# **Bylaws**



Revised January 24, 2021

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### **Mission Statement**

With courageous love and a sense of wonder, we cultivate our spiritual, emotional, and intellectual strength to create a world more compassionate, sustainable, and just.

**Preamble** 

1		Preamble
2	The p	ourpose of the Unitarian Universalist Community of the Mountains (the "Community") is to
3	foste	r liberal religious living through worship, study, service and fellowship guided by the
4	Unita	rian Universalist Principles and a shared commitment to anti-racist, anti-oppressive, and
5	mult	cultural practice. Based on a foundation of individual freedom of belief and relying upon
6	reaso	on as our guide we seek to grow in understanding of ourselves and of our world, and to
7	prom	ote and serve the universal family.
8		Article 1
9	1.	Scope of Authority and Limitations
10		The Community, acting through its Board of Trustees (the "Board"), may do any lawful act
11 12		that may be necessary or convenient to fulfill its purpose, except as otherwise limited by these bylaws.
13		Article 2
14	2.	Denomination Affiliation
15		This Community is a member of the Unitarian Universalist Association and of the Pacific
16		Western Region. It is the intention of this Community to make annual financial
17		contributions to the Association and the Region.
18		Article 3
19	3.	Fiscal Year
20		The fiscal year of the Community is July 1 through June 30.
21		Article 4
22	4.	Members
23		4.1. <u>Meaning of Membership</u>
24		Being a Member of the Community ("Member") means being in covenantal
25		relationship with other Members, committing to support the Community and its
26		mission with time, energy, talent and treasure, agreeing with the Seven Principles o
27		the Unitarian Universalist Association, and declaring personal identification as a
28		Unitarian Universalist.
29		Members of the Community are also members of the Unitarian Universalist
30		Association.
31		4.2. <u>Eligibility</u>
32		Membership is open to any person 18 years of age or older, regardless of creed,
33		race, color, sex, gender, identity or expression, affectional and sexual orientation,
34		ethnic and national origin, social status, financial means, marital status, or disability
35		Membership status may be extended to youths younger than 18 years of age, if
36		approved by the Minister and sponsored by an adult Member who is not their

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parent or legal guardian.

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38 Entering into membership requires meeting with the minister, or their designee, participating in an orientation, being in sympathy with the Community's purpose, 39 and signing the membership book. 40 4.3. Requirements & Privileges 41 Members: 42 43 actively support the Community's Mission, by participating in programs and activities of the Community as they are able, 44 agree to abide by the Community's Covenant of Right Relations, 45 make an annual financial pledge with an annual financial contribution of 46 record. Exceptions to the financial contribution requirement may be granted 47 one (1) year at a time for specific individuals at the discretion of the Minister. 48 49 The Board, in consultation with the minister, may refuse membership to someone for cause in the best interests of the Community. 50 51 Thirty (30) days after signing the Membership Book, Members may vote, be nominated for an elected position, be appointed to decision-making positions, or 52 serve on any committee, team, work group or task force. Members under 18 years of 53 54 age may not hold positions of fiscal responsibility. Removal from Membership 55 4.4. 56 Members may be removed from membership: 57 upon resignation of the Member, preferably in writing to the Minister or 58 Board President, or 59 if their pledge for the next fiscal year has not been received by the Treasurer within thirty (30) days after the start of that fiscal year and in addition a 60 financial contribution of record has not been received for the previous fiscal 61 year within 30 days after the close of that fiscal year, or 62 63 if the Member, in spite of counseling by the minister or designee, repeatedly engages in destructive behavior that threatens the emotional and/or physical 64 security of others at UUCM, or 65 66 if the Member, in spite of counseling by the minister or designee, repeatedly demonstrates destructive disregard of the Community's Covenant of Right 67 Relations or UU Principles. 68 69 4.5. **Process for Removal** 70 In the event of resignation or failure of a Member to meet the financial obligations 71 defined in this Article, and upon two-thirds affirmative vote of the Board, membership will be revoked... 72 73

In the case of destructive behavior or destructive disregard of the Community's Covenant of Right Relations, the Community's policies will be followed. Such policies will be in harmony with the Community's values, mission and Covenant of Right Relations and these bylaws. The wellbeing of the Community as a whole will be given priority over the privileges and inclusion of an individual whose behavior is dangerous or destructive. Removal from membership for destructive behavior will be decided by a vote of two-thirds affirmative vote of the Board.

