Bylaws Revisions

May 19, 2024

Approved at Annual Meeting 5/19/2024

Active members 54

Voting in person or by proxy 46

Minimum to pass 31 “important decision”

Membership

Approved: 46 yes, 0 no, 0 abstensions

ARTICLE IV – MEMBERSHIP

1. General: Any person in sympathy with the mission of VIUU and the Covenant of Right Relations may become a member of VIUU. Youth who have attained the age of 16 years and have participated in a UU RE program are eligible to join as full members. Membership is open to all persons regardless of race, color, sex, affectional or sexual orientation, age, abilities or national origin. In becoming members, persons are entitled to the following rights, and are expected to meet the following responsibilities:

a. Rights: Members may vote on all matters and in all elections of VIUU; on all Board committees, task forces, advisory groups and on the Nominating Committee; and may be appointed to represent VIUU as fully authorized delegates to the Unitarian Universalist Association and other general meetings. Upon attaining the legal voting age of 18, members may serve on the VIUU Board of Directors.

b. Responsibilities: Members are expected to actively contribute financial and/or other support throughout the duration of their membership, and abide by the Covenant of Right Relations.

2. Membership Status: (a. Members, b. Friends, c. Visitors)

d. Inactive Members: Have suspended their membership due to failure to meet above membership requirements, extended absence or illness, and are not included in our Membership count and are not eligible to vote. The Board maintains final discretion to determine whether persons are meeting the requirements to sustain their membership status. Any member may, at any time, request to be removed from the membership list by submitting a written request to any board member.

Governance

Approved: 46 yes, 0 no, 0 abstensions

ARTICLE V – GOVERNANCE

1. Governance: During business meetings the membership shall constitute the governing body of the VIUU.

2. Quorum: Unless otherwise specified in these bylaws, the quorum requirement for business meetings is twenty-five percent (25%) of the membership.

3. Annual Meeting: The regular VIUU annual business meeting shall be held during May each year at a date, time, and place designated by the board. This meeting must include, in addition to all other business brought before it, the following:

a. The election to open positions of officers and at-large board members and members of the Nominating Committee.

b. The review, revision as warranted, and approval of the budget for the coming year.

7. Elections: All current members who are eligible to vote may cast a vote in any election brought forth and motions shall be passed or defeated by simple majority except “important decisions” as discussed in Section 9 below. Prior to any election the floor will be open for additional nominations. All contested elections are to be by written ballot and the ballots destroyed after being tallied.

9. Important Decisions: The following decisions are important decisions and require a larger quorum and level of agreement of the membership than normally required:

Amending the Bylaws

Adopting or amending the Vision Statement

Adopting or amending the Mission Statement

Hiring or Calling a Minister

Dismissing a Minister

Removing a Director

Establishing a capital fund, defining its purpose, and/or redirecting its assets

Buying, selling, or otherwise disposing of Real Property of VIUU

Dissolution of VIUU and disposition of its assets

For these decisions, and only these decisions, the quorum requirement shall be a majority of all ~~Fellowship~~ VIUU members. The quorum count shall include members present at the meeting

and members voting by proxy. For a motion to pass, it must receive “Yes votes” of a majority of all VIUU members or two-thirds (2/3) of those included in the quorum count, whichever is greater.

Board terms

Approved: 46 yes, 0 no, 0 abstensions

ARTICLE VI - BOARD OF DIRECTORS

1.Members: The board of directors, hereafter referred to as the board, shall consist of the officers and members-at-large totaling a minimum of five (5), and a maximum of nine (9) members of VIUU. The exact number is to be determined at a business meeting. All members of the board of directors must be current active/voting members of VIUU.

2. Term: The term of board members, starting on July 1st following the annual meeting, is two years or until their successor is elected. Board members may serve up to two consecutive terms and then are not eligible for re-election to the board for one year after their second term expires.

To improve continuity, the Nominating Committee shall adjust board terms for newly elected board members annually as necessary to ensure that half of the board members (new and continuing) are serving terms ending in odd years and half are serving terms ending in even years. If a board member serves a partial term of up to one year, that board member is eligible to serve up to two additional two year terms (a total of five consecutive years).

Election of Officers

Approved: 45 yes, 1 no, 0 abstensions

ARTICLE VII – OFFICERS

1. Election: VIUU, at its annual meeting, shall elect the board officers from among its members. Current board members holding an at-large position or a different officer position may be elected to an officer position without resigning from the board **while leaving their current position open for another candidate.**

Officers' terms shall start on July 1st following their election and shall last for two years or for the duration of the board member's term, whichever is shorter, or until their respective successors have been elected.

Committee on Ministry

Approved: 46 yes, 0 no, 0 abstensions

Section 1. The committee on Ministry will strengthen the well-being of the shared ministry of the congregation and will foster healthy communication.

Three members of VIUU who are eligible to vote shall serve on the Committee on Ministry for a term of one year, beginning each July I, and may be reappointed for no more than four consecutive terms. One member shall be appointed by the board; one member shall be appointed by the minister or, in the absence of a minister, also by the board; and one member shall be appointed by the two appointees. No member of the board may serve on the Committee on Ministry. The Committee on Ministry shall regularly meet with the minister or person serving in a comparable capacity as defined in Article IX, regularly announce their availability to meet with members of VIUU and shall report to the board at the request of the board, or by their own initiative, at least annually.