

Charge to the Constitution Revision Task Force of 2017

The Constitution Revision Task Force of 2017 (CRTF) is responsible for preparing recommendations to the Board of Trustees for amending the Constitution of The Unitarian Church in Westport. In 2017 the Board has identified four issues it wishes reviewed:

- 1) Changing the language describing the work of the Nominating and Leadership Development Committee to the end of removing the “leadership development” accountabilities and limiting the scope of the elected Nominating Committee to developing a slate of candidates for election at each year’s Annual Congregational Meeting. *[Article X Section 2.]; and*
- 2) To study and evaluate the question of whether or not making a pledge of financial support to the congregation and also paying on that pledge in the current or prior fiscal year in order to maintain membership is too high a bar and what other metrics of membership should be included in the Constitution; *[Article VI Sections 1. and 2.]; and*
- 3) To study and evaluate the pros and cons of preparing a recommendation to make the Committee on Ministries (COM) a standing committee of the Board of Trustees in alignment with the principles and practice of policy governance. *[Article X Section 4.]; and*
- 4) To study and evaluate the request from the Finance Committee to include a Church Debt limitation provision. [New]

Convener

- Ensures that the CRTF committee develops a work plan for study, discernment and preparation of recommendations for the Board of Trustees to present at its March 21, 2017 meeting;
- Manages agendas and Task Force activities to meet expectations for comprehensive review of the issues related to giving/pledging and membership and the history of the changes in defining membership at TUCW;
- Ensures the integrity of the Task Force’s actions, including communicating with the Board and staff when questions arise during study and discernment; and
- Continue to serve as the spokesperson for the Task Force in making public statements on recommendations to the Board and, if approved, in congregational forums and written communications leading up to the Congregational vote on Amendments.

The Task Force will consist of five to seven members:

Two members appointed by the Board of Trustees from among its own members.
Three to five additional members of the congregation appointed by the Board.

Criteria for Membership

- Commitment to attend meetings and actively participate in the work and meet the timeframe described in preparing the report to the Board.
- Members of the congregation who have expressed interest in doing this work.
- Ability to objectively review the pros and cons of making changes in the Constitution that are being requested by the Board.

Deliverables

- Prepares amendment language consistent in style with the Constitution that is currently in effect;
- Collaborates with staff and committees/constituencies most affected by suggested changes in the process of preparing recommendations to the Board. Affected constituencies include: the Nominating and Leadership Development Committee, the Committee on Ministries, the Finance Committee and Staff, and prior Constitution Revision committee participants.
- Prepares a report to the Board with recommendations on whether or not to proceed with amendments to the Constitution this coming June including pros and cons of taking the action(s) recommended.
- Will present recommendations to the Board on March 21, 2017. Information for the Board Packet submitted to the Secretary of the Board no later than March 14, 2017.