of the congregation's financial resources (Article 2, Section 04 (b)).
2. The treasurer is responsible for the regular review of financial transactions and reports and communicates financial information, questions and decisions among the staff, board, congregation and other church bodies concerned with finance. The treasurer has signatory authority for checking and other financial accounts and serves as an ex-officio member on the Finance Committee (Article 2 Section 02 (d)).
3. The Endowment Committee is charged with recommending and overseeing distributions from the Endowment Fund and ensuring appropriate checks and balances for the long-term maintenance of the fund. It shall promote the growth of the Endowment Fund, encourage and accept gifts to the fund and ensure that all gifts are acknowledged, honored and properly recorded for posterity in accordance with church policies (Article 1, Section 04 (c)).
4. Members in good standing shall receive and vote upon the annual operating budget of the church for the ensuing fiscal year (Article 1, Section 05 (e)(ii)).
5. The board will ensure that the church adequately protects its financial health in the case of property damage or loss, malfeasance or the mishandling of funds, or liability claim, including liability claims against staff and volunteers performing their functions or duties (Article 2, Section 04 (d)).
6. The annual budget is established on the basis of a fiscal year as designated by the Board of Directors (Article 2, Section 06 (a)).
7. The president or vice president may execute a legal document on behalf of the church, and the board secretary may affix the seal of the church where a contract, conveyance or other legal document approved by the board does not specify the executing official (Article 2, Section 07 (a)).



## **Board Level**

*The board will perform the following duties in its role to provide financial management and direction.*

1. Delegate to the senior minister, as head of staff, responsibility for the organization's financial performance and condition, as well as planning, budgeting and management of the church's financial and capital resources.
2. Maintain adequate current and fixed assets to support the church's mission-related activities and a revenue stream adequate to cover necessary expenses incurred in undertaking those activities.
3. Approve financial policies and delegate the administration of financial policies through the senior minister, who will hire and manage staff to ensure that finances are managed prudently, in keeping with generally accepted accounting principles for nonprofit institutions. This includes the responsibility to develop and maintain appropriate systems, procedures and practices, including recording the value of, and depreciation for, fixed assets.
4. Establish budget priorities, recommend the operating budget for the upcoming year to the congregation, set parameters for staff discretion in the budget management and review financial reports.
5. Conduct an annual stewardship campaign of the church's members and friends to secure pledges to fund the operations of the church.
6. Set the church fiscal year, which is currently Jan. 1st to Dec. 31st.
7. Ensure that the church adequately protects its financial health in the case of property damage or loss, including items of value on loan to the church to advance its mission.
8. Establish signing authority for checks and contracts.
9. Authorize use of unexpended operating allocations remaining at the close of the church fiscal year. Current practice is to divide these allocations equally between the Operating Fund and the Capital Reserve Account.
10. Solicit and evaluate competitive bids or proposals for projects exceeding \$25,000.
11. Maintain a Capital Reserve Account, to be used for the repair, renovation and renewal of church property.
12. Arrange for audits of church operations as deemed necessary.
13. Set the compensation package for the senior minister.
14. Set housing allowances for all ministry staff according to IRS guidelines.
15. Decide whether to close a dedicated fund and move any remaining funds to the general operating fund if the specified date has passed or goal of the fund has been accomplished; the fund has not been used in 2 years; or the balance is less than \$500 for more than 6 months.

## **Head of Staff**

1. Appoint staff to manage church financial affairs and delegate appropriate responsibilities and authority over all persons, staff and volunteer, who handle or expend funds.
2. Provide oversight of staff and be accountable to the board.

### **3.02 Endowment Committee**

Approved by the board 12/14/2015; Last revision approved 12/18/2018.

*This policy defines the responsibilities of the Endowment Committee.*

#### **Congregation Level**

(Article 1, Section 04(c))

1. Committee shall consist of up to five members elected by the congregation.
2. Recommends and oversees distributions from the Endowment Fund.
3. Ensures appropriate checks and balances for the long-term maintenance of the Endowment Fund.
4. Promotes the growth of the Endowment Fund,
5. Accepts gifts to the Endowment Fund and ensures that all gifts are acknowledged, honored and properly recorded.
6. Provides quarterly reports to the board and submits a written report to the congregation at each Annual Meeting.

#### **Committee Level**

1. The Endowment Fund distribution shall preserve the real value of the Endowment Fund as of September 2005, plus subsequent donor contributions.
2. Endowment Fund gifts of \$50,000 or more may be restricted by the donor.

### **3.03 Endowment Fund**

Approved by the board 12/14/2015.

*This policy governs the functioning and oversight of the church's Endowment Fund. The bylaws govern much of the Endowment Committee's work.*

#### **Congregation Level**

1. The purpose of the Endowment Fund shall be to help further the principles and purposes of the Church as embodied in the Mission Covenant Statement (Article 1, Section 08 (a)).
2. Reasonable annual distributions from unrestricted and broad field-of-interest accounts shall be made, but must retain the historic buying power of the endowment and are limited to a maximum of 4 percent of the average market value balance of the fund for the previous three years (Article 1, Section 08 (b)).
3. Any changes to the bylaws regarding the endowment requires a special congregational meeting called for that purpose with a quorum requirement of 25 percent of the membership and a two-thirds affirmative vote (Article 1, Section 08 (c)).

### **3.04 Finance Committee**

Approved by the board 12/14/2015; Revised 12/18/2018; Last revision approved 9/20/2022.

*This policy defines the Finance Committee's responsibilities.*

#### **Congregation Level**

1. The board is responsible to the congregation for the safety and good stewardship of the congregation's financial resources. It acts primarily by setting priorities and enacting policy (Article 2, Section 04 (c)).
2. Each year, the board sets budget priorities and creates rules to govern how income and expense lines will be established. The staff drafts a budget consistent with these priorities and rules. The Finance Committee reviews this budget for accuracy and conformity to the board's direction. The board makes changes if necessary and recommends the budget to the congregation at the annual meeting (Article 2, Section 04 (c)).
3. The board of directors may modify the approved operating budget, but shall not make or approve expenditures in the aggregate above 5 percent of the approved budget without the vote of the congregation unless current revenue is available to cover such increases (Article 2, Section 04 (c)).
4. The board of directors shall not make any capital expenditure in excess of 5 percent of the total approved budget unless specifically included in that budget or approved by the congregation (Article 2, Section 04 (c)).

#### **Board Level**

1. The board holds the Finance Committee responsible for the following: the periodic review of financial operations, the review of the proposed annual budget, advising the staff on specific financial issues and informing the board on financial matters.
2. The board recommends the budget for the ensuing year to the congregation at its annual meeting.

#### **Committee Level**

Approved by the Finance Committee 12/8/2015; Revised 12/18/2018; Last revision approved 9/20/2022.

1. Is comprised of up to five members, including the treasurer. The chair and members are named by the board. The director of finance serves as staff liaison to the committee.
2. Assists the board in meeting its fiduciary responsibilities. Treasurer provides financial information monthly at board meetings and responds to questions and issues.
3. Advises staff on specific financial concerns.
4. Reviews the annual budget prepared by the staff and makes recommendations to the board for adoption by the congregation.
5. Explains and takes comments about the annual budget from the congregation at special meetings in December and at the January annual meeting.

6. Reviews monthly financial statements provided by the director of finance at the monthly finance committee meetings and forwards pertinent information to the board. The director of finance presents quarterly financial reports to the board.
7. On a monthly basis, obtains bank reconciliations, confirms dates/signatures, reviews consistency, accuracy, and reasonableness regarding balances, deposits, signatures, payees, checks and ACH transactions.
8. Performs a periodic review of financial operations. Reviews *Accounting Manual* to ensure that processes are being followed and to determine if adjustments need to be made to the *Accounting Manual* to comply with current procedures.
9. Provides the congregation with an annual financial report that details the condition of the church's finances and information about the operational, capital and designated funds.
10. Reviews and recommend board action on contracts more than \$25,000.
11. Conducts an annual review of stock and investment account transactions to ensure accuracy of balances reported to the board.
12. Reviews the annual endowment distribution calculation.
13. Recommends an audit no less than every 5 years, if financially appropriate. An audit may be recommended sooner if the Finance Committee determines that there are issues or concerns.
14. Remains aware of compliance with 1.01 Church Governance policies in the areas of care of resources (financial management, asset protection, procurement and records).

### **3.05 Stewardship Function**

Charge Approved by the board 6/16/2015; Revised 12/18/2018; Last revision approved 9/20/2022.

*This policy defines the responsibilities of raising necessary funds for the operations and mission of the church.*

#### **Board Level**

1. Form committees to address and organize the stewardship (congregational giving, pledge drive) function. These committees will help First Unitarian refine its stewardship practices and develop a culture of generosity. Generosity should be mutually reflected in the way the church relates to the congregation and in the way the congregation in turn relates to the church.
2. The committee fulfilling the stewardship function shall consist of at least one board member and other non-board members for a total of six to eight people. Its membership and chair or co-chairs will serve a term of one to two years, renewable as mutually desired, and must be approved by a vote of the board.

