

Draft: Procedure for Considering Proposed Moral Position by the Congregation

When the Board has called a congregational meeting to vote on a proposed Moral Position, the text of the proposed Moral Position shall be posted on the church website, and notice shall be sent to members. A two-thirds vote of the members attending such a congregation meeting is required to adopt a Moral Position. In the interest of an orderly congregational meeting, the following procedure for considering the Moral Position by the congregation shall be followed:

At least two study sessions will be held by the proposers after Sunday worship services, at times to be announced, to allow church members to explore the proposed changes in depth, discuss the merits of the submitted text, and propose possible alternatives. The study sessions are to allow interested members to discuss the Moral Position at length without the time pressure of a congregational meeting in which many attendees may not want to go into details. These study sessions allow attendees to discuss possible changes to the submitted text and to compare various proposals before deciding what should be done. The sponsors of the Moral Position will listen to proposed changes, and use its best judgment in deciding on changes if consensus is not reached.

If members want to discuss concerns about the submission or propose changes but cannot attend the study sessions, send emails to: **uusj-Moral-Positions@yahoogroups.com**. Emails that are received before the study sessions will be considered at the sessions. Anyone may email the Yahoo group and go to the yahogroup to read the postings. (Note that this group is open to the general public, so please do not post any confidential or private information.)

After the each study session is complete, the sponsors of the Moral Position will prepare new draft of the proposed Moral Position based on information received from emails, personal discussion with church members, and the prior study sessions. The final draft will be posted no less than ten days before the congregational meeting, and ahead of the final study session. At the final study session, the focus will be on consideration/discussion/wording of amendments that may be introduced at the congregational meeting.

If someone who has raised a concern at a study session or by email is dissatisfied with the final draft, they can propose an amendment to be offered at the congregational meeting by sending a message to the Yahoo group no later than one week before the meeting or by raising the desire to submit an amendment at the last study session. The sponsors of the Moral Position will assist those drafting an amendment for the congregational meeting to assure that is properly written and does not have any unexpected side effects on the rest of the Moral Position.

Because Moral Positions adopted by the congregation are the foundation for future public Statements in Support of a Moral Position, it is important that the proposed Moral Position and amendments be carefully written. ***For this reason, no amendments will be accepted at the congregational meeting unless they have been drafted according to this procedure. Any motions at the congregational meeting that ignore this procedure will be ruled out of order.*** (This rule is based upon the procedure used at UUA General Assembly to ensure that proposals have been adequately vetted and properly drafted before bringing them before the entire assembly.) Anyone who might have concerns about the final draft of the Moral Position, should attend a study session to discuss and hopefully resolve them, or at least send an email to the Yahoo group expressing those concerns by 5 days before the congregational meeting.

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