

Summary of Edits to FCCB Bylaws – January 22, 2025

Submitted by the ad hoc Bylaws Committee: Julie Greer, Rod MacKenzie, Janet McDonald, Laura Monroe, and Jeanne Strauss

- Adjusted language to allow for more than one Senior Minister, changing citations from “Senior Minister” to “Senior Minister(s).”
 - Under “Election and Call” and “Interim Arrangements,” added the language that was adopted at the Congregational Meeting of December 10, 2023, clarifying the process during periods of Co-Senior Ministers.
- Removed references to the required number of individuals for each Ministry or Committee, keeping references to any staff or member positions that are always included in particular Ministries and Committees.
 - Removed references to “Governing Boards,” referring to these as Ministries.
- Removed term limits for members (including Chairs) of Ministries and Committees, allowing them to serve for more than 2 consecutive terms if desired.
- Added references to email and video conferencing in sections relating to ways we notify members and conduct meetings. Removed references to fax.
- Updated language to match the current names of our Church Council (formerly cited as “Council of the Congregation”), Congregational Meetings (formerly cited as “Meetings of the Members” or “Members’ Meetings”), Ministries, local Association, Conference, and documents of the national setting of the UCC.
- With input from our pastors, deleted or updated language that reflected a more conservative theology than what we currently affirm.
 - This included removing the requirement that new members be baptized if they hadn’t already been baptized elsewhere.
- With input from Ministry Chairs, edited descriptions of Ministries to include only what was necessary to discern their general purposes.
- Under “Committee and Ministry Structure,” removed references to a “Ministry Team” as an entity that Church Council establishes and governs. Our Ministries and members organize their own teams and/or call upon auxiliary members – we chose not to unnecessarily complicate the matter by introducing the term “auxiliary members.”
- Combined Endowment Committee and Investment Committee into one entity (Investment and Endowment Committee), given that Endowment has been vacant for the past 2 years and there is much overlap in their duties.

- Removed section “Guiding Statements,” because this is not a legal requirement for bylaws and is subject to change when we adopt new covenants or statements of faith (it is already out of date, as it does not include our WISE covenant).
- Edited down Article XI, “Indemnification,” to include the basics without all the detailed possible scenarios (which had come from a general nonprofit template years ago).
- Removed section “Procedures Manual” and all references to it, because no one has seen one in recent history. We agree that each Ministry should have one but do not need to include this requirement in the bylaws.
- Adjusted typos and grammatical issues, striving for consistency throughout the document.
- Reformatted entire document for consistency and to update section numbering after edits.
 - Simplified Table of Contents in this process.