

Option B

2.10. Taking a Congregational Position on a Social Justice or Political Issue.

2.10.1. The Board of Trustees is authorized to adopt on behalf of the congregation a public position on a social justice or political issue, subject to the process and limitations described in this Section 2.10.

2.10.2. Nothing in this Section shall

- (a) allow the Board of Trustees or the congregation to take a public position that would violate Article 2 of the Articles of Incorporation, which prohibits congregational activities that are not permitted for 501(c)(3) corporations or corporation's eligible to receive tax deductible contributions;
- (b) alter the rights of Members to request that the Board of Trustees call a special congregational meeting under Section 2.2;
- (c) alter the rights of Members to request that the Board of Trustees include an item on the agenda for a congregational meeting under Section 2.4; or
- (d) limit the freedom of the pulpit or the ability of any RRUUC minister, Member, committee, task force, or group to work or speak on its own behalf. In each case, the minister, Member, committee, task force, or group may identify their affiliation with RRUUC, but should not imply that they are speaking on behalf of the congregation as a whole.

2.10.3. After completing the requirements of this Section, the Board of Trustees may adopt, on behalf of the congregation, a public position on a social justice or political issue by an affirmative vote of six Board members. Prior to taking such a vote, the Board shall establish, by a majority vote,

- (a) a Public Policy Position Panel, as described in Section 6.1.2, for the consideration of the specific public position, which will assist with the process of providing information to and seeking feedback from the congregation;
- (b) a discernment procedure for receipt of congregational comment as it deems appropriate, but the discernment shall include, at a minimum, a special board meeting announced at least 15 days in advance for Members and Friends to present their views on the issue to the Board and the ability to submit comments in writing to the Board for a period of at least 15 days, which may run simultaneously with the advance notice for the special board meeting; and
- (c) notify by mail or email the congregation of the Board's consideration of a public position on a social justice or political issue.

The notice shall include, at a minimum, a description of the social justice or political issue, the position being considered (including a draft of the text of the public position), the date and time of the special board meeting, the deadline for submission of written comments, instructions on how to attend the special board meeting and submit written comments, and a brief description of the process the Board that will follow to adopt the proposed public position on a social justice or political issue. After the special board

meeting and opportunity to comment, the Board may then take further action it deems appropriate, including taking no further action, revising the text of the public position, providing for additional discernment, and/or voting to adopt the public position and submitting it to the congregation.

2.10.4. Once the Board of Trustees has voted to adopt a public position on a social justice or political issue pursuant to Section 2.10.3, the Board shall notify by mail or email the congregation of that position. At that time, a period of at least 45 days shall begin, during which

- (a) a Board appointed Public Policy Position Panel (as described in section 6.1.2) shall convene a least two town-hall meetings in formats determined by the Panel for the purpose of providing information and the reasoning regarding the public policy position to Members of the congregations and collect any additional feedback; and
- (b) Members may request that the public position be subject to a congregational vote.

The notice shall include, at a minimum, a description of the social justice or political issue, the text of public position adopted by the Board, an overview of the process to be followed leading to the final adoption of the public position on behalf of RRUUC, the date and time of the town-hall meetings, the ability of Members to request the public position be subject to a congregational vote, the number of members necessary to require a congregational vote, the end date of the 45-day period, and instructions on how to attend the town hall meetings, request a congregational vote, and submit comments to the Board.

2.10.5. During the 45-day period, if 10% of the voting-eligible Members of the congregation request a congregational vote on the proposed public position, the Board of Trustees shall set the proposed public position for a congregational vote at an annual meeting or a special meeting. Whether to call a special meeting or add the vote to the agenda of the annual meeting is left to the discretion of the Board of Trustees. In a congregational vote under this Section, Members shall be given the option of voting for the resolution, voting against it, or abstaining. With at least 20% of the Members of the congregation eligible to vote participating, the proposed public position is adopted by a two-thirds vote, excluding abstentions. The Board shall determine whether voting at the congregational meeting will be conducted through in-person voting, by electronic means, or in a manner combining in-person and electronic voting. Absentee-ballot voting and paper-ballot voting shall be permitted consistent with the procedures of Section 2.6.3, and the public position adopted by the Board is not subject to amendment at the congregational meeting.

2.10.6. If the 45-day period ends without 10% of the voting eligible Members of the congregation requesting a congregational vote, the public policy position adopted by the Board under Section 2.10.3 shall become a public position of RRUUC, unless withdrawn by the Board.