

## Overview of Proposed Bylaws Changes

In addition to the changes we previously sent you and outlined on page 2 of this document, we have made the following changes based on feedback received from the membership during the review phase.

### **New Changes:**

#### **Membership:**

- Based on feedback received, we have removed the clause where members are voted in by the Board. All that's required is that you self-certify having completed the qualifications for Governing member and that you complete an application form so that the church can maintain accurate records of membership.
- We left in the renewal of membership clause because this is not about shutting people out, it is about having a way to maintain an accurate list of our voting/governing members. Currently we do not have this. This is standard practice for most Unity churches.
- We have deleted the "Removal with Cause" clause in the membership section.

#### **Unity Church and Teachings of Jesus Christ Language:**

We are a Unity church so we have left that language in but also added the highlighted language:

- "teach and demonstrate the universal principles of Truth, as taught and demonstrated by Jesus Christ and all great teachers from all faith traditions, and interpreted by Spiritual Life Center"
- Teaching. The principles of practical Christianity and Truth as well as those of all faith traditions that teach love, shall be taught through this ministry.
- This language gives us full leeway to continue having an interfaith focus as well as a Christianity focus.

#### **Board Authority – Expenditures:**

We have clarified the clause on Board authority for decisions regarding sale, pledge or proposed financing of real property and now require membership vote and approval for any expenditures exceeding \$100,000 or 20% of previous year's income, whichever is greater.

## **Previous List of Changes:**

### **Bylaws Format:**

- Utilized Unity Worldwide Ministries template and Unity Spokane
  - Brings bylaws in alignment with Unity standards and template language
  - Added table of contents
  - Replaced “corporate” language with church/non-profit language
  - Eliminated corporate titles (CEO etc.)

### **Membership:**

- Included language from Unity of Spokane that describes membership within a mission centric ministry
  - Added phases of membership - governing and community members
  - Included application process for membership
  - Deleted “active” and “inactive” language, replaced with Community and Governing members
  - Created and defined annual renewal process
- Added “youth”/non-voting members language

### **Board of Trustees Structure & Authority:**

- Eliminated corporate language and confusion around President & Chairperson roles
- Updated number of Board trustees, aligning more accurately with Unity standards and the current size of our church. (8-10 Board members)
- Defines process for replacing vacancies
- Established New Board Trustee Nominating Team and process
- Specified voting process for second terms
- Board authority – clarified maximum dollar amount for expenditures regarding sale, pledge, or financing of real property (expenditures exceeding 100,000 or 20% of previous year’s income, whichever is greater) Expenditures above that amount require membership approval.
- Simplified process for establishing committees and teams

### **Key Dates:**

**March 12-21** – document available for review prior to vote - on website and special email sent out to membership

**March 22<sup>nd</sup>** – Special membership meeting from 12:45-1:45 for vote

**Note: Any clarifying questions can be sent to:** [bylaws@slcworld.org](mailto:bylaws@slcworld.org)