#### **Committee Level**

1. Study alternative and best practices, assess current practices and make recommendations.
2. Help implement recommendations as appropriate.
3. Design and conduct a campaign to educate the congregation (and other interested people) about the church's funding needs each year, as determined by the board of directors and receive pledges.

The year-round Radical Generosity Committee may recruit additional volunteers to help run the fall campaign, as needed.

4. Inspire new and increased giving during the campaign and inspire new pledges and giving throughout the year.
5. Work with the Membership Committee to develop a systematic way of reaching out to new members.
6. Work with the Endowment Committee to ensure the endowment is included in outreach efforts.

### **3.06 Confidentiality of Financial Records**

Approved by the board 12/14/2015; Revised 12/18/2018; Last revision approved 9/20/2022.

*This policy safeguards the church's integrity by adopting confidentiality policies.*

#### **Board Level**

1. The senior minister is responsible for seeing that the confidentiality of financial and contribution records is maintained.
2. The names of all individual donors may be listed in the church's annual report or in other appropriate publications. The church will not publish the amount of any donor's gift without the donor's permission.
3. The church's Confidential Information Form will be distributed and signed by each board and Radical Generosity Committee member at the start of the member's term of service.

### **3.07 Gifts**

Approved by the board 12/14/2015; Revised 12/18/2018; Last revision approved 9/20/2022.

*This policy establishes guidelines for evaluating and accepting charitable donations to the church.*

#### **Board Level**

1. First Unitarian encourages the solicitation and acceptance of gifts to the church for purposes that further the congregation's mission. Staff may accept the following types of gifts without prior review and approval of board so long as the gift is unrestricted or restricted to a purpose or fund that the board has previously approved.
  - a. Pledges (written promises) from donors to pay money or donate other assets.
    - i. Pledges are tracked and reported through a pledge database and pledge statements are generated for the donor at least annually. Pledge revenue is recorded when received in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles.
  - b. Cash gifts including memorial gifts are acceptable in any form, including checks, money orders, credit cards or online donations.
  - c. Marketable securities may be transferred electronically to First Unitarian through a broker or other financial institution. First Unitarian liquidates gifted securities expediently unless the board specifically approves their retention. (See Policy 2.09.)

- d. The Church may accept bequests including gifts in will or beneficiary designations under trusts, life insurance policies, commercial annuities, retirement plans or other assets for which a beneficiary may be legally named.
  - e. First Unitarian may accept gifts of tangible personal property, which are easily put to use for the church's charitable purpose and over which the church has complete control including discretion to retain or liquidate.
2. This gift policy applies to all gifts offered to the congregation other than payments on pledges to the annual operating fund.
- a. "Restricted" gifts (other than endowments) are those designated by the donor for a particular purpose or object. Restricted gifts will be accepted by the staff and deposited in the appropriate designated fund. The bookkeeper will keep proper records of all such gifts. The Finance Committee shall monitor the use of all restricted gift monies to ensure that they are used in accordance with the wishes of the donor. Donors of such gifts must be informed that, should the church's needs change, those gifts may be sold, repurposed, or given away.
  - b. All unrestricted gifts are recorded in the operating fund as non-pledge gifts revenue and, when possible, credited to the donor.
  - c. All non-endowment gifts are acknowledged through quarterly contribution statements or a timely letter that reiterates the purpose for which the monies are granted.
  - d. All gifts will be accounted for according to IRS rules for charitable donations.
3. Gift acceptance criteria
- a. Gifts given for a specific purpose (restricted) are accepted only after the board or staff ascertains that they are useful for church programs.
  - b. Gifts and/or fundraising for an item expected to cost more than \$5,000.00 is to include an additional 10 percent above the cost to cover additional costs such as maintenance, installation, or updating of the item. Those funds will go into the general fund.
  - c. Unless otherwise designated or restricted by purpose or time, all gifts to the church will go to the general fund. Any gift accepted by the church must be consistent with church policies and mission statement. When questions arise, final authority to accept or decline gifts rests solely with the board.

### **3.08 Marketable Securities**

Approved by the board 12/14/2015; Last revision approved 12/18/2018.

*The purpose of this policy is to define the process to be used to liquidate donated marketable securities.*

#### **Board Level**

- 1. The policy of the church is to liquidate marketable securities upon receipt. The value of the donation is recorded as the net amount after commissions, fees and taxes. The possible transaction cost of this sale is considered small compared to the risk of loss that can be experienced with delay in the sale of the stock.

2. This policy will be communicated to the potential donor of the stock to ensure that the donor is aware of the immediate liquidation of the gift.
3. Proceeds from the sale of the stock are considered unrestricted contributed income unless the donor has imposed a restriction as a condition of the gift in which case procedures for accounting for restricted contribution will be followed.

### **3.09 Church Sales**

Approved by the board 12/14/2015; Last revision approved 12/18/2018.

*This policy clarifies who may sell items or services on church property at church events and under what conditions. The policy attempts to balance the needs of those wishing to sell with the mission of the church and the needs of others at church events.*

#### **Board Level**

1. The only sales allowed at church events are those in which at least 30 percent of the proceeds are donated to the church as a whole or to a church group that has a designated fund.
2. All Sunday morning sales (except (a), (b), (c), and (e) below take place at monthly outdoor patio fairs.
3. In the case of inclement weather, patio fairs will be re-located as determined by staff.
4. There are five exceptions to the 30 percent donation policy:
  - a. UUSC Coffee and Chocolate Sales, which directly benefit the UUSC and the Sustainable Farming project.
  - b. The sale of arts and crafts associated with the art shows.
  - c. The occasional sales at the patio fairs by children and youth of items benefitting their activities (Girl Scout cookies, exchange students, bands, etc.).
  - d. The very occasional permission given to an attractive “good cause” from outside the church to sell items at a special event.
  - e. The sales of CDs or books by musicians or presenters in that week’s worship service or forum.
5. Groups and individuals wishing to sell things at patio fairs must register with the office and donate 30 percent of sales to the church.
6. Sales at events other than Sunday mornings patio fairs are controlled by the organizer of the event; however, 30 percent of those sales are expected to be donated to the church.

### **3.10 Donation Solicitation**

Approved by the board 12/14/2015; Last revision approved 12/18/2018.

*This policy (except the stewardship function) clarifies who and by what means persons may solicit donations from others at church events.*

#### **Board Level**

1. The only solicitation of donations from persons at church events will be for charitable causes.
2. Church groups may solicit donations for charitable causes from the congregation only by reserving a table at coffee hour, at a patio fair or at an event planned in conjunction with the Social Justice or Religious Education councils (by invitation of the planners).
3. Individual members may solicit donations for their chosen causes and projects (walk-a-thons etc.) by requesting a table at the monthly patio fair. It is necessary to register at the office and follow staff policy.
4. Church groups soliciting funds for other good causes (Kenya project, etc.) shall report their total collection to the office so the total can be added to the church's record of contributions raised.
5. Church groups may turn in the cash raised and have the office write or send a check, or have the total added to a line item in the church budget.
6. Members who donate to a church group soliciting funds shall have their donation appear on their contribution statement. These donors' names and the amount donated will be submitted to the church office.
7. Soliciting donations from people who have not approached your table is not permitted (no walking around asking folks to donate).
8. The only announcements of charitable solicitations will be for moneys funneled into UUA and UUSC emergency collections or emergencies at the discretion of the ministers (for earthquake victims etc.).



## 4.0 AFFILIATION AND PARTICIPATION

*This policy creates categories of affiliation, tracking mechanisms and expectations of those who participate in church activities or activities on church property.*

### 4.01 Affiliation Policy

Approved by the board 3/15/2016; Revised 5/21/2019; Last revision approved 1/29/2023.

#### **Congregational Level**

1. To become a member in good standing, a person must meet the following criteria (Article 1, Section 02 (2)(i)):
  - a. be 14 years old or completed the church's Coming of Age Program.
  - b. be in sympathy with the mission covenant of the church.
  - c. make an identifiable financial contribution of any amount to the church.
  - d. agree to abide by the church bylaws and the policy manual.
  - e. sign the membership book or other authorized declaration of membership, such as signing the virtual membership book.
2. Thirty days after meeting the criteria above, the individual becomes a voting member of the church (Article 1, Section 02 (a)(ii)).
3. To continue as a member in good standing a member must make an identifiable financial contribution to the congregation at least once every year (Article 1, Section 02 (a)(iii)).
4. A member may resign membership from the church by notice to the office (Article 1, Section 02 c).
5. A member may be removed from membership after 18 months, if no identifiable financial contributions have been made in that time or the church has not been able to reach the person by letter, email or phone to clarify whether the person wishes to continue as a member (Article 1, Section 02 c).
6. A member failing to abide by church bylaws or Healthy Community Committee policies, or who is deemed by the board of directors to be a danger to the persons or institution of the church, may have their membership revoked by a board of directors affirmative vote of six or more board members after consultation with the Healthy Community Committee (Article 1, Section 02 (c)).

