

River Road Unitarian Church

Policy Regarding Participation in Board of Trustee Discussions

Unitarian Universalist Principles

Our Unitarian Universalists principles and the River Road Unitarian Church (RRUC) Bylaws require the Board of Trustees to govern the Congregation in an open and participatory manner. The Board is committed to honoring this principle to the maximum extent possible consistent with the need for good governance and efficient Board meetings. Members of the Board of Trustees shall make themselves reasonably available to members of the congregation to hear comments and concerns.

Duties and Expectations of Board Members

The Board of Trustees is charged by law, the Articles of Incorporation, and the Bylaws with the general supervision and direction of the Congregation's affairs. Members of the Board expend significant time and effort preparing for and attending Board meetings, in addition to fulfilling other obligations at RRUC, and desire well-run Board meetings where quality decisions are efficiently made. To that end, an agenda and supporting documentation is provided prior to each meeting. In addition, generally, before a matter may be brought to the Board for action, it must be considered by a Church or Board Committee or a Board Task Force or working group. Finally, to promote respect for one another Board Members enter into a behavioral covenant.

In an effort to balance the desire for open and participatory governance with the duties and expectations identified above, pursuant to the Bylaw authorizing the Board to enact rules for its governance, the Board adopts the policy set forth below.

- 1) Subject to the behavioral covenant, a Member of the Board of Trustees may speak during a meeting of the Board of Trustees.
- 2) A Minister of Religious Education, an Associate Minister, an Assistant Minister, a ministerial intern, and the Church Administrator may speak during a meeting of the Board of Trustees.
- 3) An individual invited by a majority of the Board to make a presentation, report, or otherwise provide information or insight to the Board of Trustees may speak during a meeting of the Board regarding the topic or topics the individual was invited to address. By approving an agenda including an individual or individuals, the Board is deemed to have extended an invitation under this policy.
- 4) The individual chairing a meeting of the Board of Trustees may recognize an individual not otherwise entitled to speak during a meeting of the Board of Trustees under this policy and invite that individual to make appropriate comments.
- 5) By a majority vote, the board may suspend or alter this policy.

Approved December 8, 2005