

Proposed Bylaws Amendment # 1: Ministers' Public Identification

The Board of Directors will bring a proposed bylaws amendment to the congregation for approval at the March 18 congregational meeting. The proposed change is an addition to Article XII of the Bylaws (see below for complete text of the article with the proposed change). The new section 3 would give ordained ministers of the congregation the right to use their UUFR affiliation when making public statements of their personal beliefs or opinions. Revision of this article was first discussed at the December 2006 congregational meeting and was tabled at that time.

The proposed revision that will be presented in March simply states that ordained ministers may use the Fellowship name to identify themselves when making public statements of their personal beliefs or opinions. In specifying ordained ministers, it is intended that this section will apply to interim ministers (who are ordained but not called by the congregation) and any ordained ministers, such as associate or assistant ministers or ministers of religious education or music, whether employed or called. But it would not apply to non-ordained ministers, such as student or intern ministers.

Suggested language pertaining to ministers' obligation to consult with the Board of Directors before making public statements that was discussed at the December meeting has been eliminated as unnecessary. Ministers, like members of the congregation, would continue to be bound by Section 2 of Article XII, which prohibits anyone from publicly suggesting that the congregation as a whole has taken a position on an issue, unless the congregation has affirmed the position.

This proposed bylaw amendment would also eliminate the words "as Sponsor" which currently appear in the title of Article XII.

Proposed Revision of ARTICLE XII. USE OF FELLOWSHIP NAME [~~AS SPONSOR~~]

Section 1. Use of the Fellowship name as a sponsor of an outside event shall require approval by the board of Directors.

Section 2. Use of the Fellowship name in support of a statement of conscience or belief, or any statement which suggests it is the view of the of the Fellowship as a whole, shall require approval by the affirmative vote of two-thirds of the members present and voting at a duly called meeting of the Fellowship.

NEW Section 3. When making public statements of their personal beliefs or opinions, ordained ministers may use the Fellowship name to identify themselves.