#### **Board Level**

1. The board directs the staff to keep an up-to-date membership roll including reminding members who have not made a financial contribution in the past 18 months to do so and removing them from membership, if they do not respond.
2. The staff is directed to recognize and track the kinds of affiliation of persons with First Unitarian as defined in the Table 3.1 (see next page).



**Table 3 Participant Definitions and Benefits**

User	Definition	Benefits
<b>Member</b> (in good standing)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Per Church bylaws:                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Fourteen years of age or completed the church’s Coming of Age Program.</li> <li>○ Be in sympathy with the mission covenant of the church</li> <li>○ Made an identifiable contribution in past 18 months.</li> <li>○ Signed the membership book or other authorized declaration of membership.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Abide by church bylaws and policy manual.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Participate in church governing structure.</li> <li>• Vote on congregational issues and serve in elected office.</li> <li>• Use and receive all church services including reserving church facilities for member events subject to availability per <u>Use of Church Facilities (8.01)</u>.</li> <li>• Receive pastoral care and services.</li> <li>• Receive church communications.</li> </ul>
<b>Silver Member</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Long-term member whose income or health does not allow them to fully participate in church membership.</li> <li>• Those so designated are included in the directory but not counted as members and are not asked for pledges or contributions.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Receive pastoral care and services.</li> </ul>
<b>Friend</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Made an identifiable contribution in past 18 months.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use and receive all church services including reserving church facilities subject to availability per <u>Use of Church Facilities (8.01)</u>.</li> <li>• Serve as volunteer committee member or in other volunteer capacities unless prohibited by the bylaws.</li> <li>• Receive pastoral care and services, benefits of staff services and church communications.</li> </ul>
<b>Child/Youth</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A person under the age of 18.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Participate in children and youth programs</li> </ul>
<b>Guest/ Congregant</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Children and other family members of members, friends and guests who are a part of our caring community.</li> <li>• Individuals with informal involvement in the congregation.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• May receive some pastoral services.</li> <li>• Receive church communications.</li> <li>• Participate in public services.</li> </ul>
<b>Users/Renters</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Business relationship.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Receive services as defined by contract.</li> </ul>

#### **4.02 Civil Participation**

Approved by the board 3/15/2016; Last revision approved 12/18/2018.

*This policy defines minimal expectations of all persons who interact with others on church property or during church activities in other locations.*

##### **Board Level**

1. All persons using church property or participating in church activities (on or off church property), regardless of affiliation, are expected to do so in a productive, kind and civil manner. When there are complaints that this is not occurring:
  - a. The person or persons bothered by behavior that does not seem productive, kind or civil should talk to the person whose behavior bothers them.
  - b. For church programs, if the group leader or chair believes that the group's work is being negatively affected, the chair may speak to the person.
  - c. If there is no resolution, the Healthy Community Committee should be notified.

## 5.0 PROGRAMS

### 5.01 Board Committees and Task Forces

Approved by the board 6/21/2016; Revised 10/15/2019; Revised 9/20/2022; Last revision approved 1/29/2023.

#### Congregation Level

##### *Standing Committees*

1. Standing committees include the Board of Directors, Leadership Succession and Endowment.
2. Only members in good standing of the church may serve on any standing committee (including the board of directors) (Article 1, Section 02 (b)).
3. The congregation at the annual meeting elects members of standing committees (i.e. Endowment Committee, Leadership Succession Committee and the board) (Article 1, Section 04).
4. All members serve for two-year terms that begin February 1<sup>st</sup> with a staggered rotation. A committee member completing two terms may not be reappointed or re-elected until after one year off (Article 1, Section 04).
5. Each standing committee submits a written report to the congregation at the annual meeting and may report orally as appropriate. Between annual meetings, standing committees report to the board as requested by the board (Article 1, Section 04).
6. The board may recommend to the congregation the removal of any chair or member of a standing committee (Article 1, Section 04).

##### *Board Committees*

1. The board may form and dissolve committees (long-term) or task forces (short-term) to assist it with specialized functions such as personnel, finance, stewardship, strategic planning, healthy community, governance, campus, facilities, etc. (Article 2, Section 05). These committees and task forces report directly to the board.
2. Board committees may be a mix of board and non-board members of the church. Chairs or conveners are named by the board. The board may dissolve committees or remove members as needed.
3. Task forces may include anyone from the church community.
4. All meetings of board committees or task forces operate in accordance with the open meetings provisions of the bylaws (Article 1 Section 07 (c)).

#### Board Level

1. The board establishes a charge for each of its committees and task forces, which specifies expectations such as:
  - a. Its purpose and functions.
  - b. Anticipated timeframe for its work.

- c. Reporting and recordkeeping requirements.
- d. Whether work is of a confidential nature.
- e. Budget responsibilities, if any.

## **5.02 Program Teams and Councils**

Approved by the board 6/21/2016; Last revision approved 12/18/2018.

*This policy defines the structure and responsibilities of program teams and councils.*

### **Congregation Level**

1. Program teams and councils are responsible for the church's ministry. The ministry is those activities that enrich the lives of the church's constituents and its community in one of the four major areas of ministry: worship and spiritual, educational, social responsibility and caring community. The church staff is responsible for supporting the effectiveness of program teams and councils (Article 3, Section 02).
2. Teams and councils form when multiple entities in crucial areas of the church's ministry need a structure to come together to share information, leadership and administrative tasks. (Article 3, Section 02 (b))
3. A member of the staff serves an ex-officio member on each council (Article 3, Section 02 (b)).
4. Teams and councils operate in accordance with the open meetings bylaw (Article 3 Section 02 (b)).

## **5.03 Programs**

Approved by the board 6/21/2016; Last revision approved 12/18/2018.

*This policy defines the structure, creation criteria, affiliations and access to facilities and services for church programs.*

### **Board Level**

1. Programs and ministries are grouped in six areas:
  - a. Worship and spiritual (memorial services, weddings, music groups, worship team).
  - b. Religious Education (children and youth).
  - c. Social Justice (Earth Web, Food Pantry, English As a Second Language).
  - d. Adult programs (classes, religious practice groups, covenant groups, discussions).
  - e. Caring community (pastoral associates, support groups, care committee).
  - f. Social and Community Building (parties, potlucks).
2. All programs and ministries must support the church's mission covenant and be consistent with the Purposes and Principles of the UUA.
3. The senior minister has the authority to determine No. 2 above and to determine that each program is currently within the capacity and priorities of the congregation.
4. Church programs may:
  - a. Schedule rooms for meeting in accordance with staff policies.
  - b. Publicize their activities through church channels in accordance with staff policies.

- c. Access some kinds of staff help. (See “How Can We Help”)
- 5. Teams and councils are groups of volunteers working together on church programs and ministries.
  - a. Teams and councils may be formed by staff members or by groups of volunteers.
  - b. Teams typically have one area of focus (worship, memorial wall, etc.) Councils are a type of team. They coordinate complex work of several groups, teams and individuals (RE Council, Social Justice Council). Every team or council has a staff person assigned to it in some role.
  - c. Teams and councils will make and keep written policies including a mission statement and operating procedures. They may publicize their policies in the policy area of the church website.
  - d. A church committee or program group may belong to compatible outside or denominational group in their own name (“The Earth Web Program of First Unitarian Church”) under the following conditions:
    - i. The outside group being joined must be substantially compatible with the church’s mission.
    - ii. The group has sufficient funds in its budget to pay the required costs of joining the outside group.
    - iii. The outside or denominational group is informed that any listing of the support of the committee or subcommittee must specifically state that the X\_\_\_\_\_ committee or group of First Unitarian Church” has joined the outside or denominational group (Not simply First Unitarian Church).
    - iv. The committee or program team informs the board of its affiliation.

#### **5.04 Membership Committee**

Approved by the board 3/15/2016; Revised 12/18/2018; Last revision approved 9/20/2022.

*This policy defines the responsibilities of the Membership Committee.*

#### **Congregation Level**

1. Members of this board committee are a mixture of board and non-board members of the church.
2. The board names committee members and the chair.
3. Members may serve on the committee for no more than four years before stepping down for a year. After being off the committee for a year, they may return for another four-year term.
4. The committee must meet in accordance with the open meetings provisions of the bylaws (Article 01 Section 07 (c)).

#### **Board Level**

1. The Membership Committee welcomes visitors, initiates or assists with programs to increase membership, develops individual member involvement and responds to needs of new members as they become involved in the congregation. In addition, the committee follows up with inactive members to encourage their participation.

## Membership Committee Level

1. Primary Tasks
  - a. Staff a membership information table (or its equivalent) where committee members interact with visitors, answer their questions and direct them to other church resources for more information.
  - b. Develop, implement and maintain a path to membership process.
  - c. Host new member recognition events in collaboration with the ministers and church leaders.
  - d. Reach out to members who are candidates for membership termination to verify their intent to leave the church and report their reasons for doing so.
2. Prepare and review membership marketing
  - a. Develop and revise materials to be given to visitors interested in joining First Unitarian.
  - b. Periodically review the membership section of the church website and submit proposed corrections and changes to the church administrator.
3. Collaborate
  - a. Work with the Radical Generosity Committee to understand and explain to potential members the required financial contribution membership criterion.
  - b. Work with other church committees and groups to support and implement the church's strategic plan.
4. Conduct research
  - a. Review membership statistics to identify trends and establish an annual committee project plan based on the results of that review.
  - b. Research other large congregations and their membership practices to ensure that we are using most effective practices in our approach to attracting, integrating, and retaining members.
5. Reporting
  - a. Submit meeting minutes to church administration and an annual report when requested.
  - b. Document procedures associated with committee processes to provide for effective communications between committee members and continuity with new committee members.

