

First Unitarian Universalist Society of Syracuse (First UU)

CONSTITUTION AMENDMENTS/REVISIONS

This Constitution was adopted at a special Congregational Meeting of the Society on May 17, 2009 as a “general revision” of the Constitution originally adopted on January 20, 1991. As such, when this general revision was adopted it replaced in-toto the previous Constitution (see Robert’s Rules of Order, Newly Revised §57, p 574-576).

4/03/11

ARTICLE VII, Section 3 was amended to increase the term limit of the President and Vice President from two years to three years.

ARTICLE IX, Section 1, Item B was amended to reduce the number of at large Trustees from six to three.

ARTICLE IX, Section 2 was amended to reduce the quorum of the BOT from six voting members to five voting member.

6/11/2017

The following Amendments were made to the Constitution and updated throughout:

The title Active member was changed to “Voting member.” The reason for this was that the Society has friends and members who actively participate but may not be able to vote because they do not fulfill the criteria as set out in the Constitution.

Life members were given the lifetime voting privileges regardless of financial contribution or participation level.

Criteria for voting membership was changed so that active and regular participation in the Society would also be considered as to one’s membership status.

Director of Religious Education title was changed to Lifespan Faith Development Director.

6/2/2019

The following Amendment was made to the Constitution:

ARTICLE XI, Section 1 was amended to clarify the structure of the Nominating Committee. The Committee shall be comprised of four voting member, all of whom are elected at an Annual Meeting and one member being the Clerk of the BOT. The Clerk of the BOT shall be a representative to the Nominating Committee and shall be a voting member only when there is a tie vote.

ARTICLE XI, Section 2 the sentence was added “Current members of the Nominating Committee shall not be eligible to be nominated to the BOT while serving on the Committee.”

ARTICLE XI, Section 6, was amended to increase the number of months after the Annual Meeting that the Nominating Committee shall convene to four months from two months. This change is reflected in ARTICLE XI, Section 5. ARTICLE XI, Section 6 has been deleted.

6/20/2020

The following Amendment was made to the Constitution:

ARTICLE XI, Section 4, the sentence “Election shall be by written ballot” was deleted.

SPECIAL RULES OF ORDER

The term “special rules of order” refers to written rules of parliamentary procedure formally adopted by an assembly or an organization that supersede any rules in the adopted parliamentary authority (Robert’s Rules of Order, Newly Revised) with which they may conflict. Adoption or amendment of special rules of order that are separate from the bylaws requires either (a) previous notice and a two-thirds vote or (b) a vote of a majority of the entire membership. Rules of order whether contained in the parliamentary authority (Robert’s Rules of Order, Newly Revised) or adopted as special rules of order, can be suspended by a two-thirds vote (see Robert’s Rules of Order, Newly Revised §2, p 15-17).

Two “Special Rules of Order” were approved at the June 7, 2009 Annual Meeting to remain in effect until amended, suspended or superseded by action at a future congregational meeting:

- 1) Each speaker shall be limited to two minutes of debate per speech. No one may speak a second time until everyone who wishes has spoken once.
- 2) So long as opposing views remain, no motion to call the question will be considered in order until everyone who wishes has spoken once.

STANDING RULES

The term “standing rules” refers to the details of the administration of the Society and can be adopted or changed upon the same conditions as any ordinary act of the Society (see Robert’s Rules of Order, Newly Revised §2, p- 18). There are no standing rules currently in effect.