

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship
Dubuque, Iowa
Bylaws - 2020 Update

I. Name: The name of the religious organization shall be the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Dubuque, Iowa.

II. Purpose: The purpose of this fellowship is to foster respect for the freedom and dignity of the individual through study, service, and fellowship.

III. Mission Statement: Our mission is to provide a welcoming community that inspires growth by encouraging individuals and families to examine their religious and spiritual beliefs, to explore new ideas, to share our journeys, to respect and enjoy each other's differences, and to be active and supportive in the community that surrounds us.

IV. Membership: Any person, regardless of race, color, age, sex, sexual orientation, disability, or national origin, may become a member of the fellowship. There shall be no creedal test expressed or implied as a qualification for membership. The right to vote at Annual Meetings shall be reserved for members who have reached the age of 14 and who have attended meetings or made financial or service contributions within the past 12 months. A member may withdraw from membership by giving written notice to the Secretary or the President. On the recommendation of the Executive Board, a member may be removed from the rolls if the member has not attended meetings or made financial or service contributions within the past two years or cannot be located or has died.

The Board shall update its membership list annually by the Annual Meeting.

All members of this Fellowship at the adoption of these bylaws and all those accepted thereafter shall constitute the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, Dubuque, Iowa.

V. Denominational Affiliation: This Fellowship shall be a member of the Unitarian Universalist Association and of the MidAmerica Region, Unitarian Universalist, or the successors-in-interest.

VI. Additional Affiliation: The Fellowship may join temporarily or on a long-term basis local organizations such as Dubuque Area Congregations United or Unitarian Universalist Service Committee subject to the vote of the congregation.

VII. Meetings: The dates of regular non-business meetings of the Fellowship shall be determined by the congregation itself or by any person or persons designated by it. The Annual Meeting shall be held each year in the month of November at such time and place decided by the Executive Board.

Meetings shall be conducted as necessary, according to Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised. These bylaws shall be reviewed at each Annual Meeting. All officers shall be elected

at the Annual Meeting. Any and all business may be transacted at the Annual Meeting. In addition, a special meeting may be called at the written request of 25% of the membership. Notice of the Annual Meeting or special meeting, a list of nominees, and any amendments to the bylaws or articles must be in writing 7 days in advance of the meeting.

VIII. Officers: At each Annual Meeting there shall be chosen by secret ballot: a President, a Secretary, a Treasurer, and three Trustees, all of whom hold their office/s for two years (except for one designated Trustee, who shall serve for one year) and who will perform those duties ordinarily pertaining to those offices.

The officers and trustees shall compose the Executive Board. The members of the Executive Board or their designated proxies shall function as the executive power of the Fellowship, responsible to the congregation for the general welfare of the Fellowship. A quorum for any meeting of the Executive Board shall be three, Any member of the Fellowship may attend any meeting for the Executive Board.

An officer may be removed from the office by a vote of the majority at an Executive Board Meeting. Any Officer who misses three consecutive Board Meetings without acceptable excuse automatically shall be removed from the office; the President shall then select a member who will serve the remainder of the officer's term.

Each year, the Treasurer will submit the financial records of the Fellowship for an audit by the trustees or to any person designated by the Trustees. The Treasurer can spend up to \$25.00 for petty cash against cost incurred by the Fellowship without prior permission of the Executive Board.

By mid-October each year, the Executive Board will establish a nominating committee to seek candidates and formulate a slate of officers for approval at the Annual Meeting. Multiple nominations are encouraged; nominations will also be taken from the floor.

IX. Committees: Committees are formed at the discretion of the board or at the annual meeting (the Fellowship recognizes that committees on Program, Religious Education, Ministry/Administration, Membership and Social Responsibility are desirable).

X. Dissolution: Should this Fellowship cease to function and the membership vote to disband, any assets of the Fellowship will be transferred to the Unitarian Universalist Association. Such transfer shall be made in full compliance with all applicable laws.

XI. Public Positions: Expressing a public position on behalf of the UUFD concerning critical issues is an important function of the UUFD. Offering a voice in the public arena is an opportunity for the UUFD to advance our perspective, values, and principles. The following procedures will be followed for all public utterances on behalf of the UUFD:

- The minister has “freedom of the pulpit” in representing the UUFD as long as the statements are not against the positions taken by the UUA and are aligned with the our Principles and Purposes.
- The President or his/her designee representing the UUFD can make a statement public after it has been accepted by at least three members of the Board. The statement will be aligned with positions taken by the UUA, and the Principles and Purposes. Ideally, the statement should be signed by the President since a signature of any other person implies there may not have been Board agreement thereby lessening the impact.

XII. Dangerous Weapons: The UUFD prohibits the carrying of guns or other dangerous weapons (as defined in the Iowa Code 702.7) on church property, including the church building and the Emerson House. People who have concealed carry permits are asked to leave their weapons at home.

702.7 Dangerous weapon. A “dangerous weapon” is any instrument or device designed primarily for use in inflicting death or injury upon a human being or animal, and which is capable of inflicting death upon a human being when used in the manner for which it was designed, except a bow and arrow when possessed and used for hunting or any other lawful purpose. Additionally, any instrument or device of any sort whatsoever which is actually used in such a manner as to indicate that the defendant intends to inflict death or serious injury upon the other, and which, when so used, is capable of inflicting death upon a human being, is a dangerous weapon. Dangerous weapons include but are not limited to any offensive weapon, pistol, revolver, or other firearm, dagger, razor, stiletto, switchblade knife, knife having a blade exceeding five inches in length, or any portable device or weapon directing an electric current, impulse, wave, or beam that produces a high-voltage pulse designed to immobilize a person. [S13, §4775-1a; C24, 27, 31, §12936; C35, §12935-g1, 12936; C39, §12935.1, 12936; C46, 50, 54, 58, 62, 66, 71, 73, 75, 77, §695.1,695.2; C79, 81