

1 **Bylaws of the Church of the Larger Fellowship,**
2 **Unitarian Universalist,**
3 **Adopted June 23, 2000 Effective September 1, 2000**
4 **Revisions adopted May 28, 2009**

5
6 **Article I Name**

7 Section 1 The name of this incorporated Religious Society shall be "The Church of the
8 Larger Fellowship, Unitarian Universalist."

9 **Article II Purposes**

10 Section 1 The Church of the Larger Fellowship provides a ministry to isolated religious
11 liberals and offers a spiritual home within the Unitarian Universalist movement.

12 Section 2 The Church of the Larger Fellowship promotes the understanding and growth of
13 Unitarian Universalism and institutes programs to that end.

14 Section 3 As a member of the Unitarian Universalist Association, the Church of the Larger
15 Fellowship supports the Principles and Purposes of the Association.

16 **Article III Membership**

17 Section 1 Persons who have expressed their sympathy with the spirit of this church by
18 signing the Statement of Purposes and who make an annual contribution shall be members of
19 the Church. The Board of Directors may waive the financial requirement when appropriate.

20 Section 2 Unitarian Universalists who are members of local congregations as well as persons
21 who are not otherwise affiliated, may become members of the Church of the Larger
22 Fellowship.

23 **Article IV Ministers**

24 Section 1 Ministers Emeriti of the Church of the Larger Fellowship shall be appointed by
25 and be responsible to the Board of Directors and Executive Committee and shall serve at the
26 pleasure of the Board and have such duties as the Board shall determine.

27 Section 2 The Minister of the Church of the Larger Fellowship shall be called by and be
28 responsible to the Board of Directors and Executive Committee and shall serve at the
29 pleasure of the Board and have such duties as set forth in these bylaws and as the Board shall
30 determine.

31 Section 3 The Minister of the Church shall be the Executive Officer of the Church with
32 responsibility to appoint and supervise staff members.

33 **Article V Meetings For Worship**

34 Section 1 Meetings for worship sponsored by the Church of the Larger Fellowship may be
35 held in the Eliot Chapel at 25 Beacon Street, Boston, Massachusetts.

36 Section 2 In addition, the Church shall be empowered to hold such other meetings for
37 worship as the Board of Directors shall approve.

38

39 **Article VI Relationship To The Unitarian Universalist Association**

40 Section 1 At General Assembly meetings and special meetings of the Unitarian Universalist
41 Association, the Church of the Larger Fellowship shall be represented in conformity with the
42 UUA Rules and Bylaws.

43 Section 2 Member delegates to the General Assembly and other special meetings of the
44 Association shall be appointed by the Board of Directors.

45 **Article VII Meetings Of The Corporation**

46 Section 1 The Annual Meeting of the Corporation shall be held each year, preferably in May
47 or June, at such place and time as the Directors shall determine for the purpose of electing the
48 Board of Directors, the Nominating Committee, the Clerk, and the Treasurer and conducting
49 any other business which properly may come before the meeting.

50 Section 2 At the opening of each meeting of the Corporation, a member, not an officer or
51 member of the Board of Directors, shall be elected to serve as Moderator of that meeting
52 only. The Moderator shall have no other duties.

53 Section 3 Special meetings may be called by the Chair of the Board of Directors or by
54 petition of at least 25 members.

55 Section 4 Reasonable notice of all meetings shall be given by the Clerk or other officer who
56 shall set forth an agenda of matters to be acted upon at the meeting. No matter may be acted
57 upon that is not included in the agenda.

58 **Article VIII Board Of Directors And Executive Committee**

59 Section 1 There shall be a Standing Committee which shall be called the Board of Directors,
60 and shall have charge of and conduct all affairs of the Church.

61 Section 2 – The Board of Directors shall be composed of not more than eleven members of
62 the corporation elected at the Annual Meeting of the Corporation by members who are
63 present or who submit written ballots.

64
65 Section 3 – The Directors shall serve for terms of three years each, three such Directors being
66 elected at each Annual Meeting of the Corporation. No Director shall serve for more than six
67 consecutive years, but a Director may be re-elected after the lapse of one year.