### **5.05 Selection of Delegates and Scholarship Recipients**

Approved by the board 6/21/2016; Last revision approved 12/18/2018.

*This policy establishes how persons attending events on the church's behalf are selected.*

## Board Level

1. The board delegates the selection of participants and recipients of financial grants to the group most closely involved.



2. Those group leaders will create a fair and transparent process, including criteria for selection and who does the selection, and publicize it adequately.
3. Records will be kept of requests, decisions and disbursements and be made available to the board on request.
4. The board approves UUA General Assembly delegates, camperships and Leadership School participants.

### **5.06 Communications**

Approved by the board 3/15/2016; Last revision approved 12/18/2018.

*This policy defines criteria for establishing communication mechanisms and rules for the management of communication between church entities.*

#### **Board Level**

1. The board desires the congregation to operate in a healthy and democratic fashion.
2. The staff is instructed to develop a portfolio of communication and publicity instruments and opportunities to effectively communicate church business, news and program information to the members, friends, guests, youth and children of the congregation, and to administer those instruments in a consistent, fair and transparent way.
  - a. 3. In developing policy, the staff balances issues, such as cost, effectiveness, impact on programs and the protection of church values and tax-exempt status.
  - b. 4. All church communications should demonstrate Unitarian Universalist (UU) values and the mission covenant of the church.
  - c. 5. The congregation chooses not to expend resources publicizing events and causes for other organizations, however worthy.
  - d. 6. Any intellectual property posted on church communications (sermons, pictures, etc.) may appear only by written permission of the owner, who retains all rights.
  - e. 7. In general, all information distribution will be on an as-requested basis. With no unsolicited distribution of materials or leafleting of vehicles.
  - f. 8. Membershipwide emails and electronic bulletins may be sent when there is an urgent need for information in advance of regular distribution. This must be approved by the head of staff.
  - g. 9. Sensitive information about individuals is only disseminated with their permission.
  - h. 10. Web-based communications must adhere to the requirements of Church's Civil Participation (6.01) and Child Protection (6.04).

## 6.0 EMPLOYEES

### 6.01 Personnel Manual

Approved by the board October 2012; Last revision approved 12/18/2018.

*This policy describes the contents of the church's personnel manual.*

1. The *Personnel Manual* includes employee wage and hour administration, benefits, discipline, grievance and discharge policies.
2. Personnel policies are proposed by the Personnel Committee and approved by the board.

### 6.02 The Church as an Employer

Approved by the board December 2013; Last revision approved 12/18/2018.

*This policy articulates the values and principles the congregation wants to express and follow in its role as an employer. This serves as the board's instruction to the Personnel Committee and head of staff about its expectations. All specifics are articulated in the Personnel Manual.*

#### **Board Level**

The board expects those persons who manage employees of the church to:

1. Adhere to all applicable employment laws and IRS rules.
2. Maintain a reliable and effective staff of individuals who know their jobs and are “customer friendly” when interacting with members and the public.
3. Follow nondiscriminatory practices in hiring and managing staff, with the exception of situations where it is important that the employee be a UU.
4. Hire church members to be on the staff on equal footing with nonmembers, informing them of the ways their rights and experience as church members can change. (See staff policy for details of this.)
5. Maintain fairness throughout the staff in compensation levels and working conditions.
6. Provide a physically and emotionally safe working environment that supports the welfare of our employees.
7. Give employees timely, periodic feedback on their performance and opportunities to correct weaknesses and to improve their job-related skills.
8. Take corrective action with employees when necessary.
9. Keep a Personnel Manual and adhere to its procedures and policies.
10. When practical, maintain a family-friendly workplace.

### **6.03 Personnel Committee**

Approved by the board 1/18/2017; Last revision approved 12/18/2018.

*This policy establishes the Personnel Committee.*

#### **Board Level**

1. The Personnel Committee shall consist of at least one board member, at least two church members and at least one member of the executive team (senior minister, minister, associate minister, director of operations).
2. The committee membership is determined each year in February. Members serve two-year terms and may serve only two consecutive terms (total of four years). Members may re-join after taking at least one year off.
3. At least one committee member should have a professional background in human resources functions, e.g., recruiting, hiring, benefits, compensation, etc. All members shall sign the confidential information acknowledgement form.
4. The committee shall meet at least quarterly.

#### **Personnel Committee Level**

1. The Personnel Committee involves itself in the human resources area of the church in ways that allow it to assure the board that church policies are being followed and that this part of church life is healthy. When the committee finds or suspects that church policies are not being followed or that this part of church life is not healthy, the committee shall notify the board and recommend appropriate changes to address the issues of concern.
2. The Personnel Committee considers and advises the board on issues of staffing, salary structures and benefits.

The Committee assists the staff in the following ways:

- a. Discussing and taking to the board issues of staffing, salary and benefits.
- b. Updating the personnel manual.
- c. Serving on interview committees.
- d. Conducting exit interviews with staff who leave
- e. Serving as a source of exploratory conversation, ideas and counsel with staff management for discussions involving changes in the support needs of the ministry staff, needs of members, organization changes, changes in reporting relationships and staff functional requirements.

### **6.04 Sabbatical Leave for Program Directors**

Approved by the board 3/19/2019; Last revision approved 8/10/2022 .

To invest in the professional development of religious professionals, support high quality programming and attract and retain qualified staff in sustainable positions, the church provides sabbatical leave for full-time director of religious education and full-time director of music positions.

### **Congregation Level**

The senior minister will serve as head of staff and, in that role, is responsible to the board for church administration and implementation of those goals, policies and procedures established by the board and delegated to the senior minister. (Article 3 Section 01c)

The board is responsible to the congregation for the safety and good stewardship of the congregation's financial resources. It acts primarily by setting priorities and enacting policy. (Article 2 Section 03 c)

### **Board Level**

1. Implement a sabbatical leave policy for the full-time director of Religious Education (DRE), full-time music director, and full-time director of congregational life to provide extended study, program development, renewal and/or projects requiring more depth of focus than is possible during the regular pace of congregational leadership.
2. Program directors may propose sabbatical leave, to be calculated at a rate of up to two weeks per year of service, after five years of employment and up to every 5-7 years thereafter. Sabbatical leave must be approved by the senior minister and the board of directors
3. Sabbatical leave will be given when it works with the general needs of the church, staff and calendar and can be justified and the employee's duties can be covered.
4. During the sabbatical leave, the employee will be paid their usual salary and will receive full benefits.
5. Following a sabbatical leave, the employee will be expected to serve the congregation for at least one year.
6. Accrued but unused sabbatical leave is not compensable at termination.

## 7.0 SAFETY

### 7.01 Disruptive Behavior

Approved by the board 9/20/2016; Last revision approved 10/15/2019.

*This policy guides church leaders when someone is engaging in disruptive behavior on church grounds or at church activities. The goal of this policy is to balance our desire to promote physical safety and an atmosphere conducive to spiritual growth, with individual rights of expression and participation.*

#### **Board Level**

When anyone observes or experiences an individual or group engaging in activities which seem to endanger persons or property, disrupt programs, endanger the church's reputation or diminish its appeal to potential and existing membership, or such activities are reported to the staff or leaders, the following responses should be made.

1. If there is active danger to persons or property, illegal activity or other imminent threat, any person may ask the threatening person to leave, close down the activity or call the proper authorities. The open display or use of weapons, except by uniformed personnel on duty, is always deemed an active danger and the person carrying the weapon should be asked to leave.
  - a. All such incidents should be documented in the church incident log in the church office.
  - b. One of the ministers should make a pastoral response to the persons involved in the incident.
  - c. The executive team should review all incidents promptly and follow up if necessary, including conducting needed training or outreach, writing new staff or safe congregation policies or suggesting new board policy if it seems warranted.
  - d. Verbal threats of violence against persons are not tolerated and the person doing the threatening should be told to leave the campus.
2. If the incident does not rise to the level of danger, illegal activity or threat, it should be reported to the ministers promptly.
  - a. One of the ministers, in consultation with the other, may make a response to the individual or group. A response made by a minister may be appealed to the Healthy Community Committee, which will meet with the ministers about the issues involved but deliberate and communicate their response to appropriate individuals without them.
  - b. The matter may be directly referred to the Healthy Community Committee, which will meet with one or both ministers and create a response to the disruption. Decisions of the Healthy Community Committee may not be appealed.
3. The church's ministers, staff and leaders will not retaliate against anyone who brings forward a complaint about disruptive behavior.
4. The church leadership and staff will make every reasonable effort to maintain confidentiality by disclosing the identity of the individuals involved in a complaint only on a "need-to-know" basis and as necessary to investigate and resolve the complaint. Anonymous complaints are discouraged, and it is often not possible to resolve them. It will usually be necessary for all parties in a complaint to be named to resolve the situation.