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### 4.6. Reinstatement

If a Member who resigned or who was removed from membership for failure to meet the financial obligations and who later wishes to rejoin the Community as a Member, must meet with the Minister. Upon receiving a report from the Minister, the Board may approve reinstatement as determined by an affirmative vote of two-thirds of the Board. The reinstated Member must comply with these bylaws.

Any person who was excluded or expelled from the Community and wishes to rejoin must meet with the Minister and will submit a written request for reinstatement by the Board. The Board and Minister will review the request and respond in writing within sixty (60) days regarding the Board's decision on reinstatement. The decision of the Board is not subject to review.

A reinstatement request may be made no sooner than one (1) year following the removal and no sooner than one (1) year following a Board decision to not grant a request for reinstatement.

### Article 5

#### 5. Friends

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### 5.1. <u>Eligibility</u>

Becoming a Friend of the Community is open to any person 18 years of age or older, regardless of creed, race, color, sex, gender, identity or expression, affectional and sexual orientation, ethnic and national origin, social status, financial means, marital status, or disability.

A Friend is in sympathy with the Community's purpose, and would like to, support the Community's Mission through active participation and financial support.

### 5.2. <u>Requirements and Privileges</u>

#### Friends:

- actively support the Community's Mission by participating in programs and activities of the Community as they are able,
- agree to abide by the Community's Covenant of Right Relations,
- make an annual financial pledge with an annual financial contribution of record.

Friends may participate fully in most aspects of spiritual and social activities of Community life – including worship services, social events, choir, classes and workshops. Friends may also participate in volunteer activities in nondecision-making roles on ministry teams and task forces at the discretion of the Minister and in accordance with policies adopted by the Board.

Friend status may be revoked or reinstated under the same conditions as defined in Article 4 of these bylaws.

Friends are not eligible to vote.

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Article 6 118 Officers and Board of Trustees 119 6. 120 **Board Membership** 6.1. The Board is comprised of the following members: 121 122 A President 123 A Vice President 124 A Treasurer 125 A Secretary 126 Three (3) Trustees at Large 127 To be elected President, the Member must have served previously on the Board or have comparable or equivalent experience. 128 129 6.2. **Election of Board Members** 130 Board candidates are proposed by the Nominating Committee and elected at the 131 Annual Community Business Meeting. Additional nominations may be proposed 132 from the floor. Family members or persons in the same household may not serve on the Board at the same time. 133 134 6.3. **Term Limits** 135 Officers are elected for a two (2) year term with the option for a one (1) consecutive reelection. President and Vice President will be elected in odd numbered years and 136 Secretary and Treasurer will be elected in even numbered years. 137 138 Trustees-at-Large are elected for two (2) year terms with the option for a one (1) 139 consecutive reelection. Two (2) Trustees-at-Large are elected in even numbered years and one (1) Trustee-at-Large is elected in odd numbered years. 140 141 Elected Board members cannot be elected for three (3) consecutive terms. 142 6.4. **Board's Powers and Responsibilities** 143 The Board has a fiduciary responsibility to the Community in the conduct of its business affairs. This includes the control of its administration, management of 144 145 assets, and protecting the tax -exempt status of the Community. The Board's 146 responsibilities include establishing committees, oversight, monitoring, and evaluation of overall Community efforts in fulfilling the Community's mission. 147 148 6.4.1. Officers 149 The President, Vice President, Treasurer, and Secretary are officers of the Board and of the corporation. The officers perform the duties as defined in 150 these bylaws and in their job descriptions, as developed by the Board. 151 152 Removal of a Board Member 6.4.2. If a member of the Board misses three (3) monthly Board Business meetings 153 in a twelve-month period, the Board may declare that position vacant. The 154 155 affected Board member must be notified by the Secretary of impending removal by written notice mailed not less five (5) days before the next 156 regular Board meeting. 157

