

Rationales for Membership Amendments:

The Stewardship Task Force was charged by the BBUUC Board to explore, discuss and submit to the Bylaws Committee suggestions for possible changes to current BBUUC membership requirements. The growth, prosperity and well-being of the members and congregation as a whole were considered when making these suggestions. The suggestions were reviewed by the Bylaws Task force, which then sought feedback from members of other committees and the Board. The rationales supporting the changes that were generally agreed upon after this process were:

- In view of the many privileges and benefits that we receive as members, such as access to church programs, facilities, refreshments, and voting on how to run the church, it is reasonable to expect members to contribute both money **and** volunteer work. If prospective members are informed of these expectations, those who do not want to contribute are free to decline membership.
- We do not believe the church should promote or accept a culture whereby generous donors subsidize those who do not contribute financially.
- If we specified a minimum pledge amount, the amount would necessarily be small, much smaller than the great majority of pledges we generally receive. This could well set in people's minds an expectation that, as long as they give this amount, they are giving enough. People should instead be encouraged to give the Fair Share amount, which a stated minimum would deter.
- Those who are already members in good standing of other UU congregations, and are committed to our faith, should not be expected to acquire knowledge that they already have by taking new member classes.
- The Board should have the option, however rarely applied, of rejecting those applicants who have had difficulty remaining in covenant in their previous UU communities. The same concept applies to former members wishing to reinstate.
- New Member orientation is important. Prospective members who are new to our religion need to find out what faith they are getting into, what principles they are agreeing to uphold, and the nature of the congregation that they are about to join. We want members to understand our faith, its proud history, and the history of BBUUC, so that they can commit to membership with their eyes wide open.

Rationale for removing term limits from the Treasurer position:

Current BBUUC bylaws include a two-year term limit for Treasurer. The church accounting function is complex and involves a significant learning curve for each new Treasurer. This past fiscal year was further complicated by a changeover in accounting software. Each time a new Treasurer takes over, there is a significant workload and an increased risk of errors; therefore, we recommend changing the bylaws to eliminate the term limit for Treasurer.