5. Professional misconduct (disruptive behavior by ministers or staff) is handled in the Professional Misconduct Policy (policy 6.05). Any conduct of this nature should be immediately brought to the attention of the senior minister (regarding all staff) or the president of the congregation (regarding the senior minister).

### **Healthy Community Committee**

1. In determining a response to a dangerous or disruptive behavior, the following will be taken into account:
  - a. Dangerousness and the likelihood of harm to persons or property.
  - b. Disruptiveness or how much interference with church programs is going on.
  - c. How much understanding or control the person seems to have over their behavior, whether the behavior and reasons for concern have been discussed with the person or group and whether it is possible for them to modify their behavior.
  - d. The ministers or Healthy Congregation Committee may consult with a therapist, the authorities or other professionals, if it seems necessary.
2. Possible responses to disruptive behavior include:
  - a. Discussing the problem with the offending individual(s).
  - b. Making a participation agreement with the individual(s).
  - c. Banning the individual(s) from the kinds of activities they don't manage well.
  - d. Banning the individual(s) from all activities at which no staff is present.
  - e. Banning the individual(s) from the property.
  - f. Recommending to the board that they be removed from membership.
3. All responses made by the Healthy Community Committee to disruptive individuals or groups should be generalizable to similar situations.
4. All responses to disruptive persons should be logged in the notes of the Healthy Community Committee with names and in the church's incident log without names.
5. The committee chair should read through past years' responses and issues so that if similar issues or the same individual come to the attention of the committee, the past record will be known.

### **7.02 Threats, Violence and Harassment**

Approved by the board 9/20/2016; Last revision approved 12/18/2018.

*This policy defines the congregation's intent, the types of actions that are not allowed and the methods for responding to incidents.*

#### **Board Level**

##### ***Threats and Violence***

1. Maintaining a respectful and caring congregation is a priority for First Unitarian. The programs at First Unitarian Church are run in such a way as to minimize the possibility that persons will experience violence, threats or physical, sexual, verbal or emotional abuse by anyone on the property.

2. The church's Personnel Policy governs all incidents that involve church staff and they should be reported to the senior minister, or the president of the congregation, if the incident involved the senior minister.)
3. Threats, threatening behavior or acts of violence on church property are not tolerated. Anyone who verbally or physically threatens another, exhibits threatening behavior or engages in violent acts on church property may be removed from and will remain off church property pending the outcome of an investigation by the appropriate body:
  - a. By the staff (in the case of renters, guests and vendors).
  - b. By the ministers with the help of the Healthy Community Committee (in the case of persons in the church community).
2. Follow-up action may include removal from membership, banning from the property, reporting the offense to the vendor or renting organization and any legal action, as appropriate.
3. Any person who witnesses or experiences threats or physical or verbal violence from any person while on church property should intervene if it seems safe to do so, call on staff if staff if available or call 911 if there is danger of harm to persons or property. They should report the situation to a member of the staff or board, who will document it in the church's incident log and refer the matter to appropriate staff, supervisors or the Healthy Community Committee.
4. The display of a weapon, except by a law officer on duty is considered threatening behavior and not permitted. The carrier of a visible weapon should be informed of this policy and asked to leave the property, no matter their stated intentions, and 911 should be called if they do not leave.

### ***Harassment and Abuse***

Any situation that anyone believes constitutes physical, sexual, verbal or emotional abuse or harassment should be reported to a minister, member of the Healthy Community Committee or board member.

- a. Any of these persons is authorized by the congregation to put an immediate stop to the situation.
- b. If illegal activity is occurring, these persons are further authorized (required, in the case of danger to a minor) to notify the proper authorities.
- c. These events should be documented in the church incident log and their resolution in the minutes of the appropriate body.
- d. Upon investigation by the appropriate body, follow-up actions may include discussion with the offender about appropriate behavior, limits placed on their participation, contacting vendor organizations or renting bodies, banning from the property and removal from membership.

### ***Ambiguous Issues of Harassment or Abuse***

These are situations in which the issue is not abuse but discomfort, fear, dislike, inappropriate behavior, problems with a person not competent to control themselves or damage to group processes and relationships.

The ministers and Healthy Community Committee have procedures (conflict management procedures and guidelines) to assist individuals to resolve difficulties or negotiate participation agreements (to stay

out of each other's way). Anyone participating in congregational activities is welcome to contact one of these entities to discuss the situation and possible ways to resolve it.

### ***Threats, Harassment and Abuse in Electronic Communications***

Persons participating in church programs and leadership are expected to conduct themselves civilly and in accordance with UU values and the mission covenant of this church online as well as in person. Violations should be reported to the Healthy Community Committee.

### **7.03 Persons Required to Register as Sex Offenders**

Approved by the board 9/20/2016; Last revision approved 12/18/2018.

*Our congregational values direct us to respect all individuals. This means working to provide a safe environment for everyone at church functions, and especially to protect children against sexual predators. It also includes persons who must register as sexual offenders. We understand that not everyone required to register as a sex offender constitutes a particular danger to the congregation, but because our society requires some former offenders to so register, this policy governs our response.*

#### **Board Level**

1. If it becomes known that a registered sexual offender is a member of the congregation or if one approaches the congregation's leaders desiring to participate in church activities, the ministers will determine if the person was convicted of a sexual crime against a minor or an adult. The ministers will inform the Healthy Community Committee about this individual and about any participation agreements that may be developed with them. Other church leaders may be informed on a need-to-know basis.
2. If the crime was committed against an adult, the ministers will be watchful for signs that the individual's presence at church activities constitutes a threat, and if so, follow the Disruptive Behavior Policy (Policy 6.01).
3. If the crime was committed against a minor, the ministers will initiate a mandatory conversation with the individual about the appropriateness of their participation in congregational activities and determine whether it will be possible for the person to be allowed to participate in the activities of the congregation. If the ministers believe that this would work, they will craft a participation agreement with the individual. If the decision is that we cannot safely go forward the individual will not be able to participate in the congregation. An individual who disagrees with the decision or terms of the participation agreement may appeal to the Healthy Community Committee, whose decision will be final.
  - a. No person convicted of sexual crimes against a minor may volunteer in church activities with children or teens either on or off of the church campus. These activities include but are not limited to teaching in a class or chaperoning at an event.
  - b. A person who is on the sexual offender register because of crimes against a minor will be informed of our Non-volunteer Adult and Child Relationship Policy and asked to comply with this policy (found in the Child Protection Policies 6.04). They will be helped to find activities in the congregation in which they can relate to other adults and not be exposed to possibly problematic interactions with children and teens, i.e., covenant groups only involving adults rather than extended families, Sip n Sup rather than intergenerational parties.



- c. The ministers have the authority to terminate an agreement if in their judgment the individual appears to be violating its terms. Following termination, the individual must leave the church property and immediately cease their participation in church activities. The individual may appeal the decision to terminate an agreement to the Healthy Community Committee, whose decision will be final.
- d. Because the consequences of a violation of this agreement are potentially so serious, no warnings, second chances or excuses are permitted. It is the responsibility of the registered person to give no cause for complaint or misunderstanding. The reasons for termination of an agreement may include those that are not the fault of the registered person. For example, insufficient staffing or the absence of a church member serving as the person's sponsor may be cause for termination of an agreement.
- e. The RE staff will be made aware of all persons who participate in congregational activities and are known to have committed offenses against minors.

#### **7.04 Child Protection Policies**

Approved by the board 1/18/2017; Last revision approved 12/18/2018.

*These policies address the special level of care and protection of children participating in our Religious Education programs, especially from sexual abuse from adults staffing and volunteering in our programs. With the exception of policies 1 and 2, these policies apply only to Religious Education programs. (See definitions in section 3.)*

Children and youth participating in general programs, such as worship or adult classes, are protected by the judgment and goodwill of the congregation and the caution of their parents.

1. General Child and Youth Safety Policy (applies churchwide)
 

No adult shall engage in sexual, sexualized, seductive or erotic behavior with children or youth under age 18. No adult shall harass or engage in behavior with children or youth which constitutes verbal, emotional or physical abuse. Anyone witnessing or hearing about such behavior should report it to one of the following leaders:

  - a. Inappropriate activity by the senior minister should be reported to the board president.
  - b. Inappropriate activity by other ministers or church staff employees should be reported to the senior minister.
  - c. Inappropriate activity on the part of RE employees or volunteers should be reported to the DRE.
  - d. Any other inappropriate activity should be reported to any minister.
2. Relationships between children and adults who are not staff or RE volunteers
 

It is our expectation that all adult-child interactions (e.g., at coffee hour) will take place in the full view of other adults and with the knowledge and implied consent of the child's parents.

