

**ARTICLE II REVIEW TASK FORCE (A₂RTF)
INTERACTIVE WORKSHOP RESULTS
OCTOBER 22, 2023**

The A₂RTF informed the congregation of UUA's proposals to amend their By-Laws Article II. The amendments, if adopted, will have an impact on how we define ourselves as UU's; how we self-govern; and the historical roots to which we attach our beliefs. UUCJ's delegates to the General Assembly, June 2024, will vote the congregation's choice to either adopt or reject the proposed amendments.

In line with the commitment of the A₂RTF to provide opportunities for learning about and understanding the proposed changes, the task force invited the congregation to participate in an interactive workshop October 22, 2023. The workshop was well-attended and has provided invaluable information to the task force as to what is important to you; what you want to know; and how you prefer to receive information.

Here is what you told us:

Question #1 – What tenets of Unitarian Universalism are important to you?	
P1 – The inherent worth and dignity of every person.	38 votes
P4 – A free and responsible search for truth and meaning	32 votes
P2 – Justice, equity, and compassion in human relations	23 votes
P3 – Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations	18 votes
P7 – Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part	12 votes
P5 – The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and society at large	6 votes
P1-7 – All of the 7 principles	33 votes
Community and Fellowship of kindred folk	38 votes
That we change to be a viable church for years to come	9 votes
Equality, compassion, care for the environment	5 votes
Hearing different opinions on spirituality and beliefs without criticism	4 votes
Desire to support constitutional right to religious practice	4 votes
A choice that's not a part of mainstream Christianity	4 votes
The fact that we are totally inclusive, welcoming, and respectful – our value of social justice	3 votes
Hurt and frustration with patriarchal Catholic church	2 votes

Workshop Results
October 22, 2023

Question #2 - What information do you need to know about Article II and how would you like to have the information disseminated to you?	
A. I WANT TO KNOW	
What are the changes and why?	18 Votes
What the proposed changes are in layman's terms and how it affects UUCJ?	13 Votes
How did the proposed changes come about? Why didn't a lot of people know about them?	6 Votes
I like everything the way it is	4 Votes
The pros and cons of each position	3 Votes
What do we lose as UUs? What do we gain?	2 Votes
Do not understand why the principles need to be changed	2 Votes
B. HOW TO GET THE INFORMATION	
Zoom is good to get info	9 Votes
Online info at UUCJ.org	9 Votes
Mailings, hard copies left on a table in the back during church, email, pdfs (without color/pictures so I can print at home) – just a flood of major points	9 Votes
I best absorb new information by hearing it, so oral presentations and discussions in person and/or zoom	9 Votes
After church meetings in person	9 Votes
Written summaries that I can refer back to on website, Facebook, eblast, handouts, mailings any and all methods	8 Votes
Share web links to pro and con information	6 Votes
Can we see the video ... with the graphics?	5 Votes
Workshops at UUCJ	3 Votes
Email summary and details of the pros and cons of each choice	3 Votes
Town halls like this are OK but send emails too	2 Votes
All formats – written and sent to the congregation by email, meetings and forums	2 Votes
Q & A on UUCJ's Facebook page	1 Votes

Methodology

It can be a challenge to organize the comments and votes into meaningful data that lends itself to interpretation. In tabulating the votes for the “favored tenets of UUism” exercise, it was tried to capture the intent of the vote. If a vote was for “all of the principles” it was simply counted as that; but if a vote was “for all the principles especially P1 & P7” (e.g.), the tabulation applied was a vote for all of the principles plus a vote for P1 and P7 individually.

There were many mentions of community and fellowship, these were combined into one category.

For the “what information do you need and how do you want to get that information” exercise, the responses were separated into the two aspects of the question. If there were 2 votes (e.g.) for a response that included both aspects of the question, the question was given 2 votes in each the A and B compilations.

The way the people placed the dots could be problematic to interpret but the dote votes were counted by how close they were to a particular statement.

Workshop Results October 22, 2023

Discussion

The 7 principles are very important to the congregation. Of the 234 votes identified 162 or 69% emphasize the importance of the 7 principles to the congregation.

The other significant aspect was the fellowship and community of UUCJ which garnered 38 votes or 16%.

While the influence of the principles could be read into the remaining 15% of the votes, the original statements or combined statements were left to stand as presented because they did not specifically mention the principles.

There were far fewer responses to the 2nd question than there were to the first question (123 vs. 234 or 53%). This could be because some people may have left by the time we had the 2nd exercise or it could be that people needed more time to provide a thoughtful answer and thus did not respond. However, there are ample responses to provide guidance to the task force on moving forward.

Clearly, the congregations needs to know the what and the why of the proposed changes and some want to see a pro and con format. The responses to how they want to receive the information could be summarized by saying “everyway”. But a deeper look at the formats mentioned in the responses yields this insight:

- In person discussions are mentioned in 25 responses
- Zoom is mentioned in 18 responses
- Email is mentioned in 14 responses
- Written summaries are mentioned in 10 responses
- Online at UUCJ.org is mentioned in 9 responses
- Facebook is mentioned in 9 responses
- Mailings are mentioned in 9 responses
- Hard copies left on a table in the back during church are mentioned in 9 responses
- Oral presentations are mentioned in 9 responses
- Web links are mentioned in 6 responses
- The video shown at the informal meeting in July is mentioned in 5 responses

The takeaway from these responses is that we are being asked for in person discussions with a zoom option but to have written material available and to forward any written material to the entire congregation along with email/eblast notices and Facebook postings.

Conclusion

The Task Force is thankful for your thoughtful participation. The information that you have provided will help us set priorities in terms of the information you want, and determine the effective information delivery methods you prefer.

Books on several topics related to the UUA proposed changes are available in the Social Hall Sundays after Sunday service.

If you have questions, comments, suggestions, please remember you can contact us at uuachanges@uucj.org.