

# Ballot for Congregational Meeting Sunday, February 24, 2019

## **Ballot Items:**

**ITEM 1.** Approve the amended MqtUU Mission Statement.

Informational Points:

- Note that the only changes appear in yellow highlighting, in addition to some grammatical changes.
- Some people feel that including friends is a gesture of inclusivity.
- Some people feel that we should emphasize our commitment to our youth with specific mention of them in our most important statement of what we do.
- This statement has the approval of the Board of Trustees.

Existing MqtUU Mission Statement:

We, the members of the Marquette Unitarian Universalist Congregation, are:  
Brought together by a core belief in the power of love and are committed to building beloved community. We care for, nurture and support the spiritual growth of one another: We share reverence for our natural environment and are dedicated to the respectful stewardship of the Earth: and we work together to bend the moral arc of the Universe toward justice, fairness and compassion.

Amended MqtUU Mission Statement:

We, the members **and friends** of the Marquette Unitarian Universalist Congregation, are:  
Brought together by a core belief in the power of love and are committed to building beloved community. We care for, nurture, and support the spiritual growth of **our children, youth, and** each other. We share reverence for our natural environment and are dedicated to the respectful stewardship of the Earth. We also work together to bend the moral arc of the universe toward justice, fairness and compassion.

**ITEM 2.** Approve the MqtUU Spiritual Exploration Mission Statement.

Informational Points:

- MqtUU Spiritual Exploration previously had no mission statement.
- This is the statement recommended by both the SE Committee and the Board of Trustees.

Proposed MqtUU Spiritual Exploration Mission Statement Language:

The Marquette Unitarian Universalist Spiritual Exploration Program is centered around supporting children, youth, young adults, and families. We gather together in love to foster spiritual growth, to serve humanity, and to understand ourselves and our universe. We hold the Seven Principles of Unitarian Universalism as the foundation our program.

**ITEM 3.** Bylaw amendments to Article IV.2.b. and related Article, IV.4.a. both articles regarding “Membership.”

Informational Points:

- The proposed amendment of “7-days” is a change from the existing wording of “10-days.”
- Some people felt that it would be easier to make a pledge payment on a Sunday, for example, and then be able to vote the following Sunday, which is what 7 days would allow for.
- Note that the only changes appear in yellow highlighting.

Existing Bylaw Language:

IV. Membership

2. Only those who have satisfied the criteria for membership as defined in Article IV.1 have voting privileges in Congregational matters.

- a. Payments made in a fiscal year before pledging are applied retroactively to the pledge for that fiscal year.
- b. Voting privileges are effective 10 days after meeting the requirements of membership.

4. Membership is renewed as follows:

- a. For Article IV.2.c: Make a written pledge of financial support, and make a payment in any amount toward that pledge. The 10-day period of Article IV.2.b does not apply.

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**ITEM 4.** Part-time consulting and/or lay minister search funding.

Informational Points:

- Surveys and formal conversations from the members for at least the last five years indicate that a majority of you would like a minister in some capacity.
- Our current funds do not yet allow for hiring a full-time minister, but there are many variations of potential for part-time ministers.
- Emmy Lou Belcher’s opinion was that congregations that have a minister inevitably grow.
- A part-time minister would help us in the ways that we collectively decide we most need.
- Heidi’s position as administrative assistant was created for the purpose of supporting a minister and the Board.
- No one would be chosen for this position without first getting a vote from the Board and then the full membership.
- There are UUA resources and funds available to help us in the process of securing the various types of part-time ministers.
- We currently have two offers on the table, so this could potentially move forward quickly, if we find a good fit.
- A “yes” vote for this item would tell the MqtUU Board and staff to earnestly pursue ministerial options and keep open communication with the membership of what the findings and options are.
- A “yes” vote tells the Board that you are willing to spend funds on a minister, in the hopes of growing the congregation, even though it may be a significant drain of the funds until we begin seeing the results of having a part-time minister.

I give my permission to draw from existing funds (to be determined) to support the costs related to seeking and securing a potential, part-time minister. (This may or may not be a “lay-minister” or “consulting minister, or other.)

**ITEM 5.** Add Bylaw Article V, Number 5, A-D This language allows for absentee voting for congregational meetings. Ratified under the provision that new bylaw language adheres to Michigan Non-Profit regulations.

Article V: Meetings

Number 5.: Absentee Ballots - After quorum has been reached for a congregational meeting, MqtUU will accept absentee ballots from voting members on agenda items.

- a. Absentee ballots will be accepted until congregational meeting adjournment
- b. Absentee ballots will be received via the following methods:
  - i Email to [admin@mqtuu.org](mailto:admin@mqtuu.org) with the subject line: **BALLOT**

- ii. U.S. Postal Mail to P.O. Box 687, Marquette, MI 49855 with BALLOT written below return address.
- iii. Telephone

c. Unopened Email and U.S. Postal Mail ballots will be verified by two Board of Trustee members during congregational meeting. Telephone ballots will be received during the congregational meeting by calling any voting member present and witnessed by a second voting member.

d. Instructions and contact information for ballots will be included with ballot and agenda to be distributed a minimum of 15 days before congregational meeting.

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We recognize that these items have been topics of discussion for several years. Some of you may want additional clarity and opportunities to discuss the issues.

Here are the opportunities you will have to discuss each of these items, should you choose:

- **With any Board or Staff or other Members & Friends, after any service 2/10, 2/17, 2/24**
- **At the Minister Viability Forum on 2/17**
- **At the congregational meeting on 2/24**

**\*Important Note\* For your vote to count, you must be an active, pledging member prior to February 13<sup>th</sup>, so if you have not yet pledged or paid on your pledge for this fiscal year yet, please do so!**

**Members 16 years and older who have made a pledge and pledge payment in Fiscal Year 2018-2019 may vote.**