  - a. Anyone witnessing or hearing about an uncomfortable interaction between an adult and a child (an adult focusing on a child, luring them away from the group or otherwise

making the child uncomfortable), should take whatever steps they think necessary to keep the child safe and inform one of the ministers of the problem.

- b. The ministers, in consultation with each other, have the authority to warn the offending adult that they are making the child uncomfortable, inform them that child safety is a cherished value here and ask them to leave the property if they believe it necessary to protect our children. This request must be honored but the offender may appeal the decision to the congregation's Healthy Community Committee.

### 3. Child and Youth Safety in the RE Program

- a. The RE program consists of all programs offered for children and families with children which are the responsibility of the RE director. Examples of these include but are not limited to Sunday school, camp, children and youth choirs, Our Whole Lives and Coming of Age classes, youth groups, and travel to district and UUA activities for youth which have been arranged for by the church, social activities arranged by the RE staff and the child-care component of church events. RE programs do not include primarily social groups of families or friendships, even if they begin at First Unitarian, however the general child safety policy section 1 above does apply to those kinds of events.
- b. The board directs the staff to manage the RE program in a way that minimizes the possibility of any child experiencing abuse at the hands of their teachers, leaders and advisers, or which exposes children or youth to unsafe conditions. In particular:
  - 1) All volunteers working regularly with children will be ongoing participants in the life of the congregation and known to the DRE. The DRE, in conjunction with one of the ministers, may ask any volunteer to withdraw from volunteering if they deem it advisable for the safety of children or the good of the program. There is no appeal for this decision.
  - 2) Anyone who has volunteered more than twice over a period of 12 months in our program is a regular volunteer. Regular volunteers and all child care staff will undergo a criminal background check at the congregation's expense. Child care staff will undergo a criminal background check completed prior to being assigned child care duties without accompaniment of another child care or qualified volunteer. A regular volunteer will undergo a criminal background check as soon after their second volunteer duty as possible. Issues arising from this background check will be discussed between the DRE and one of the ministers and a decision about their volunteering conveyed to the volunteer.
  - 3) All persons asked to drive children or youth as a part of our program must go through a motor vehicle record check. Issues arising from this background check will be discussed between DRE and one of the ministers and a decision about their volunteering conveyed to the volunteer.
  - 4) With the three exceptions noted below, there will always be at least two persons who are likely and able to report on each other's behavior working together with children at all times, staying within each other's sight or hearing whenever they are interacting

with children. The RE staff will create a detailed set of enforceable policies on this matter.

- i. The ministers may meet with children or youth alone when absolutely necessary to care for them. Preferably this meeting will take place in a public place or during office hours. The other minister will be informed of such meetings.
- ii. One adult may drive teens to events, but there must be more than one teen in the vehicle. In any case, such teens and adult shall have signed a covenant, which states that sex or sexualized behavior between adults and youth is prohibited.
- iii. In an emergency situation, one adult may have to leave another adult alone to procure help for a child who cannot be moved. These situations should be considered as an emergency, handled as quickly as possible, and reported in full to the DRE immediately.

#### 4. Adult to Children Ratios

- a. The RE program will make every attempt to maintain safe conditions and staff and volunteer ratios according to best practices for children's programs.
- b. At least one parent or guardian must remain on campus while their child is being cared for except in the case of special programs, such as overnights for which parents have left specific contact information and agree to remain contactable during the time their child is in our care.

#### 5. Child Care (outside of Sunday morning)

- a. All persons offering child care to children on church property must be on the church's child care staff, with the exception of a child's designated caregiver who is under the direction of the child's parent.
- b. All children not in supervised programs are the responsibility of their parents and may be asked by staff to remain in their parent's vicinity.

#### 6. Reporting Requirement

- a. State law requires some professionals, including church staff, to immediately report to NM Child Protective Services any suspicions of or knowledge that a child has been the victim of sexual abuse, physical abuse or neglect (at church or elsewhere).
- b. In addition to making this official report, church staff is required, and church volunteers are requested to inform one of the ministers of their report. (If the suspected perpetrator is one of the ministers, the president of the congregation should be informed of the report.)
- c. If there is cause to believe that a staff person or volunteer in the RE program is a perpetrator of abuse, the DRE or DRE's supervisor shall be notified.

## 7.05 Professional Misconduct

Approved by the board 9/20/2016; Last revision approved 5/21/2019.

*This policy guides church leaders in the situation where professional misconduct is alleged (relating to ministers, interns, religious educators, professional musicians and administrative professionals).*

### Board Level

#### *Ministers and Interns*

1. All ministers, interns and ministerial residents at First Unitarian have agreed to abide by the Code of Conduct of the Unitarian Universalist Ministers Association. This code may be found at [www.uuma.org](http://www.uuma.org). This code of conduct prohibits most sexual, sexualized or romantic relationships between the minister or intern and persons they serve in ministry and forbids sexual harassment of all kinds.
2. Ministers are also prohibited from using their position of authority for their personal gain.
3. If anyone believes that a minister working at First Unitarian has violated the code of conduct, they should contact the senior minister or, if the issue is with the senior minister, the president of the congregation, who should be immediately in contact with the UUA, through the process outlined on the UUA's website. The complainant may also contact the UUA directly.

#### *Other Professionals*

1. All professional staff is held to high standards of conduct and often to their own professional codes of practice. All complaints relating to staff, be they complaints about ethics or complaints about performance, should be brought to the attention of their supervisor or the senior minister. If the complaint is a matter of ethics, the senior minister's actions or decisions may be appealed to the board.
2. All complaints about ministerial or lay staff will be heard in confidence, however, it is likely that action can only be taken if the complainant is willing to be named. Whether or not complaints can be immediately acted upon, it is very helpful for the church to know about all complaints. For example, please tell the person's supervisor if you feel that they have violated ethical standards, even if you are not willing to come forward publicly.

## 7.06 Privacy Policy

Approved by the board 9/20/2016; Last revision approved 12/18/2018.

*This policy outlines the privacy policies which apply to church publications and member information.*

### Board Level

1. Because maintaining privacy of personal information of all those who come in contact with the church is an important aspect of a healthy congregation, the board instructs the staff to create and administer privacy policies about member information and financial information.

2. We do not sell or rent this personal information to other organizations, including other UU organizations.

### **Staff Level** (publications)

1. All areas of the website which contain personal information of leadership members will be password protected, except that email addresses may be published with permission. (The church can also assign a uuabq.org address to those who want to be contactable without publishing their personal email address.)
2. Anyone whose picture appears on the website who does not want it there may request that it be removed or blurred.
3. Parents who do not want their children photographed will notify the church.
4. The official membership directory is located on a password protected part of the church's website.
5. The staff updates the membership directory regularly.
6. Members who do not wish their personal information published may opt out by communication with the office.
7. The membership directory is password protected and carries a notice proclaiming that it may not be used for commercial purposes or for mass mailings of any kind.
8. Members and friends who call the office asking for information about other members are given whatever appears in the directory. When persons not from the congregation want to make contact with members, their information is taken and sent to the member who will decide him- or herself about making the contact.
9. The church calendar contains items which may cause security concerns for some individuals. Therefore, it is also password protected.
10. The password is available to members, friends and staff only.

### **Staff Policy (financial information)**

See *Financial Policies 2.07*.

## **7.07 Healthy Community Committee**

Approved by the board 9/21/2016; Last revision approved 12/18/2018.

*This policy guides the work of the Healthy Community Committee. The board establishes this committee to assist it in establishing and maintaining a congregation that is safe, communicates well and deals competently with conflict.*

### **Board Level**

#### **General**

1. The Healthy Community Committee consists of at least one board member, two to four other church members and at least one minister.

2. The board appoints all members and the chair.
3. The committee membership is determined each year in February. Members serve two-year terms and may only serve two terms (total of four years) before taking at least one year off.
4. All members will agree to keep appropriate confidences.
5. The committee meets at least four times a year, using the church's open meeting rules (Article 1 Section 07).

### ***Responsibilities***

1. The HCC is responsible for creating and overseeing the implementation of the "Safe Congregation" policies, which protect vulnerable persons in our community from abuse.
2. The HCC is responsible for monitoring the congregation as a whole for healthy communication and conflict resolution practices and for providing educational resources and experiences on these topics.
3. The HCC is responsible for maintaining and publicizing a conflict resolution process for the following kinds of conflicts:
  - a. Two or more individual members in conflict with each other.
  - b. Conflict within a congregational team, council, committee, activity or social group.
  - c. Conflict between teams, councils, committees, activities or social groups.
  - d. Conflict of a member or group within the congregation with the senior minister.
4. The HCC is not responsible for the following kinds of conflict:
  - a. Conflict between a member or group and any staff member other than the Senior Minister. These conflicts should be referred to the employee's supervisor.
  - b. Conflict which involves persons not a part of the church's community of members and participants. The staff handles conflict with renters, suppliers, neighbors and contractors.
5. The HCC is instructed to maintain and publicize a conflict resolution process, which utilizes volunteer professionals from outside the committee. This committee is not expected to involve itself in conflict resolution.

