



# The CommUUnicator

Newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist  
Fellowship of Waynesboro

## How UUs Do Democratic Process

Back in October, a commission established by the board of the Unitarian Universalist Association put out a [draft](#) of a new version of Article II of the [UUA bylaws](#). The commission's assigned task was to do an evaluation and possibly a revision of Article II that is, in broadest strokes, required by the UUA bylaws. The [commission's report](#) with final proposed language was issued this week. Article II is perhaps the most important part of the bylaws in the mind of most Unitarian Universalists in the pews who are not policy wonks because it is where the official formulations of the seven principles and six sources are located.

The content is important, but I want to touch briefly here on democratic process, a decision-making principle we have long treasured as a movement. The UUA board convened the Article II Study Commission in 2020 and issued a charge that began with simple study of the history of this article and these features within our association's history. Then, after studying, the commission began meeting with and soliciting feedback from UU stakeholders.

The commission's report has a page-long list of stakeholders, including congregational leaders, UU professional organizations such as the Unitarian Universalist Ministers Association (UUMA) and the Liberal Religious Educators Association (LREDA), identity groups, philosophical and theological groups, UUA staff, UU seminaries, UUs who are not members of any congregation, and others.

The commission has also held multiple open response sessions and asked for survey responses with lots of room open for individual opinions and perspectives. They have presented their thoughts and sought the responses of participants. Sometimes those meetings have been tough encounters when some attendees did not care for the initial ideas of the commission. The commission presented a draft revision to Article II in October, and after a response period, have incorporated critiques and participants' ideas in their report. Now the UUA board will consider whether they wish to make any amendments to the proposed wording.

In June 2023, after months available for congregations to examine the proposed wording, it will come to a vote at the UUA General Assembly in Pittsburg. Delegates of member congregations may participate in a mini-assembly to decide whether any further amendments in the wording have sufficient support to be voted on by the gathered body of all delegates. Then in the assembly, delegates will first debate and vote on whether to incorporate any of those amendments and then will vote on the final Article II revision.

If the final version of the Article II revision is voted in by a simple majority of voting delegates, it will then be voted on again a year later at the 2024 General Assembly. It will take a two-thirds majority vote of the delegates at the 2024 General Assembly to be adopted as the new Article II of the UUA bylaws. If either vote fails, a similar proposal cannot be considered for two years.

From start to potential finish, this Article II revision process will take four years.

This is how Unitarian Universalist democratic process works. Only congregations' delegates vote at the end of this bylaws process. But the process is designed to gather the fullest possible participation and understanding of what Unitarian Universalists hold to be our guiding light into the future. It is not precipitous but measured, representative, and deliberative.

Peace and Blessings,  
Rev. Paul

### Community News

In early January the **Waynesboro Family YMCA** was the victim of a hate crime when someone spray painted swastikas on the center's mural. On Saturday, January 21 at 3:00 p.m., there will be a prayer vigil at the center to show support for the center and their good work and stand up against such hateful actions. We are all encouraged to attend to show our support. The Waynesboro Family YMCA is located at 648 South Wayne Ave.

A [Housing-for-All Vigil](#) will be held on Sunday, January 22 at 3:00 p.m. outside the Embrace Community Center, 932 Fir Street, Waynesboro. The event is organized by Virginia Organizing in partnership with the VA Interfaith Center and is part of a statewide effort this weekend to urge state legislators to support funding for affordable housing. The UUFW Social Justice team is joining in support. New team member, Diane Livick, has volunteered to read a message at the vigil. We are all encouraged to attend the vigil and write letters to our legislators. This [Fact Sheet](#) has specific details about the housing crisis.

### UUFW Open House

The Membership Team is making a determined effort to promote the growth of our congregation. Its most recent action was to have an "Open House" service in an effort to bring back members who have drifted away and reach out to new people. Postcard invitations were sent to those who perhaps have missed us over time, and current members were encouraged to invite newcomers. As the photos below show, the Fellowship Hall on Sunday was full with members and about 20 visitors. Some had familiar faces and many were new. Rev. Paul gave an excellent sermon on UU 101, music was provided by blue stone sky and the coffee-hour goodies were exceptional.

