

1 **Bylaws of the Church of the Larger Fellowship**
2 **Unitarian Universalist,**
3 **Adopted June 19, 2014, Effective June 19, 2014**
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6 **Article I Name**

7 Section 1 The name of this incorporated Religious Society shall be "The Church of the
8 Larger Fellowship, Unitarian Universalist."
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11 **Article II Purposes**

12 Section 1 The Church of the Larger Fellowship provides a ministry to isolated religious
13 liberals and offers a spiritual home within the Unitarian Universalist movement.
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15 Section 2 The Church of the Larger Fellowship promotes the understanding and growth
16 of Unitarian Universalism and institutes programs to that end.
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18 Section 3 As a member of the Unitarian Universalist Association, the Church of the
19 Larger Fellowship supports the Principles and Purposes of the Association.
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22 **Article III Membership**

23 Section 1 Persons who have expressed their sympathy with the spirit of this Church by
24 signing the Statement of Purposes and who make an annual contribution shall be members
25 of the Church. The Board of Directors may waive the financial requirement when
26 appropriate.
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28 Section 2 Unitarian Universalists who are members of local congregations as well as
29 persons who are not otherwise affiliated may become members of the Church of the Larger
30 Fellowship.
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33 **Article IV Ministers**

34 Section 1 Ministers Emeriti of the Church of the Larger Fellowship shall be appointed
35 by and be responsible to the Board of Directors and Executive Committee and shall serve at
36 the pleasure of the Board and have such duties as the Board shall determine.
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38 Section 2 The Minister of the Church of the Larger Fellowship shall be called by and
39 be responsible to the Board of Directors and Executive Committee and shall serve at the
40 pleasure of the Board and have such duties as set forth in these bylaws and as the Board
41 shall determine.
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43 Section 3 The Minister of the Church shall be the Executive Officer of the Church with
44 responsibility to appoint and supervise staff members.
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47 **Article V Meetings for Worship**

48 Section 1 Meetings for worship sponsored by the Church of the Larger Fellowship may
49 be held in the Eliot Chapel at 25 Beacon Street, Boston, Massachusetts.

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51 Section 2 In addition, the Church shall be empowered to hold such other meetings for
52 worship as the Board of Directors shall approve.

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55 **Article VI Relationship to the Unitarian Universalist Association**

56 Section 1 At General Assembly meetings and special meetings of the Unitarian Universalist
57 Association, the Church of the Larger Fellowship shall be represented in conformity with
58 the UUA Rules and Bylaws.

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60 Section 2 Member delegates to the General Assembly and other special meetings of the
61 Association shall be appointed by the Board of Directors.

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64 **Article VII Meetings of the Corporation**

65 Section 1 The Annual Meeting of the Corporation shall be held each year, preferably in
66 May or June, at such place and time as the Directors shall determine for the purpose of
67 electing the Board of Directors, the Nominating Committee, the Clerk, and the Treasurer
68 and conducting any other business which properly may come before the meeting.

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70 Section 2 At the opening of each meeting of the Corporation, a member, not an officer
71 or member of the Board of Directors, shall be elected to serve as Moderator of that meeting
72 only. The Moderator shall have no other duties.

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74 Section 3 Special meetings may be called by the Chair of the Board of Directors or by
75 petition of at least 25 members.

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77 Section 4 Reasonable notice of all meetings shall be given by the Clerk or other officer
78 who shall set forth an agenda of matters to be acted upon at the meeting. No matter may be
79 acted upon that is not included in the agenda.

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82 **Article VIII Board of Directors and Executive Committee**

83 Section 1 There shall be a Standing Committee which shall be called the Board of
84 Directors, and shall have charge and conduct all affairs of the Church.

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86 Section 2 Section 2 – The Board of Directors shall be composed of nine members of
87 the corporation elected at the Annual Meeting of the Corporation by members who are
88 present or who submit written ballots.

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90 Section 3 The Directors shall serve for terms of three years each, three such Directors
91 being elected at each Annual Meeting of the Corporation. No Director shall serve for more
92 than six consecutive years, but a Director may be re-elected after the lapse of one year.

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94 Section 4 There shall be an Executive Committee of the Board of Directors composed
95 of the Chair, the Vice-Chair, and the Treasurer.

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97 Section 5 The Board may empower the Executive Committee to act on its behalf
98 between regular meetings of the Board.

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100 Section 6 The Board of Directors and the Executive Committee shall advise and assist
101 the Minister of the Church in all matters pertaining to the upbuilding and the welfare of the
102 Church and shall have the power to appoint such committees and sub-committees as may be
103 necessary or convenient in carrying on the work of the Church.