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#### 158 6.4.3. **Vacancies in Elected Positions** If a vacancy occurs in midterm for an elected position the Board may 159 appoint a replacement until the completion of the term for that vacated 160 position. Term limits as stated in these bylaws will apply. 161 162 **Spending Authority** 6.4.4. The Board may delegate spending authority as needed for efficiency in 163 164 managing the annual general funds budget approved by the Community. The Board may also authorize expenditures and incur financial obligations 165 over and above the approved Annual Budget, not to exceed twenty percent 166 (20%) of the General Funds Investments plus the General Funds projected 167 168 net profit/loss for the fiscal year. This restriction does not apply to special funds raised in accordance with the Board's instructions for special projects. 169 170 6.4.5. Gift Acceptance The Board may decline to accept any financial gifts or tendered property 171 172 that in its opinion would not be of any benefit to the Community, would be difficult to administer, expose the Community to a liability, or be 173 174 inconsistent with the principles or tax-exempt status of the Community. This 175 includes gifts of tangible property or financial gifts with conditions as to the 176 use of the principle or income. 177 For a single gift of \$2,000 or more which is not specifically designated by the donor, the Board will decide how the funds will be used. 178 179 6.4.6. **Policies** 180 In order to promote efficiency in the best interests of the Community, the Board will from time to time adopt, amend, or repeal policies and guidelines 181 as necessary to implement, interpret, or clarify provisions of these bylaws. 182 183 Such policies and guidelines must be consistent with the letter, spirit, and/or intent of the bylaws, and will be published to Members fourteen (14) 184 days in advance of Board approval of the policy. 185 186 6.5. **Board Business Meetings** The Board conducts a monthly Board Business Meeting at a time and place chosen 187 by the Board members. 188 189 The Community must be notified of the date, time and place of the monthly Board 190 Business Meetings at least fourteen (14) days in advance. The Board will decide the 191 methods of communication, including by electronic means and newsletters, to 192 achieve notice to the greatest number of the Community. 193 Business meetings of the Board will be open for observation. If the Board 194 determines the business at hand is of a confidential nature, discussion may be held 195 in a closed session. All voting must be done in open sessions while keeping sensitive 196 information confidential. 197 6.5.1. **Emergency Business Meetings** 198 The Board may conduct emergency business meetings when the following 199 three (3) conditions are met:

the matter is of an urgent nature, and

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201				<ul> <li>a vote of the Board is required, and</li> </ul>
202				<ul> <li>the vote cannot be postponed until the next Board Business Meeting.</li> </ul>
203 204				Emergency Board Business Meetings do not require notice to the Community and will follow all voting requirements in this Article.
205 206 207			6.5.2.	Quorum and Voting for Board Business Meetings A quorum for a Board Business Meeting requires all of the following three (3) conditions to be met:
208				<ul> <li>The President or Vice President must be present.</li> </ul>
209				<ul> <li>A minimum of two (2) officers must be present.</li> </ul>
210				<ul> <li>A minimum of four (4) Board members must be present.</li> </ul>
211 212				An affirmative vote by a simple majority of those present in person is sufficient for a motion to pass unless otherwise stated in these bylaws.
213 214 215 216 217			6.5.3.	Electronic Meetings Any meeting of the Board described in this Article may be held in electronic format or in a combined in-person and electronic format. The actions taken at such a meeting will have the same full force and effect as if all Board members were present in person.
218				Article 7
219 220 221 222 223 224 225	7.	<b>Comr</b> 7.1.	Annual The An by law,	Business Meetings Land Special Community Business Meetings Inual Community Business Meeting is held in May, unless otherwise required at a time and place chosen by the Board. The Board may call a special unity Business Meeting at any time. The Board must call a special Community ss Meeting upon written request signed by ten percent (10%) of ership.
226 227 228 229 230 231		7.2.	Notice The bu a writt before	of Community Business Meetings and Agenda siness to be transacted at a Community Business Meeting is communicated in en notice of the meeting and sent to all Members at least fourteen (14) days the meeting. The Board will decide the methods of communication, including tronic means and newsletters, to achieve notice to the greatest number of the
232 233			_	genda as sent out in the written notice may be modified or replaced by a ty affirmative vote of the Members present.
234			The An	nual Community Business Meeting agenda includes:
235			_	President's Report
236			_	Minister's Report
237			_	Treasurer's Report
238			_	Endowment Committee Report
239			_	Adoption of the next fiscal year's Annual Budget

