

DENOMINATIONAL CONNECTIONS COMMITTEE CHARTER

Approved by Board of Trustees on February 7, 2001

Mission

To foster an understanding of and commitment to what it means to be a responsible, caring member congregation of the Unitarian Universalist Association.

Purpose

The purpose of the Denominational Connections Committee is to receive, study, and act on questions and issues concerning the Unitarian Universalist movement. Specifically:

1. To communicate information to the congregation, the board, program clusters, committees, task forces, and other interested parties about activities and resources of Greater Washington Association of UU Congregations (GWA), the Joseph Priestley District (JPD), and the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA);
2. To coordinate activities and information related to Study/Action Issues; Statements of Conscience; Business Resolutions; UUA, JPD, and GWA initiatives;
3. To handle the traditional role of delegate selection and preparation for GWA, JPD Annual Meeting, General Assembly, regional assemblies; and to submit a budget for delegate support to the Board and oversee the timely allocation of these funds;
4. To educate and connect the congregation to the wider Unitarian Universalist movement and our rich heritage as a faith tradition;
5. To support the growth and development of the local, district, continental, and international UU movement.

Organization

The Denominational Connections Committee of the River Road Unitarian Church is organized in accordance with the regulations governing Church committees adopted by the Board of Trustees on June 26, 1983. Its Chairperson(s) will be appointed by the Board Liaison for the Committee for a one-year term, renewable once. The committee will have a minimum of five members, appointed by the Chairperson(s) for two-year terms, renewable once. The Senior Minister and the Director or Minister for Religious Education will be ex officio and voting members. Committee members will choose the Vice-Chairperson and the Secretary. The Committee will normally meet monthly, in open meetings, scheduled and announced in advance. Minutes will be made and copies furnished to the Board Liaison, the Church office, and committee members.

Working closely with other committees, clusters, and the Program Council, the Denominational Connections committee is responsible for meeting the deadlines for the following:

- (a) proposing, each year, with the approval of the Board of Trustees, one First Year Study/Action Issue to be submitted by RRUC to the UUA's Commission on Social Witness in response to the annual call inviting such proposals;
- (b) proposing, with the approval or by delegation from, the Board of Trustees, comments on the Second Year Study/Action Issue and the proposed Statement of Conscience to the annual call for such comments;
- (c) conducting the UUA-sponsored annual Congregational Directives Poll for General Assembly actions to ascertain the RRUC congregation's priorities among the group of suggested First Year Study/Action Issues and for forwarding the results of this Poll to the UUA.

The Denominational Connections committee is responsible for making recommendations to the Board of Trustees for RRUC members to be Delegates and Alternates to a) the UUA General Assembly, (b) Joseph Priestley District meetings, (c) Greater Washington Association of UU Congregations, and nominees to UUA or JPD Governing Bodies, and for recommending how much, if any of their travel and/or registration fees shall be reimbursed by the RRUC.

If a question is presented which clearly falls within the subject matter jurisdiction of another RRUC committee (e.g., Finance, Music, Religious Education, Leadership and Nominations), the Denominational Connections Committee will refer that issue to the appropriate group but will maintain the right to require its own review before any proposed action is taken.

The Denominational Connections committee is to serve as the primary RRUC group for formulating and discussing the positions which the above-mentioned Delegates would take on behalf of the RRUC at the respective denominational meetings to which they are accredited. On those policy matters, including elections, which are listed in advance on the agendas of those respective meetings, and which will have been accompanied, in advance, by supporting background materials, the Committee is authorized to advise and, if appropriate, instruct the RRUC Delegates on positions which should be taken and votes which should be cast. On questions which it considers to be of major import to the RRUC, the Denominational Connections committee will make recommendations to the Board of Trustees. On matters which come up at the respective meetings unexpectedly without prior notice, it is understood that the RRUC Delegates will use such general guidance and will have flexibility to respond to changing situations using their own judgment.