

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST MINISTRY FOR EARTH

BY-LAWS

Adopted June 27, 2009

Preamble:

We, the members of the Unitarian Universalist Ministry for Earth, are individuals who have joined together, as people of faith concerned about environmental quality, sustainability, and social justice in order to affirm and promote the principles of the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA).

Article I NAME

The full name of this organization shall Unitarian Universalist Ministry for Earth.

Article II AFFILIATION AND INCORPORATION

1. The Unitarian Universalist Ministry for Earth shall be an independent affiliate organization of the UUA.
2. The Unitarian Universalist Ministry for Earth is organized incorporated exclusively for charitable, religious, educational, and scientific purposes as defined by Section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or the corresponding section of any future federal tax code.

Article III PURPOSE

The purpose of the Unitarian Universalist Ministry for Earth is to facilitate and support the work of Unitarian Universalists by affirming and promoting the seven principles of the UUA, including the seventh, “respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.” We focus upon the theological, spiritual, and ethical implications of human behaviors and activities that affect the health and sustainability of the living earth.

The Unitarian Universalist Ministry for Earth will:

- Provide a forum for discussion and dissemination of material for study, religious education and worship;
- Serve as a central source of environmental education for Unitarian Universalists, highlighting the relationships between spiritual and religious values and related environmental, social, ethical, and justice issues;
- Advise the UUA on the implications of denominational, congregational, and interdenominational activities as they relate to the environment; and
- Support Unitarian Universalists in their personal and congregational efforts to create a healthy and sustainable environment.

Article IV MEMBERSHIP

1. Any person, congregational body, or organization subscribing to the purposes and by-laws shall be eligible for membership. Membership is activated by indicating intent in writing and paying the required annual dues.
2. The organization shall hold its Annual Meeting in conjunction with the General Assembly of the UUA. Members shall be notified in writing at least 30 days in advance. The agenda shall include election of the Directors. There shall be a treasurer’s report. The Board of Directors shall report on current programs and propose goals for the ensuing year.

3. Each individual or household membership has one vote. Congregational bodies and organizations holding memberships are entitled to one vote per entity. Members may vote in person at the Annual Meeting or by mail-in ballot postmarked no later than 14 days prior to the meeting.

Article V BOARD OF DIRECTORS

1. The Board of Directors (Board) shall consist of at least five active members of the Unitarian Universalist Ministry for Earth who will select from among themselves individuals to carry out required formal roles, including, but not limited to, chair and treasurer. The Board may appoint acting members to fill unexpired terms.
2. Directors shall serve two-year terms, and the Chair shall serve no more than two consecutive terms in that role. Directors shall receive no salary. The Board may approve compensation for reasonable expenses.
3. The Board shall meet at least twice a year. Meetings other than at General Assembly may be conducted electronically or by conference call. A quorum of the Board is necessary to conduct business and consists of the majority of its members.
4. The responsibilities of the Board shall be to manage the affairs of the organization, including but not limited to the following:
 - Plan all meetings of the membership, including the Annual Meeting
 - Assist in developing General Assembly resolutions
 - Establish dues and manage the financial resources of the organization Establish policies and procedures necessary to conduct the business and programs of the organization
 - Prepare the Annual Report of the organization for the UUA
 - Enter into contracts for administrative and program services

Article VI FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION

1. The fiscal year of the organization shall commence on the first day of July each year.
2. The programs of the organization shall be financed by membership dues, sponsorships, investment income, legacies or gifts, sales of educational materials, grants and contracts, or other means as determined by the Board.
3. In the case of dissolution of the organization, all its property, both real and personal shall be conveyed to the UUA or its successors.

Article VII AMENDMENT OF THE BY-LAWS

The by-laws may be amended by a total two-thirds vote of the members who vote in person at the Annual Meeting and those who submit a mail-in ballot postmarked 14 days prior to the Annual Meeting. Proposed amendments must be announced at least 30 days prior to the meeting as part of the agenda.