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		<u> </u>
240		<ul> <li>Election of members to the Board</li> </ul>
241		<ul> <li>Election of members to the Nominating Committee</li> </ul>
242		<ul> <li>Other items brought by the Board</li> </ul>
243 244 245 246 247	7.3.	Electronic Meetings Any business meeting of the Community described in this Article may, at the discretion of the Board, be held in electronic format, or combined in-person and electronic format. The actions taken at such a meeting will have the same full force and effect as if Members were present in person.
248 249 250	7.4.	Voting Methods Voting is conducted by the presiding officer who also determines the voting method. Voting may be done by one of the following:
251		<ul> <li>Voting cards, or</li> </ul>
252		<ul> <li>General consent, or</li> </ul>
253		<ul><li>Voice, or</li></ul>
254		<ul> <li>Written ballot or</li> </ul>
255		<ul> <li>Proxy voting, or</li> </ul>
256 257 258		<ul> <li>Roll call.</li> <li>7.4.1. <u>Absentee Ballots</u>         Absentee ballots are not allowed.     </li> </ul>
259 260 261 262 263		7.4.2. Proxy Ballots Proxy voting is allowed for some decisions as stated in the following sections of this Article. Written proxies must be recorded before the meeting is called to order. Upon presentation of a proxy authorization, a voting card will be issued to authorize the Member to be a proxy.
264 265 266		7.4.3. Written Ballots Written ballots will be used if requested by the presiding officer or by any two (2) voting Members who are present.
267 268 269 270 271 272 273	7.5.	Quorum and Affirmative Votes 7.5.1. General Voting General voting is defined as any vote which is not specified in this Article. A quorum for general voting consists of twenty percent (20%) of the Community's total membership who are qualified to vote and present at the meeting. An affirmative vote by a simple majority is sufficient for a motion to pass except for decisions specified in this Article. Proxy voting is allowed.
274 275 276 277 278		7.5.2. Buying or Selling Real Property A quorum for decisions regarding buying or selling of real property is fifty percent (50%) of the Community's total membership who are qualified to vote and present at the meeting. A seventy-five percent (75%) affirmative vote is needed for these motions to pass. Proxy voting is not allowed.
279		7.5.3. <u>Calling a Minister</u>

