

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Sheridan

BYLAWS **Amended May 19, 2019**

Article I. Name

The Name of this religious Congregation shall be the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Sheridan (UUFS).

Article II. Purpose

- A. **VISION:** Our goals are to live in harmony with the earth, foster peace, and promote social justice.
- B. **MISSION:** We embrace Unitarian Universalism as a dynamic, living religion that welcomes change as knowledge advances. We cherish the wisdom to be gleaned from our collective human history, as well as personal experience. We seek congruence between our beliefs and our actions. We gather in this spiritual community to commit our collective energy and resources in support of these principles.
- C. **COVENANT:** We gather in fellowship, respecting the supreme worth of every person, encouraging and supporting each individual's quest for meaning. We come together to develop our individual religious values, respecting and celebrating our differences.

Article III. Membership

Any person may become a voting member of this Congregation who is in sympathy with its purpose and program, has signed the membership book annually, and makes an annual financial contribution in proportion to the needs and benefits of the organization, or a significant contribution of service. It is understood that both service and financial contributions are vital to the support and maintenance of the national, district and local Unitarian Universalist organizations. All members should have an understanding of the history and current situation of the Unitarian Universalist Association. It is especially understood that membership is open to all qualified persons regardless of race, color, sex, affectional or sexual orientation, age, physical or mental status, or national origin. A person may become a friend of the UUFS; a friend is someone who is in sympathy with the goals of the UUFS but does not meet the requirements of voting membership. In case of disputed membership, the Congregational Board (hereinafter referred to as the Board) shall have authority to make final determination as to membership status.

The members eligible to vote shall vote on all important matters relating to proposed changes in the Purpose of the Congregation, as contained in the Bylaws, and major financial/budgetary commitments including, but not limited to, the annual budget.

Withdrawal of membership may be made by written or oral request to the Vice President/Membership Chair of the Congregation. Such a notice shall be transmitted to the Board.

Article IV. Denominational Affairs

It is the intention of this Congregation to make annual financial contributions to its full Fair Share as determined by the Association and the Mountain Desert District.

Article V. Meetings

The dates of regular non-business meetings of the Congregation shall be determined by the Congregation itself, or by any person or persons designated by it. The annual business meeting shall be held each year in the month of May at such time and place as shall be fixed by the Board. Special business meetings may be called at the written request of any member.

The business to be transacted at all business meetings shall be set forth in the notice of the meeting. Time and location of business meetings shall be scheduled annually by the Board and shall be announced to all members no less than two weeks in advance.

Thirty percent of the membership shall constitute a quorum.

Article VI. Officers and Congregational Board

At each annual meeting officers of the Board shall be chosen, all of whom (with the exception of the President) shall hold their offices for one year, and until their successors have been elected and qualified, and who shall perform the duties usually pertaining to these offices. The President shall serve a two-year term. The President elect will have served as a member of the Board within the previous four years. The Board shall consist of a President, a Vice-President/Membership Chair, a Secretary, a Treasurer, a Worship Committee Chair, a Religious Education Committee Chair, and a Long-Range Planning Committee Chair, all elected by voting members of the Fellowship. Other Board positions may be added or removed upon approval of voting Fellowship members at the annual meeting. Terms will end on June 30 of the year in which their terms expire. Offices may be held for a maximum of three consecutive years. Re-election after the maximum terms can take place when a one-year hiatus has taken place. The Board shall have general charge of the property of the Congregation and the conduct of all of its business affairs and the control of its administration, including the creation and dissolution of such standing committees as it may deem necessary. The President may, upon consultation with the Board, create or dissolve ad hoc committees, and appoint members as deemed necessary. It may fill vacancies with persons who shall serve until the next annual meeting.

The Executive Committee, consisting of the President, Vice-President/Membership Chair, Treasurer, Secretary, and Worship Committee Chair, shall be responsible for the conduct of the affairs of the Congregation between meetings of the Board.

All officers shall be voting members of the Congregation. A majority of Board Members constitutes a quorum; a majority vote of a quorum carries a motion.

Article VII. The Minister

When the Congregation decides to call a minister, the Bylaws shall be amended to outline the nature of the relationship between the Congregation and minister, procedures for calling a minister, and for terminating a relationship.

The Minister, whether called or contracted, may choose to be a member of the Congregation with the authority to vote on general matters. The Minister serves as an ex officio member of the Board, the Worship Committee and the Ministerial Committee.

Article VIII. The Fiscal Year

The fiscal year shall end June 30.

Article IX. Dissolution

In the case of dissolution of the Congregation, all of its property, real and personal, after paying all just claim upon it, shall be conveyed to and vested in the Mountain Desert District or its legal successor for use in the support of a small congregation in Wyoming or Montana, and the Board will perform all actions necessary to effectuate such conveyance.

Article I. Amendments

These Bylaws, so far as allowed by law, may be amended or replaced at any meeting of the Congregation by a two-thirds vote of those present and voting, not to be less than a quorum as defined in Article V. Absentee ballots and designated proxies may be used if received by the voting date. Notice of any proposed change shall be contained in the notice of the meeting at least 30 days in advance of said meeting.

Adopted as amended on May 18, 1997.

Amended with approval on May 16, 1999.

Amended with approval on November 2, 2003.

Amended with approval on May 24, 2015.

Amended with approval on May 19, 2019.