

ARTICLE IV. Membership

Section 1. Definitions

- A. An ~~“active”~~ member of the Unitarian Church of Baton Rouge is any person fourteen years of age or older who signs a membership card, declaring sympathy with the purpose of this Church, and who has been welcomed by a majority of the Board., ~~unless as in Subsection B. Recommended suggested shares per member are payable to the UUA on all active members. Only active members who are present may vote at membership meetings.~~
- B. All members of the Unitarian Church of Baton Rouge are deemed to be “active members” if they have participated in this Church in the last 24 months.
- ~~BC.~~ An “inactive” member is any member of the Unitarian Church of Baton Rouge who either has requested the Board to be placed on inactive status, or has not participated in this Church for 24 months. ~~failed to respond to a request for clarification of his/her membership status.~~ An inactive member may become an active member by requesting the Board to reactivate her/his membership or by recommencing participation.
- ~~CD.~~ A “friend” of the Church is any non-member who supports the purpose of this Church.
- ~~DE.~~ Any member may withdraw or transfer his/her membership at any time by so notifying the secretary of the Church.

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ARTICLE VI. Congregational Meetings

Section 1. The business meetings of the congregations shall be referred to in these Bylaws as “membership” meetings, and shall be open to all members and friends of the Church.

Section 2. A membership meeting shall be held each year in April at a time set by the Board of Trustees. The business shall be to elect members to fill vacancies in the Board, Nominating Committee and Endowment Fund Committee, ~~as specified in Article VII, Section 2C,~~ to hear the Minister’s annual report, to hear any other reports scheduled by

the Board, and to transact any other necessary business for which notice has been given.

Section 3. The Board shall set the date as to when the membership shall vote on the proposed annual budget of the Church.

Section 4. Special membership meetings may be called by the Board of Trustees. Subjects to be considered at membership meetings shall be announced to the membership by notices to be mailed at least 10 days prior to the date of such meetings. Voting shall be by secret ballot upon any issue, upon request by any member.

Section 5. The Board of Trustees shall call a membership meeting if petitioned by twenty percent of the active members, notice of such meeting to be given ten days in advance. The request must state the business to be considered. The action shall be limited to the stated purpose. The meeting must be held within thirty (30) days of the request.

Section 6. All members of the Unitarian Church of Baton Rouge who are not “inactive” may vote at membership meetings.

Section 7. Attendance and Voting by Proxy

- A. PREAMBLE. Because the democratic process and active participation in church governance are important aspects of this Church, every member should strive to attend membership meetings in person; however, circumstances may preclude attendance in person. As allowed by these bylaws, attendance by proxy is warranted in those instances so as to permit inclusive participation in church governance.
- B. DEFINITION. Proxy is the authority given by one member to another member to attend and vote on his or her behalf at a membership meeting.
- C. ATTENDANCE. Any member qualified to vote at membership meetings may attend a membership meeting by proxy. The person attending by proxy will be included in the meeting’s quorum.
- D. VOTING. A person attending by proxy may vote on all issues presented for action at the membership meetings with the exception of: a) buying or selling of Church real property; b) recall of a member of the Board of Trustees; c) public endorsement or stand on a social, economic, or religious issue taken in the name of the Church; d) calling or dismissing a called minister; or, alternatively, e) as otherwise determined by the Board 25 days prior to the membership meeting.

Disallowance of proxy voting is due to the value of face-to-face discussion.

E. PROCEDURES

1. A member may authorize only one other member to act on his or her behalf at a membership meeting.
2. A member may receive proxy authority from only one other member.
3. The proxy authority must be granted (in written or electronic form) and be signed; it must state the name of the giver of the proxy, the name of the person to whom such authority is granted, the date, and the date of the meeting to which it applies.
4. Standing proxy authority is not allowed. Proxy authority must be granted on an individual membership meeting basis.
5. The proxy authority must be presented at the membership meeting.
6. The giving of proxy authority by an inactive member does not constitute recommencing participation as addressed in Article IV, Section 1C of these bylaws.

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ARTICLE VII. Elections

Section 1. All members of this Church who ~~Only those who are~~ not in-active members may vote.

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ARTICLE VIII. Quorum

Twenty percent of the active membership will constitute a quorum for membership meetings. The quorum number will be determined annually.