A quorum for decisions to call a minister is fifty percent (50%) of the

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Community's total membership who are qualified to vote and present at the 281 meeting. A ninety percent (90%) affirmative vote is needed for these 282 283 motions to pass. Proxy voting is not allowed. 284 Dismissing a Minister 7.5.4. 285 A quorum for decisions to dismiss a minister is fifty percent (50%) of the Community's total membership who are qualified to vote and present at the 286 287 meeting. A thirty percent (30%) affirmative vote is needed to dismiss a minister. Proxy voting is not allowed. 288 289 7.5.5. **Amending or Replacing Bylaws** 290 A quorum for decisions to amend or replace bylaws is forty percent (40%) of the Community's total membership who are qualified to vote and present 291 292 at the meeting. A two-thirds majority vote is needed for these decisions. 293 Proxy voting is not allowed Article 8 294 295 8. **Minister** 296 **General Duties** 8.1. 297 The Minister will perform the duties customary to that office in liberal churches, 298 working in close cooperation with the Board, staff, committees and ministry teams 299 to sustain a productive partnership with the Community in support of the Mission. 300 values, and goals. The Minister has primary responsibility for the spiritual and 301 ethical life of the Community. 302 The Minister is head of staff and all ministry programs and acts as an advisor to the Board. 303 304 The Guidelines of the Unitarian Universalist Ministers Association are the standard for the professional conduct of the Minister and for the relations between the 305 Minister and the Community. 306 307 8.2. Rights and Responsibilities The Minister and Community share responsibility for overall ministry programs to 308 fulfill the Community's mission. The Board and the Minister are jointly responsible 309 for an annual evaluation of the Community's programs and ministries. 310 311 The Minister has freedom to express opinions, honest convictions, and beliefs and 312 has freedom of the pulpit. The Minister is encouraged to participate actively in the life of the denomination, the Community, and the neighboring community. The 313 314 Minister has the support and assistance of the Community in properly allocating time between obligations to the Community and needs for family privacy, 315 316 recreation, study, and professional development. 317 Ministerial Search Committee 8.3. When a Community Business Meeting determines the readiness to call a Minister, a 318 319 Ministerial Search Committee of five to seven Community Members will be selected The Ministerial Search Committee must follow the ministerial search guidelines of 320 321 the Unitarian Universalist Association and operate in a confidential manner. 322 Ministerial Search Committee members may not serve on the committee and the 323

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Board at the same time and may not be a family member or person in the same

household as a Board member or another Ministerial Search Committee member. 324 325 8.4. Call and Letter of Agreement When the Ministerial Search Committee has selected a suitable candidate, it must 326 arrange to present the candidate's credentials to the Community in a Community 327 Business Meeting assembled for that purpose. The Minister is called to serve the 328 329 Community upon recommendation of the Ministerial Search Committee and by an 330 affirmative vote of the membership as defined in Article 7. A Letter of Agreement 331 specifies the duties and compensation of the Minister and is signed by the called Minister and the President. 332 333 8.5. Dismissal 334 The Minister may be dismissed by a vote of the Members as defined in Article 7. 335 8.6. Resignation 336 The Minister must give ninety (90) days' notice to resign, except that the Board may allow shorter notice. 337 Article 9 338 339 9. **Committees** 340 Committees exist to help the Board to govern, are under the direction of the Board, and are 341 accountable to the Board for their performance. Committees are established and disbanded 342 by the Board to further the mission of the Community. 343 Unless otherwise specified in these bylaws, the Board appoints committee chairs and committee members. Committee chairs and committee members must be Community 344 345 Members qualified to vote. All meetings of committees shall be open unless the need for confidentiality requires a 346 closed session. 347 348 The following committees are required: 349 9.1. **Committee on Shared Ministry** The purpose of the Committee on Shared Ministry is to strengthen the quality of the 350 351 shared and mutual ministry within the Community. On behalf of, and in light of the Community's mission, the Committee on Shared Ministry systematically assesses. 352 reports on, and makes recommendations regarding the effectiveness of the 353 354 Community's entire ministry in all of its interrelated facets. 355 The Committee on Shared Ministry consists of the Minister and three (3) Members of the Community appointed to staggered three-year terms. Candidates are 356 357 nominated by the Minister and appointed by the Board. Committee members cannot concurrently serve on the Board or in a staff position. Committee members cannot 358 serve two (2) consecutive terms unless their first appointment was to fill an 359 360 unfinished term and the duration of the unfinished term was less than one (1) year. 9.2. 361 **Finance Committee** The purpose of the Finance Committee is to assist the Board in managing the 362 363 Community's finances, investments, and assets. The committee leads the 364 development of the Annual Budget through collaboration with the Board and

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Minister.

The Finance Committee consists of four to six (4-6) members appointed by the Board to staggered three (3) year terms. Members may be reappointed once for a three (3) year term.

### 9.3. Endowment Committee

The purpose of the Endowment Committee is to encourage, receive and administer The Community's Endowment Fund in a manner consistent with the loyalty and devotion expressed by the donors and in accord with the policies of this Community.

