

Resolution Concerning an Ad Hoc Committee on Communication

Whereas, we and our congregants are emerging from 16 months of enforced isolation due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and during that time most of us saw few if any of the others in the congregation, and none of them in person;

Whereas, we will likely continue to function in a hybrid communications environment for both meetings and Sunday celebrations, which is likely to lead to both technological and social communication issues and challenges that we have never encountered before;

Whereas, we have a new Administrator, five new members on the Board of Trustees, and an Interim Minister for the 2021-22 church year;

And whereas, good communication between and among all groups in the First Unitarian Society is essential for the health of the Society, its smooth functioning, good morale, and the pursuit of its mission;

Be it resolved, that we will create an Ad Hoc Committee on Communication to gather and share information on communication methods, challenges, and possibilities, and to advise the Board on communication issues.

The Committee shall consist of 5-6 members, including a representative of each of the following: the Board of Trustees, the Membership and Outreach Team, the Way Forward Team, the staff, and the congregation at large. The Committee's term will be one year, with the option to renew its term if needed.

The scope of the Committee's work may include some or all of the following:

- communication within the Board of Trustees;
- communication between the Board and the Minister;
- communication between the Board and the Society's various committees and teams;
- communication between the Board and the congregation; and
- communication among members of the congregation.

The Committee may consider social and psychological aspects as well as technological aspects of communication, and communication media, methods, and strategies. It may also consider how to foster communication which is respectful and within the bounds of the First Unitarian Society's covenant.

The Committee will do its work with the goal of arriving at a set of policy recommendations for fostering open, constructive, and meaningful communication at all levels on an ongoing basis at FUSIT. We create this Committee with the recognition that communication is an ongoing challenge, but also with the recognition that effective communication has great potential to foster strong, constructive relationships and build community.

Margaret Nichols, 7/21/21

amended 8/15/21