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105 Section 7 The Board of Directors shall hold an Annual Meeting each year as soon as
106 practical following the Annual Meeting of the Corporation. Other meetings of the Board
107 and meetings of the Executive Committee shall be held on such dates as the Board or
108 Executive Committee shall determine. In addition, either the Chair of the Minister may call
109 a special meeting of the Directors or the Executive Committee. Reasonable notice of all
110 Board and Executive Committee meetings shall be given by the Clerk or other officer.

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112 Section 8 A meeting of the Board of Directors must include at least 5 members to
113 constitute a quorum. A meeting of the Executive Committee must include at least 2
114 members to constitute a quorum. A meeting of the Nominating Committee must include at
115 least 2 members to constitute a quorum. Meetings mentioned in this section may be held in
116 person, telephonically, or electronically.

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119 **Article IX Officers and Committees of the Church and Their Duties**

120 Section 1 As soon after the Annual Meeting of the Corporation as is practical, the
121 Board of Directors shall elect a Chair and a Vice-Chair from among its members. In the
122 event that the Board elects Co-Chairs, the position of Vice-Chair shall not be filled.

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124 Section 2 A Treasurer and a Clerk, which Clerk shall always be a resident of
125 Massachusetts but need not be a member of the Board, shall be elected annually by members
126 who are present at the Annual Meeting of the Corporation or who submit written ballots.
127 The Clerk and the Treasurer shall swear faithfully to fulfill the duties pertaining to their
128 offices.

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130 Section 3 A Nominating Committee shall be composed of four members of the
131 Corporation. Three Nominating Committee members shall be elected by members of the
132 Corporation who are present at the Annual Meeting or who submit written ballots. Elected
133 Nominating Committee members shall serve for terms of three years, one member being
134 elected at each Annual Meeting of the Corporation. No elected member shall serve more
135 than one full term but will be eligible to serve again after the lapse of one year. The fourth
136 member of the Nominating Committee shall be appointed by the Board of Directors from
137 among its members each year for a one-year term and may be reappointed for subsequent
138 one-year terms at the discretion of the Board.

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Section 4 Vacancies in elective and appointive offices which occur between Annual Meetings shall be filled by the Board of Directors or the Executive Committee. Persons so appointed shall serve until the next Annual Meeting.

Section 5 The Chair shall preside at the meetings of the Board of Directors and the Executive Committee and shall perform such other duties as are assigned to this office from time to time by the Board of Directors or the Executive Committee. In the absence of the Chair, the Vice-Chair shall perform these duties.

Article X Nominations

Section 1 The Nominating Committee, with the advice of the membership under such procedures as the Board shall determine, shall nominate at least one candidate for each position to be filled at the Annual Meeting of the Corporation, at least sixty days prior to the Annual Meeting.

Section 2 The Nominating Committee shall receive additional nominations by petition of at least 15 members until 30 days prior to the Annual Meeting of the Corporation.

Section 3 Voting shall be by written ballot, except that if only one person has been validly nominated for each position to be filled the persons so nominated shall be declared elected and no ballots shall be required.

Section 4 Nominations shall be made only as provided in these bylaws and only persons so nominated may be elected.

Article XI Miscellaneous Provisions

Section 1 The fiscal year of the Church shall correspond to the calendar year.

Section 2 In these bylaws, when more appropriate to the context, reference is made to the "Religious Society" to the "Church" and to the "Corporation." However, they are one and the same for all purposes.

Section 3 In order to recognize the value of discussion and the free exchange of ideas at meetings, voting by proxy is not allowed.

Article XII Amendments and Dissolution

Section 1 These bylaws may be amended by the members of the Corporation at any meeting of the Corporation, provided that notice of any amendment or amendments has been given in the Call for the Meeting, and the substance of any proposed change or changes has been set forth in said Call. A change in the bylaws shall require the affirmative vote of two-thirds of the members who are present at the meeting or who submit written ballots.

185 Section 2 Should this Church cease to function and the membership vote to disband,
186 any assets of the Church will be transferred to the Unitarian Universalist Association for its
187 general purposes, this transfer to be made in full compliance with whatever laws are
188 applicable.

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191 **Article XIII Non-discrimination.**

192 Section I The Church of the Larger Fellowship declares and affirms its responsibility to
193 promote the full participation of persons in all of its activities and in the full range of human
194 endeavor without regard to race, ethnicity, gender, disability, affectional or sexual
195 orientation, gender expression, age, language, citizenship status, economic status, or national
196 origin and without requiring adherence to any particular interpretation of religion or to any
197 particular religious belief or creed.