The Committee consists of three to five (3-5) members. The Board initially appoints members of the Endowment Committee as follows: a maximum of two (2) members for a term of three (3) years, a maximum of two (2) members for a term of two (2)years, and one (1) member for a term of one (1) year. Subsequently, the Board appoints the necessary number for a term of three (3) years. No member serves more than two (2) consecutive three (3) year terms.

### 9.4. Nominating Committee

The Nominating Committee nominates Board members as specified in Article 6 and nominates the next Nominating Committee.

The Committee consists of five (5) members who are elected at the Annual Community Business Meeting for a one (1) year term and may be nominated and elected for one additional one (1) year term. Committee members will not be a member of the Board. A Committee member will not participate in the candidate selection process when a family member or person in the same household is being considered for nomination of any elected position.

### Article 10

#### 10. Covenant Not to Discriminate

The Community does not discriminate in calling a Minister and in its hiring practices, its governance, its activities, or use of its facilities on the basis of race, color, sex, gender, identity or expression, affectional and sexual orientation, ethnic and national origin age, social status, financial means, marital status, or disability.

### Article 11

#### 11. Dissolution

If the Community is dissolved, any just claims upon it will be paid. All of its property, real and personal, must then be conveyed to and vested in the Unitarian Universalist Association or its legal successor, and the Board of the Community shall perform all actions necessary to effectuate such conveyance.

### Article 12

#### 12. Indemnification

The Community will indemnify any person who is or was an employee, trustee, agent, representative, or member of the Board, against any liability asserted against such person and incurred in the course and scope of their duties or functions with the Community to the maximum extent allowable by law, provided the person acted in good faith and did not engage in an act or omission that was intentional, willful or wantonly negligent, or done with conscious indifference or reckless disregard for the safety of others. The provisions of

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this Article are not exclusive of any other rights to which such person may be entitled under any bylaw, agreement, insurance policy, or vote of the Community's Members.

410 **Article 13** 

#### 411 **13. Insurance**

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The Community will purchase and maintain insurance on behalf of any person who is or was a Community Member, director, officer, employee, or agent against any liability asserted against such person and incurred by such person in any such capacity or arising out of such person's status whether or not the corporation would have the power or obligation to indemnify such person against such liability under this Article.

Article 14

### 14. Amendments and Replacement

These bylaws may be amended or replaced at any Community Business Meeting subject to the requirements in Article 7.

### 14.1. Proposing Amendments

Amendments to these bylaws may be proposed:

- By the Board, acting on its own motion, or,
- On the petition of at least ten percent (10%) of Community Members submitted to the Board at a Board Business Meeting not less than forty-five (45) days before a Community Business Meeting.

### 14.2. Adopting Amendments

Amendments to these bylaws may be adopted at any duly called Community Business Meeting in accordance with Article 7 of these bylaws. Amendments to these bylaws will be published to Members at least fourteen (14) days before the meeting to adopt. The Board will decide the methods of communication, including by electronic means and newsletters, to achieve notice to the greatest number of the Community. Approved amendment(s) take effect immediately after adoption, unless otherwise stated in the amendment.

Article 15

### 15. Effective Date of Original bylaws (1995)

These bylaws became effective August 6, 1995 upon a unanimous vote at the Community Business Meeting.

### **Amendments**

Amended and approved at the Community Business Meeting of May 19, 2002
Amended and approved at the Community Business Meeting of May 22, 2005
Amended and approved at the Community Business Meeting of May 18, 2008
Amended and approved at the Community Business Meeting of May 18, 2014
Amended and approved at the Community Business Meeting of January 25, 2015
Amended and approved at the Community Business Meeting of May 31, 2015
Amended and approved at the Community Business Meeting of May 22, 2016
Amended and approved at the Community Business Meeting of January 29, 2017
Amended and approved at the Community Business Meeting of May 20, 2018
Amended and approved at the Community Business Meeting of January 26, 2020
Amended and approved at the Community Business Meeting of May 31, 2020
Amended and approved at the Community Business Meeting of January 24, 2021

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