

FIRST UNITARIAN
CONGREGATIONAL SOCIETY
BROOKLYN
A UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION

General Rules for Congregational Meetings

People are asked to speak for themselves, not for what they believe others may think. Also, people are asked to be mindful of the feelings of others in the way that they phrase their remarks.

So that our on-line participants and those with hearing loss can participate fully, you must be at a microphone before being recognized to speak.

Comments are limited to 2 minutes per person.

The moderator will call on people with differing points of view alternately.

No one will be called upon to speak for a second time before everyone wishing to speak has spoken once.

Procedural questions, questions for information, and right relations/process questions will be addressed as soon as they are made known to the moderator, before calling on other speakers or moving on to another item of business.

No vote on a motion will be taken before 15 minutes of comments have expired or there are no more people seeking to comment.

After 15 minutes, the question may be called. A 2/3 vote is required to end debate and proceed to a vote on the motion.

There must be a 2/3 vote to extend discussion beyond the time allotted on the agenda.

A motion to adopt the budget as a whole will be presented by the Board of Trustees. The budget motion is not amendable.

For this meeting, all votes will be taken by a show of hands. In the case of a close vote, the moderator may call for the use of ballots.

Except as written above and in the congregational by-laws, the meeting will be conducted according to Robert's Rules of Order.

Approved by the Board of Trustees, May 11, 2023

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Purpose Statement: The First Unitarian Congregational Society in Brooklyn is a joyful, loving, religious community that inspires and empowers people to Grow spiritually, Care for one another, and Work for social justice and stewardship of the earth
– Adopted by the Congregation - May 17, 2015

Right Relations Covenant: We are mindful that, as individuals and members of this spiritual community, we are each accountable for our words, deeds, and behavior. Therefore, whenever we worship, work together, or relate to one another, we agree to follow the following behavior covenant. I will strive to:

- Respect and cherish diversities of race, ethnicity, gender, sexual and/or affectional orientation, identity/gender expression, age, ability, beliefs and ideas.
- Assume good intentions. Trust in and speak well of one another. Give the benefit of the doubt. Examine my own intentions.
- Foster an environment of compassion, generosity, fellowship, and creativity. Smile and be welcoming. Share in the responsibilities of congregational life. Actively support the congregation's activities, and pledge financial support.
- Express appreciation and gratitude for the rich variety of gifts and talents shared among us. Empower others.
- Speak the truth as I experience it with kindness, care, and respect.
- Make decisions democratically through agreed-upon processes. Promote fairness and decency. Speak out against injustice.
- Face others directly in agreement or disagreement. Act with respect and humility when I disagree with others.
- Be mindful that words and actions may cause unintended pain.
- Seek out understanding and wisdom in the presence of conflict. Resolve conflicts through intentional compromise and collaboration and, when necessary, request mediation. Understand that sometimes it is necessary to take "no" for an answer. Be forgiving.
- Practice self-care.
- Be open to hope.

Adopted by the Congregation - March 7, 2009