## 8.0 FACILITIES

*This policy defines how Church buildings and grounds are used and cared for.*

### 8.01 Use of Church Facilities

Approved by the board 3/15/2016; Revised 12/18/2018; Revised 07/21/2020; Revised 09/10/2021; Revised 09/21/2021; Revised 3/11/2022; Last revision approved 10/18/2022.

*This policy defines the types of activities conducted on church campus facilities by members, users and renters. This policy was amended July 21, 2020 to respond to the public health emergency declared by the State of New Mexico because of COVID-19 and revised September 10, 2021 to establish procedures for large-group meetings on campus prior to the church's re-opening for in-person worship.*

#### Board Level

##### *General*

1. The board directs the staff to give priority to and schedule the use of church facilities primarily for church activities.
2. The board delegates to the staff the authority and responsibility to manage the buildings and grounds of the church to further the mission of the church, in collaboration with the Buildings and Grounds Committee and the Landscape Committee regarding maintenance. (See Policies 8.07, 8.08 and 8.09.)
3. The staff is directed to manage these resources in a fair, consistent and transparent way. All users of church property are expected to abide by the policies in the Safety (7.0) category of this manual.
4. Any activities using church facilities when child care is provided shall adhere to the Child Protection Policy (7.04).
5. Users of church property including renters must adhere to the Alcohol Policy (8.03)
6. Facilities may be rented to other organizations that are not in conflict with the church's values, mission and principles.
7. In the case of inclement weather, patio fairs will be relocated as determined by staff.

##### ***Procedures for Small and Large Groups During COVID-19 Public Health Emergency***

*Note: These policies were developed by an interdisciplinary COVID-19 Task Force to guide First Unitarian's board and ministers in determining how much to re-open, when to re-open, and how to do so as safely as possible during the COVID-19 pandemic. Due to the need to respond to ongoing changes in circumstances, the full policies and procedures, including those for Sunday Services, Religious Education Program, Music Program, the Church Office, Facility and Administration, Small Groups and the After-school Tutoring Program, and the core principles and facts that underlie these policies and procedures, are available on the church website.*

## 8.02 Green Sanctuary

Adopted by Congregation April 2002; Revised by the board 12/18/2018; Last revision approved 9/21/2021 to move the section from Part 4 Programs to Part 8 Facilities.

*This policy establishes our congregation as a green sanctuary.*

### **Congregational Level**

The board will take ecological impact into account when making decisions.

### **Board Level**

The board directs the staff to take ecological impact into account when making decisions.

## 8.03 Alcohol Policy

Approved by the board 3/15/2016; Last revision approved 12/18/2018

1. The serving and consumption of alcoholic beverages on church property is allowed under strict limitations in order to safeguard the wellbeing of church members, staff and guests, to ensure compliance with state and local laws and regulations and to minimize risks for and limit the liability of all parties.
2. The board delegates to the staff the authority to permit or not permit alcohol at its discretion.
3. When such permission is granted, the organization or individual hosting the event assumes responsibility for keeping the event safe and ensuring that participants and guests adhere to the church alcohol use policy and to state and local laws, ordinances and regulations.
4. Events held by church groups on church property, including property rented for church use:
  - a. Advance notice must be given to the office when alcohol is going to be served at an event, and organizers must agree to read and follow the policy they are given.
  - b. Groups serving alcohol regularly must read and agree to follow the policy once yearly.
  - c. Attractive alternative beverages must also be served whenever alcohol is served.
  - d. A donation may be collected, but no alcohol may be sold.
  - e. If minors are present, special care must be taken to see that they do not consume alcohol.
  - f. Inebriated persons may not be served alcohol and must be discouraged from driving.
5. Events held by church groups off church property, excluding property rented for church use:
  - a. The church explicitly excludes from the purview of its alcohol policy events hosted off campus even if the events support the programs and purposes of the church.
  - b. If the host of such an event chooses to serve alcoholic beverages at such an event, the host assumes all liability therefrom.
6. Alcohol use by renters and other non-church groups is not permitted unless:



- a. Permission has been granted to serve alcohol for ritual purposes, e.g. communion.
- b. Permission has been granted for a catered event and the caterer takes responsibility for the serving of alcohol.
- c. The caterer must be a licensed server of alcoholic beverages and must serve in compliance with applicable rules and regulations. The caterer must provide evidence of liquor liability insurance.

#### **8.04 General Display Policy**

Approved by the board 3/16/2016; Last revision approved 12/18/2018.

*This policy protects church property while allowing appropriate signage to be displayed for the benefit of property users.*

##### **Board Level**

1. Staff is directed to maintain bulletin boards and other places where signage is posted.
2. No postings are to be placed on glass surfaces.
3. All signage in RE buildings and rooms is at the discretion of the RE director.

#### **8.05 Social Hall Display Policy**

Approved by the board 3/16/2016; Last revision approved 12/18/2018.

*The purpose of this policy is to balance the needs of church users of the social hall with its community and rental users, as well as create balance among church users of the social hall so that the room is always attractive and welcoming.*

##### **Board Level**

1. Only church groups may set up displays in the social hall for coffee hour.
2. All displays used for coffee hour must be dismantled after coffee hour, leaving only tables for staff to put away with these exceptions:
  - a. There is usually an art show displayed on the north and south walls.
  - b. Two movable partition walls are used by major programs for visual displays showcasing the church's activities, programs and outreach, or for church leaders to get information out to the congregation. One movable wall is permanently assigned to the Social Justice Council. The second may be reserved for one to four weeks by major church programs by contacting the office. These partition walls may stay up during the week unless renters or church programs using the social hall ask to have them put away, which the staff will do.
3. All proposals for other semi-permanent displays to be set up in the social hall must come to the board.
4. The board retains the right to have any display removed if, in its judgment, its presence counters the church's overall mission.
5. It is the board's expectation that the partition walls will be effectively used and kept up to date.

## 8.06 Animals on Campus

Approved by the board 10/15/19.

### Board Level

1. Service and emotional support animals assisting persons with disabilities are welcome, except for birds, amphibians and reptiles. People are limited to one service or support animal per visit. The staff is directed to work with their owners, if necessary, to minimize disruption of programs. Owners must ensure their pets are housebroken and do not mark indoors before being allowed inside church facilities. They must ensure the pets only relieve themselves or mark in appropriate outdoor spaces on church grounds. If the pet relieves itself indoors or outdoors, the pet owner is required to remove the waste.
2. Pets other than service and emotional support animals must remain outside, leashed and in control of their owners, except when specifically invited for particular programs, e.g. pet blessings.
3. All pets are expected to have current vaccinations and be in good health. They must be under the control of their owner, be appropriately groomed (no strong odor or fleas) and be well behaved enough to not disrupt the service or bother other church members. If the pet becomes disruptive, its owner may be asked to remove the animal.

## 8.07 Campus Maintenance

Approved by the board 5/16/2016; Revised 12/18/2018; Last revision approved 9/16/2021 to move this language from what was then Policy 4.06 Landscape Committee to this new subsection.

1. The church's landscaped grounds are an important part of congregational life, providing not only beauty and shade, but places for conversation, play, ritual and rest, and serving as an expression of our congregation's values and mission, as well as a pleasant haven for the general public passing through.
2. All areas of campus shall reflect the congregation's environmentalist values (as represented in the UUA's seventh principle and the congregation's decision to be a "green sanctuary") as much as possible and must comply with city ordinances.
3. The Landscape Committee, director of operations, and the Buildings and Grounds Committee are directed to respect the established landscape areas with their separate missions as listed below:
  - a. **Courtyard** - The courtyard is the central space that links all buildings of the campus. The primary purpose of the courtyard is to provide a shady, beautiful space for congregants and the visiting public to enjoy as a place for conversation or rest.
  - b. **The Jim Lewis Certified Wildlife Habitat** - The wildlife habitat east of the social hall is distinct from other campus areas in that its first goal is not primarily people-oriented, but nature-oriented. The habitat should follow the guidelines for certified habitats of its kind, including such guidelines for pruning, watering and future plantings. As a valued part of the larger campus, the habitat is highly visible from the social hall and sanctuary windows, so the guidelines for a naturalistic landscape should be applied with an eye for aesthetics as well.

- c. **Memorial Garden** - The memorial garden is the space west of memorial hall that includes the memorial wall and patio. Its purpose is to provide a peaceful space for friends and loved ones to honor and remember those who have passed away, for small outdoor ceremonies, such as individual child blessings or very small weddings, and for receptions for small memorial services that take place in memorial hall.
  - d. **Sanctuary Landscape** - The purpose of these areas is to beautify the campus and provide pedestrian pathways linking areas and leading to doors or the bus stop, as needed. The northwest corner of the sanctuary building landscape also includes a sizable drainage basin, important for water flow during heavy rains as required by city ordinance.
  - e. **The playground and Wesson lawn** - The purpose of these areas is to provide outdoor activities and programmatic needs of the RE.
  - f. **Other Areas** - Unprogrammed areas on the south side of the campus (often referred to as the “South 40”), south sidewalk, parking lot perimeters and planting areas and the utility area behind the office are maintained according to zoning regulations and to increase the beauty and utility of the campus.
4. “Landscape” is defined as planting areas. Landscape in the following areas is the responsibility of the Landscaping Committee, which is further described in Policy 8.09, below.
- a. Courtyard.
  - b. The Jim Lewis Certified Wildlife Habitat.
  - c. Memorial Garden.
  - d. Sanctuary Landscape.
  - e. North Parking Lot.

