

THE UNITARIAN CHURCH IN SUMMIT TAKING AN OFFICIAL PUBLIC STAND AS A CONGREGATION Approved and Adopted May 16, 2007 by the Board of Trustees

Any member of The Unitarian Church in Summit (UCS) may petition the Congregation to consider taking an Official Stand on a Public Issue by following the specified guidelines.

- 1)** The valid petition must be presented to the President of the Board of Trustees (or Vice President, if the President is unavailable) and must include the following:
 - a well-articulated statement upon which UCS is asked to take an official public stand;
 - the timeframe for voting on the proposed statement, which determines whether the vote can take place at the Annual Meeting or requires a Special Meeting;
 - an action plan for educating the congregation on the issues related to the proposed stand
 - an action plan for implementing the stand, if approved by the Congregation, which must include:
 - how the proposed stand is anticipated to be publicized;
 - any anticipated actions that the Congregation must take;
 - any anticipated funding requirements;
 - signatures of ten (10) **voting** members who agree with the stand.

The Board President will verify the proposed petition's compliance with the acceptance process and respond to the petitioners within ten (10) days upon receiving the petition. Board Members, Ministers, and Program Staff will be advised immediately of the petition.

2) Once the petition is accepted, the Board President will determine a date for a congregational meeting – whether Special or Annual – in which the congregation will vote on the proposed stand. A congregational meeting date may occur no sooner than sixteen (16) days from when the petition is accepted, but soon enough for relevant implementation.

3) Upon acceptance, the Petitioners will immediately inform the congregation of the proposed stand, the date of the congregational meeting, and the opportunities to explore the issues related to the proposed stand.

4) At the Annual or Special meeting, a 2/3 majority by those voting is required in order for the congregation to approve the proposed stand. Because absentee voting is **not** permitted on the proposed stand, the statement may be amended from the floor. If a Special meeting fails to gather a quorum, the proposed stand is defeated without a vote.

5) Once approved by the Congregation, the Official Public Stand may be issued as representative of The Unitarian Church in Summit with the following declaration: "This statement is based upon a vote of a supermajority of members of The Unitarian Church in Summit."