

SPEAKING OUT and USING BANNERS in the the Name of RRUC

Revision, 9/13/2006, Added Banner to title. Changed quorum in A(3) to match Bylaw 2.10.

Revision, May 3, 2000 "Speaking Out in the Name of the Church and Related Matters"

Revision, May 6, 1998 – added sections B & C

Revision, December 8, 1986 "Procedure for Speaking or Taking Action in the Name of the Church"

Original, Adopted April 24, 1966 under the title "Procedure for Social Action Taken in the Name of RRUC"

A. Speaking Out or Taking Action in the Name of the Church

1. Since speaking out or taking action on issues of social or political concern is an essential part of the program at RRUC, the Board of Trustees believes it is important to have in effect procedures that permit timely, orderly decisions and that reflect a consensus of the congregation.

2. Members or groups within RRUC may speak in the name or take action on behalf of RRUC on issues of social or political concern only when authorized by *written* vote at a congregational meeting called in accordance with the Articles of Incorporation and ByLaws.

3. When such a meeting is called, any modification of voting rules should be agreed upon and stated clearly in advance by the Board of Trustees and the Social Justice Council. At any meeting so called, the first order of business shall be to accept the modified rules to ensure widespread support of the congregational decision. The Board recommends that, in order to act in the name of the church, a quorum of 20 percent of the membership and an affirmative vote of 75 percent of those present and voting be adopted.

4. Any public statement or action in the name of the church shall include the number of both affirmative and negative votes.

5. Nothing in this procedure is intended to prevent any RRUC committee from working and speaking in its own behalf.

6. Implementation that is clearly within the scope of the resolution or decision voted by the congregation may be undertaken without additional congregational vote, subject to approval of the Board. This is not to preclude provision for reconsideration by the congregation at appropriate intervals.

B. Public Statements by RRUC Task Forces and Committees

A recognized RRUC Task Force or Committee may act or make a public statement in its own name so long as it adheres to the following rules:

- a. No action or public statement is ascribed to the congregation at large.
- b. No political, religious, or ethical belief, other than one or more of the UUA Principles, if so desired, is ascribed to a Task Force or Committee unless all Task Force or Committee members have been polled and a majority have indicated support
- c. No commitment of human or financial resources is made beyond those under control of the Task Force or Committee.

C. Use of the Church Banner

1. Members of the congregation and staff may use the church banner at all church events, activities that are part of the Religious Education program, and UUA-sponsored events such as General Assembly

2. Task Forces and Committees may use the church banner so long as there is a second banner attached to it identifying the group. The lettering identifying the task force or committee must be of at least equal size or larger than the lettering on the RRUC banner, and the design must be such that it is clear that the task force/committee is an activity “of” RRUC.

3. A Task Force, Committee, or a group whose expression of opinion has been sponsored by the Social Justice Council in accordance with this policy may use the name of the church on its own banner, provided that the design and lettering of the group’s banner conform to the guidelines described above in paragraph 2, and the banner is used in accordance with item A above.