

**Bylaws of the Social Justice Council  
of the First Unitarian Church of Honolulu**  
(As amended March, 2002)

The Social Justice Council created by the Charter of Principles shall be governed by the following Bylaws.

ARTICLE I -- ORGANIZATION

1. The Social Justice Council shall consist of six (6) members of The First Unitarian Church of Honolulu (hereafter, the Church), elected as provided hereinafter.
2. The members of the Council shall be elected for two-year terms by the members of the Church at the Annual Meeting as specified by the Bylaws of the Church. Their terms shall be so arranged that three members retire each year and three new members are elected in their places.
3. Membership in the Council is defined as follows:

A person may serve a maximum of two consecutive full terms on the Council. After one year, such person may be re-elected. If a member is absent from three consecutive meetings of the Council, he or she may be removed by a two-thirds vote of the remaining members. No members will be removed until the subject has been discussed with that member by a specially delegated member. The Council will comply with the principles of due process as much as possible.
4. The Nominating Committee of the Church shall present a slate of nominees containing at least one nominee for each vacancy to be filled, in accordance with the procedures in the Church Bylaws for other Church offices. The Council shall make recommendations to the Nominating Committee. Additional nominations may be made from the floor. The nominee's consent must be secured before any person may be placed in nomination.
5. Not more than three members of the Executive Board of the Church may serve concurrently on the Council.
6. If a vacancy occurs in the Council other than by completion of a term, the Council shall appoint someone to fill that vacancy for the remainder of the year until the annual elections.
7. The Council shall elect such officers as it may need from its own membership, and shall create such committees as it may need. The Chair of each committee shall be a member of the Council. Members of committees may be drawn from the whole membership of the Church.
8. The Council shall ordinarily meet at least once a month at a time and place of its own choosing. It shall announce to the members of the Church the time and place of its meetings and matters scheduled for consideration as far in advance as possible. Meetings of the Council are open to the congregation of the Church.
9. A quorum shall consist of not less than one-half of the current membership. Action shall be by majority vote of those present and voting except as hereinafter specified.

ARTICLE II -- DUTIES AND ACTION

1. The dissemination of information to the members of the Church shall in itself be considered a form of action and shall always precede any proposal for any other form of action.
2. The duties of the Council shall be:
  - b. To study any matter brought before it in the light of the Charter of Principles.
  - c. To inform the membership of the Church of the facts and of their relevance to the Principles of the Charter on any matter on which they believe that the Church should act or may wish to act.

- d. To formulate resolutions and/or specific proposals for action by the congregation on any matter on which they believe that the Church should act or may wish to act and to present them to the congregation for decision.
  - e. To carry out any program of action authorized by the congregation. The Council shall work with or through other agencies of the Church whenever possible.
  - f. There will be a standing committee for F.A.C.E. (Faith in Action for Community Equity) which will be the acknowledged liaison between F.A.C.E. and the Church. Members of this Committee will attend F.A.C.E. meetings and report back to the Council and, where appropriate, the Church, and in turn keep F.A.C.E. apprised of positions of the Church on current F.A.C.E. activities and deliberations.
3. In fulfilling its duties the Council may use any appropriate means of informing the congregation about matters which it deems important, including informal dialogues, forums, distributing printed materials, etc.
  4. The Council shall reach decisions on action items only when a quorum of the Council is present and voting, but at least four members must agree to move the action forward for presentation to the congregation.
  5. No action shall be presented to the Church unless a majority of the Council is present and voting at the presentation meeting, but in no case when supported by fewer than 4 members. Any member may submit a minority report to the Church.
  6. Records shall be kept of the trend of major dialogues of the Council, as well as action decisions. The Council shall inform the congregation of such deliberations.
  7. Adoption of resolutions and programs of public action in the name of the church may be undertaken only after approval by a two-thirds vote of the members of the congregation voting at a legal meeting of the Church except hereinafter specified. The proposed resolutions and programs of public action must be included in the call for the meeting.
  8. The Council may prepare resolutions for presentation to meetings of the Unitarian Universalist Association, the Pacific Central District, and other Unitarian Universalist agencies as well as to appropriate outside agencies such as F.A.C.E. Such resolutions shall be presented to and endorsed by the congregation before further Council action.
  9. The Council shall be responsible for securing congregational action on resolutions received from other Unitarian Universalist agencies.
  10. The Council may in its own name write letters to public officials or personages and/or the press, testify at public hearings, furnish speakers to interested groups, or perform other acts of similar magnitude in support of resolutions or programs of action approved by the Church as specified above.
  11. When the Council desires to take such action with regard to resolutions that were adopted more than five years prior to the proposed action, the Council must notify the congregation, by written announcement, of the resolution in full and the action the Council intends to take under such resolution. If fewer than three congregational members object to the proposed action within two weeks from the date of notification, then the resolution will be considered to be reaffirmed by the congregation and the Council may proceed with its intended action. However, should there be objection from more than two members of the Church, the Council must seek a reaffirmation of the resolution in a Congregational Meeting, as required in the original adoption of the resolution under these current Bylaws. A reaffirmation will begin a new five-year period during which further reaffirmation will not be necessary.

#### ARTICLE III -- PARTICIPATION

1. The fullest participation by every member and friend of the Church shall be sought and encouraged.

2. All meetings and dialogues of the Council shall be open to the entire Church constituency. The right to vote in Council meetings shall be limited to the members of the Council.
3. All members of the congregation are urged to call to the attention of the Council, in person at meetings or in writing, any matters which come to their attention and which they believe are relevant to the Charter. After thoughtful consideration and investigation, the Council shall report its conclusions and plans to the member.
4. The Council shall be encouraged to establish ad hoc study and project groups. Non-members of the Church may serve on working group and committees.

#### ARTICLE IV -- ARRANGEMENTS

1. An allocation for the necessary expenses of the Council shall be included in the annual Church budget.
2. A record shall be made of all the principal decisions and activities of the Council, copies shall be filed with the President of the Church and the Church office regularly. The records are the property of the Church and shall be transferred promptly by each officer to his/her successor.
3. The Council shall make a full report of its activities for the year to each Annual Meeting of the congregation and shall make brief or special reports to any other meetings when required to do so by the President of the Church.

#### ARTICLE V -- AMENDMENTS

1. These bylaws may be amended or repealed by the members of the Church by an affirmative vote of two-thirds of the members voting at the Annual Meeting or at any business meeting in accordance with procedures provided in the Church bylaws. At least 30 days' written notice shall have been provided to the voting members, stating the amendment to be considered and the time and place of the meeting.
2. Amendments may be proposed by the Council, the Executive Board of the Church, or by petition of ten voting members of the Church.