

UNITY TEMPLE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION CONSTITUTION

*Approved by congregation on April 21, 1996
Amended November 21, 2010.*

ARTICLE I

Name

The name of this organization shall be Unity Temple Unitarian Universalist Congregation.

ARTICLE II

Purpose

- A. Affirm and extend fellowship within our community to all who share our common vision without prejudice or discrimination;
- B. Strengthen, nurture and share in freedom each person's quest for spirituality, meaning, and truth through formal and informal experiences;
- C. Demonstrate within the larger community our shared values of respect for the earth, for justice, and for peace, showing compassion in the face of suffering, and offering a forum for social action and service to the community;
- D. Provide a cooperative and democratic framework for setting and implementing policies and goals.

ARTICLE III

Denominational Affiliation

Unity Temple Unitarian Universalist Congregation shall be a member of the Unitarian Universalist Association, of the Central Midwest District of the UUA, and of the Chicago Area Unitarian Universalist Council.

ARTICLE IV

Membership

Any person in sympathy with the principles and purposes of this congregation is welcome as a member. Membership implies an understanding that the programs of this organization cannot be conducted without a serious commitment of time, talents, and money by its members. Membership is accomplished by:

- A. Signing the membership book,
- B. Making a gesture of commitment to the welfare of this congregation, and
- C. Meeting any requirements which the bylaws or the board of trustees pursuant to the bylaws may establish to ensure understanding of the meaning of Unitarian Universalism.

ARTICLE V

Corporate Meetings

- A. Annual Meeting. There shall be one regularly scheduled meeting of the membership to be held at such time and place as the board of trustees shall determine, which shall be for the purpose of electing trustees, receiving reports of trustees and committees, approving the budget, and for any other business which may arise.

- B. Special Meetings. Special meetings of the membership may be called by the board of trustees, or as provided for in the bylaws.
- C. Notice of Corporate Meetings. Notice of all corporate meetings for transacting congregational business shall appear in the newsletter and the Sunday bulletin and shall be sent to every member at least two weeks before the date of the meeting. The agenda of business shall be specified in the meeting notice.
- D. Quorum. A quorum shall be constituted by twenty percent of members who are eligible to vote. Friends of the congregation who are not eligible to vote shall still be welcome at all meetings and shall be given the courtesy of the floor.

ARTICLE VI

Board of Trustees

In accordance with the constitution and bylaws, the board of trustees shall be responsible for the general welfare of the congregation. The board of trustees shall be elected as provided for in the bylaws.

ARTICLE VII

Minister

- A. The senior minister of this congregation shall have been granted ministerial fellowship in the Unitarian Universalist Association.
- B. The relationship between minister or ministers and the congregation shall follow provisions delineated in the bylaws, article VII.

ARTICLE VIII

Amendments to Constitution

- A. Proposals to amend this constitution shall be submitted in writing to those present at a corporate meeting called for that purpose.
- B. The proposed constitutional amendments shall be referred to the board of trustees for consideration only if a two-thirds majority of the members present who are eligible to vote approve of the referral.
- C. If directed to consider proposed amendments, the board of trustees shall mail its recommendations to all members at least sixty days before a corporate meeting to vote on the proposed amendments.
- D. For the proposed amendments to become effective, a majority of all members who are eligible to vote must approve the said changes. Provisions shall be made for voting by absentee ballot.

ARTICLE IX

Amendments to Bylaws

- A. Proposed amendments to the bylaws shall be submitted in writing to those present at a corporate meeting called for that purpose following Article V.C. above.
- B. For the proposed amendments to become effective, two-thirds of the members who are eligible to vote and either are present at the corporate meeting or have voted by absentee ballot must approve the changes.

ARTICLE X

Dissolution

This congregation may be dissolved according to the laws of the State of Illinois. Should the dissolution be approved by members who are eligible to vote, any assets shall be transferred to the Unitarian Universalist Association in full compliance with all applicable laws.