

Constitution and Bylaws of The Unitarian-Universalist Fellowship of Abilene, Texas

ARTICLE I

NAME:

The name of this Fellowship shall be "The Unitarian-Universalist Fellowship of Abilene".

ARTICLE II

PURPOSE:

Our purpose is to provide a congenial, intellectually stimulating atmosphere in which we are encouraged to ask questions in the pursuit of truth so that we may grow together in harmony.

PRINCIPLES:

This Fellowship affirms and promotes:

1. The inherent worth and dignity of every person
2. Justice, equity, and compassion in human relations
3. Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregation
4. A free and responsible search for truth and meaning
5. The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large
6. The goal of world community with peace, liberty and justice for all
7. And respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.

ARTICLE III

MEMBERSHIP:

Any person in sympathy with the purpose and program of this Fellowship and willing to abide by the provisions of its Constitution and Bylaws, may become a member by signing the Fellowship Membership Book.

ARTICLE IV

DENOMINATIONAL AFFILIATION:

This Fellowship shall be a member of the Unitarian Universalist Association.

ARTICLE V

MEETINGS:

SECTION 1: Meetings of the General Membership shall be held weekly throughout the year.

SECTION 2: The Annual Business Meeting shall be held each year in the month of May, but if a quorum is not obtained, the Annual Business Meeting shall be rescheduled for a later date.

ARTICLE VI

OFFICERS:

The officers of this Fellowship shall consist of a President, Vice President,

Secretary, Treasurer, and Program Director, and Religious Education Director (when there is one). The Executive Committee may by majority vote of a quorum of the Committee choose to make an additional Executive Committee position—board member at large—who must be elected by the Membership in the same manner as the established officers. Individual members may at the Executive Committee's discretion hold more than one position simultaneously.

Members of the Executive Committee shall hold offices for one year and until their successors have been elected.

These officers constitute the Executive Committee and shall be chosen by ballot of the General Membership at the Annual Business Meeting of the Fellowship.

The immediate past President will be an Ex-Officio member of the Executive Committee with full voting privileges. Positions other than the above that may become necessary will be filled by appointment by a three-fifths vote of the Executive Committee, and shall not have voting privileges on the Executive Committee.

Should an Executive Committee member's seat be vacated by that member, one of the remaining Executive Committee members shall fill the position temporarily until that member resumes his/her seat. In case of a replacement election, the General Membership shall be notified of the time and place of this election at least thirty days beforehand.

The Executive Committee shall have general charge of the property of the Fellowship, the conduct of all its business affairs, and control of its administration, including the appointment of such committees as it may deem necessary, except as otherwise designated by this Constitution and Bylaws.

ARTICLE VII

FISCAL YEAR:

The fiscal year shall end May 31st.

ARTICLE VIII

QUORUM:

Two-Thirds of the Active Membership shall constitute a quorum for the purpose of transacting business. Active Membership shall be determined by the Executive Committee. The physical presence of active members is preferable, but if a quorum is not physically present, members who are not physically present may be counted in determining a quorum if they vote electronically.

A quorum of The Executive Committee shall consist of Two-Thirds of the Executive Committee members.

ARTICLE IX

AMENDMENTS:

This Constitution and Bylaws may be amended or repealed at any designated meeting of the Fellowship by a Two-Thirds vote of the Active Members present in person or electronically, provided they constitute a quorum and 30 days' notice is given to the General Membership.

ARTICLE X

BYLAWS:

SECTION 1: The Executive Committee shall meet at least twice a year. The General Membership shall be informed of the time and place and business, and may attend.

SECTION 2: A tentative budget shall be prepared by the Treasurer, approved by the Executive Committee, and approved by the Active Membership at the Annual Meeting in May.

SECTION 3: The Executive Committee shall approve all major expenditures of funds prior to the disbursement of the funds. A major expenditure is defined as one that is cumulatively over \$200.

SECTION 4: No member of the Fellowship shall have permission, either express or implied, to contract or in any way commit the Fellowship to any major expenditure, except in case of an emergency in which further approvals are impractical.

SECTION 5: Duties and Authorizations of the Officers:

A. The President shall, when possible, preside at all Business Meetings and shall work together with the Vice President to manage the day-to-day affairs of the Fellowship.

B. The Vice President shall work together with, and with the consent of, the President (so long as the President is able to give consent) to manage the day-to-day affairs of the Fellowship and, may contract with third parties to provide the Fellowship necessary goods and services, subject to Sections 3 and 4 above. Should the President not be able to carry out the duties of President, the Vice President shall be Acting President until the President is again able to function as President or until a replacement President is elected by the Membership.

C. The Secretary shall keep the minutes at Business Meetings and shall file a copy of those minutes, signed by the Secretary, at the Fellowship office.

D. The Treasurer shall be responsible for accounting the deposit and

disbursement of all Fellowship funds, maintain a check register, provide a written report of the Fellowship's finances to the Annual General Membership meeting in May, and present a tentative budget for the new fiscal year at that meeting. Every officer is authorized to disburse Fellowship funds as required for Fellowship business.

D. The Program Director shall plan and arrange for adult programs at regular meetings of the membership.

E. Any person directing activities/education with children for the Fellowship away from the presence of the parents must before they serve pass a "Criminal Check" by the Taylor County Sheriff's Department, to guard against Child Abuse.

F. The Texas Family Code, Chapter 2, Section 202, Subsection(a). Paragraph (3)

(<https://statutes.capitol.texas.gov/?tab=1&code=FA&chapter=FA.2&artSec=2.202>) provides that

(a) The following persons are authorized to conduct a marriage ceremony:

(3) a person who is an officer of a religious organization and who is authorized by the organization to conduct a marriage ceremony

Pursuant to that statutory provision, every officer of the Fellowship is authorized to conduct marriage ceremonies so long as they are in office and so long as there is statutory authorization.

SECTION 6: Procedures for the Election of Officers:

A. In addition to any recommendations of the Nominating Committee, nominations may be made from the Floor, and these require a Second.

B. Nominating oneself or seconding one's own nomination is not permitted.

C. In each contested race, five minutes will be allowed for the nomination speech. Each nominee may make a two-minute acceptance speech.

D. After the speeches, the membership will vote.

E. One representative of each candidate may be present to verify the ballot count.

SECTION 7: Term Limits

No restriction shall exist on the number of terms an individual may be elected to any office.

ARTICLE XI

ASSETS: All assets of the Fellowship are pledged for use in performing its religious functions. Upon discontinuance or dissolution of the Fellowship, all assets will be transferred to the Unitarian Universalist Association, 24 Farnsworth Street, Boston, Massachusetts, 02210-1409.

This Constitution and Bylaws of The Unitarian-Universalist Fellowship of Abilene, Texas, was approved by unanimous vote of the quorum of active members present at the Annual Business Meeting on May 24, 2026, at 1541 Sayles Blvd, Abilene, TX 79605-4208.