The Landscape Committee must be aware of programmatic needs of these areas and is required to consult with and gain the approval of individuals who have programmatic responsibilities for these areas, whose purpose is described in No. 3 above.

5. Landscape in other areas is under the authority and responsibility of the director of operations, in collaboration with the Buildings and Grounds Committee. The Landscape Committee is directed to provide guidance and assistance as requested and as capacity allows on landscape and maintenance in these areas.
- a. The playground and Wesson lawn, which require the approval of the director of Religious Education.
  - b. Other Areas, as specified in No. 3, above.
6. Hardscape is defined as sidewalks, patios, parking lots, and irrigation systems.
- a. Planning for the long-term maintenance of parking lots and irrigation systems is the responsibility of the Buildings and Grounds Committee, with the assistance of the director of operations, as requested.
  - b. Other hardscape planning and maintenance is the responsibility of the director of operations, with assistance provided by the Buildings and Grounds Committee, as requested.
7. Planning and maintenance of campus buildings is the responsibility of the director of operations, in collaboration with the Buildings and Grounds Committee. The Buildings and Grounds Committee

is responsible for helping to plan and manage high-priority repairs and upgrades, as specified in Policy 8.08, below.

### **8.08 Buildings and Grounds Committee**

Approved by the board 3/15/2016; Revised 12/18/2018; Last revision approved 9/16/2021.

*This policy guides the work of the Buildings and Grounds Committee.*

#### **Board Level**

1. The board established this committee to assist it in its responsibility of managing the upkeep, utility and attractiveness of the church's indoor and outdoor spaces.
2. The Buildings and Grounds Committee consists of at least one board member or liaison, and at least two other members of the church community. The director of operations assists this committee with its work when requested.

#### **Buildings and Grounds Committee Level**

The Buildings and Grounds Committee has the following responsibilities.

1. To advise the board on the ramifications of all proposals to remodel or make structural changes in any of the church's buildings or hardscape, or to dramatically change the landscape.
2. To suggest priorities for major building and grounds upgrades and maintenance (anticipated cost over \$5,000) to the director of operations and to assist the board in prioritizing the list during budget creation.
3. To assist the board in making decisions about unbudgeted maintenance and upgrade projects whose anticipated cost is more than \$5,000.
4. To assist the director of operations, other staff and the Landscape Committee in managing volunteers and work days for the building and grounds.
5. To provide advice to the board and staff regarding expenditures from the capital reserve account used for repair, renovation and renewal of church property.
6. To solicit input from the Landscape Committee about priority maintenance items with financial implications at least once a year before meeting with the director of operations about the list of priorities for major building and grounds upgrades and maintenance, as specified in No. 2 above.
7. To coordinate and collaborate with the director of operations and the Landscape Committee as necessary to take care of the campus as a whole. (See Policies 8.07 and 8.09.)

### **8.09 Landscape Committee**

Approved by the board 5/16/2016; Revised 12/18/2018; Last revision approved 9/16/2021 to move this language from what was then 4.06 Landscape Committee to this new subsection.

*This policy establishes the Landscape Committee as a committee of the board.*

**Board Level**

1. The Landscape Committee consists of its chair, who is appointed by the board, and as many people as can be productively put to work.
2. The Landscape Committee is charged to work as a team, considering the campus as one whole, with the understanding that the campus is made up of distinct areas that serve different functions. (See Policy 7.07 above.)
3. The Landscape Committee is empowered to make decisions on what shall be planted in the areas specified in Policy 8.07 above, either in new spots or to replace existing plantings according to their understanding of No. 2, and in compliance with Policy 8.07 above. The Landscape Committee is responsible for routine maintenance in these areas, including, but not limited to, weeding, pruning, and planting.
4. The Landscape Committee may help with, but is not responsible for, landscaping and campus maintenance tasks beyond the areas specified in Policy 8.07 above and tasks specified in No. 3 above, in collaboration with, and with the approval of, the director of operations. Such tasks include, but are not limited to, the following:
  - a. Mowing.
  - b. Weed and trash removal from the south parking lot.
  - c. Nonroutine maintenance on the irrigation systems.
5. The Landscape Committee chair is responsible for communicating with the director of operations and the Buildings and Grounds Committee chair about maintenance and/or operation needs beyond the responsibilities and capacities of the Landscape Committee, as needed.
6. The Landscape Committee is responsible for reviewing and contributing to the list of Buildings and Grounds needs at least once a year prior to its submittal to the board for consideration during the preparation of the next year's annual operating budget.

## 9.0 Appendix

### Policy Manual Style

This is a style guide to provide a professional, consistent writing style throughout this document. When sections are revised or added, editors should ensure that the writing matches the style indicated here. The editors should also add style notes as issues arise. Should future boards change the style, please note the changes below, so that future editors can maintain this policy manual using a consistent writing style.

1. acronyms – should be limited as much as possible. There are some exceptions.
2. board – lowercase when it stands alone
3. bylaw – one word, no hyphen
4. child care – two words, lowercase
5. church – lowercase when it stands alone
6. commas – no serial commas. (This is in compliance with our pledge to be a green church, as it uses less ink.)
7. committee – lowercase, unless the full proper name of the committee is used.
8. congregation – lowercase
9. Congregation & Board Policy Manual - manual or policy manual on second reference
10. director of Religious Education -- DRE on second reference. An exception to the acronym style.
11. First Unitarian Church – church lowercase on second reference
12. headlines and subheads – capitalize words for emphasis
13. job titles – lowercase
14. mission covenant – lowercase
15. membership directory – lowercase
16. numerals – spell out one through nine, numerals starting at 10
17. open meetings – lowercase
18. outline – maintain consistent outline style throughout this document
19. policy dates – revision dates will be in this format: mm/dd/yyyy. Write initial approval date with approving body for inclusion in the policy manual. Subsequent revisions are separated by semicolons, and the last revision date is noted as such.
  - Example with 2 dates: “Approved by the board 8/18/2015; Last revision approved 10/15/2019.”
  - Example with 3+ dates: “Approved by the board 5/16/2016; Revised 12/18/2018; Last revision approved 9/16/2021.”
20. policy manual or manual – lowercase
21. policy names – capitalize for emphasis
22. Religious Education – RE on second reference. An exception to the acronym rule.
23. room names – lowercase, social hall, memorial hall
24. slashes – do not use to maintain clarity
25. spaces – no double or triple spaces (This is in line with our church’s green policies, as it uses less paper.)
26. staff – lowercase

27. volunteers – lowercase

### Revisions of the Manual

1. **2014-2017:** The congregation adopted a new governance model “Policy Governance.” A task force was established by the board, “Policy Governance Task Force,” which revised every policy to fit the new model. The task force members were: Geri Knoebel (chair), Pat Diem, Gwen Sawyer and Christine Robinson.
2. **2018:** The board created a task force to review the policy manual for consistency, correctness and cohesiveness. The members of the task force were Heather Clark and Linda Skye. At the December board meeting, extensive administrative edits were approved.
3. **2019:** The board approved multiple changes to 2.01 Church Governance, 4.01 Affiliation Policy, 5.01 Board Committees and Task Forces, 6.04 Sabbatical Leave for Program Directors, 7.01 Disruptive Behavior and 7.05 Professional Misconduct.
4. **2020:** The board approved an addition to 8.01 Use of Church Facilities to add COVID safety procedures for small groups.
5. **2021:** The board approved an addition to 8.01 Use of Church Facilities to add COVID safety procedures for large groups, to move Green Sanctuary and Landscape Committee to 8.0 Facilities, and to provide clarity among the responsibilities of the director of operations, Buildings & Grounds Committee, and Landscape Committee.
6. **2022:** The board revised 3.01 Gifts to allow the Board to vote to close designated funds; 3.04 to remove Financial Review Committee as a standing committee (1.0 Overview, 2.0 and 2.01 Governance, 2.06 Leadership Succession Committee, 3.0 and 3.01 Financial Overview); 3.05 to add responsibilities to the Finance Committee and change “director of operations and finance” to “director of finance,” consistent with the new position; 3.08 to add requirement for gifts to a dedicated fund to raise 10% above the estimated cost to cover maintenance and operations; 4.01 and 5.01 to reflect Congregation Level changes adopted in the bylaws by the congregation on 1/23/2023; 6.04 to allow a sabbatical for the director of congregational life.
  - Note: The Financial Review Committee was first adopted by Congregation January 2013 as a standing committee of the congregation; Revised 12/18/2018; Last revision approved 9/20/2022 to remove this section and all other references to the Financial Review Committee in the Policy Manual. The congregation voted at the January annual meeting to make parallel changes in the Church bylaws on 1/23/2023.

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