68
69 Section 4 There shall be a five-member Executive Committee of the Board of Directors
70 composed of the Chair, the Vice-Chair, the Treasurer, and two other members elected by the
71 Board from among its members each year at the Annual Meeting or as soon thereafter as
72 practical.

73 Section 5 The Board may empower the Executive Committee to act on its behalf between
74 regular meetings of the Board.

75 Section 6 The Board of Directors and the Executive Committee shall advise and assist the
76 Minister of the Church in all matters pertaining to the upbuilding and the welfare of the
77 Church and shall have the power to appoint such committees and sub-committees as may be
78 necessary or convenient in carrying on the work of the Church.

79 Section 7 The Board of Directors shall hold an Annual Meeting each year as soon as
80 practical following the Annual Meeting of the Corporation. Other meetings of the Board and

81 meetings of the Executive Committee shall be held on such dates as the Board or Executive
82 Committee shall determine. In addition, either the Chair or the Minister may call a special
83 meeting of the Directors or the Executive Committee. Reasonable notice of all Board and
84 Executive Committee meetings shall be given by the Clerk or other officer.

85 Section 8 A meeting of the Board of Directors must include at least 5 members to constitute
86 a quorum. A meeting of the Executive Committee must include at least 3 members to
87 constitute a quorum. A meeting of the Nominating Committee must include at least 2
88 members to constitute a quorum. Meetings mentioned in this section may be held in person,
89 telephonically, or electronically.

90 **Article IX Officers And Committees Of The Church And Their Duties**

91 Section 1 As soon after the Annual Meeting of the Corporation as is practical, the Board of
92 Directors shall elect a Chair and a Vice Chair from among its members.

93 Section 2 A Treasurer and a Clerk, which Clerk shall always be a resident of Massachusetts
94 but need not be a member of the Board, shall be elected annually by members who are
95 present at the Annual Meeting of the Corporation or who submit written ballots. The Clerk
96 and the Treasurer shall swear faithfully to fulfill the duties pertaining to their offices.

97 Section 3 A Nominating Committee composed of three members of the corporation, at least
98 one of whom shall be a member of the Board of Directors, shall be elected by members who
99 are present at the Annual Meeting of the Corporation or who submit written ballots.
100 Nominating Committee Members shall serve for terms of three years, one member being
101 elected at each Annual Meeting of the Corporation. No member shall serve more than three
102 consecutive years, but a member may be re-elected after the lapse of one year.

103 Section 4 – Vacancies in elective and appointive offices which occur between Annual
104 Meetings shall be filled by the Board of Directors or the Executive Committee. Persons so
105 appointed shall serve until the next Annual Meeting. Where a vacancy in the Board Directors
106 does not reduce that year’s Class below three members, such vacancy shall not be filled.
107

108 Section 5 The Chair shall preside at meetings of the Board of Directors and the Executive
109 Committee and shall perform such other duties as are assigned to this office from time to
110 time by the Board of Directors or the Executive Committee. In the absence of the Chair, the
111 Vice Chair shall perform these duties.

112 **Article X Nominations**

113 Section 1 The Nominating Committee, with the advice of the membership under such proce-
114 dures as the Board shall determine, shall nominate at least one candidate for each position to
115 be filled at the Annual Meeting of the Corporation.
116

117 Section 2 Nominations shall be made only as provided in these bylaws and only persons so
118 nominated may be elected.

119 **Article XI Miscellaneous Provisions**

120 Section 1 The fiscal year of the Church shall correspond to the calendar year.

121 Section 2 In these bylaws, when more appropriate to the context, reference is made to the
122 "Religious Society" to the "Church" and to the "Corporation." However, they are one and
123 the same for all purposes.

124 Section 3 In order to recognize the value of discussion and the free exchange of ideas at
125 meetings, voting by proxy is not allowed.

126 **Article XII Amendments And Dissolution**

127 Section 1 These bylaws may be amended by the members of the Corporation at any meeting
128 of the Corporation, provided that notice of any amendment or amendments has been given in
129 the Call for the Meeting, and the substance of any proposed change or changes has been set
130 forth in said Call. A change in the bylaws shall require the affirmative vote of two-thirds of
131 the members who are present at the meeting or who submit written ballots.

132 Section 2 Should this Church cease to function and the membership vote to disband, any as-
133 sets of the Church will be transferred to the Unitarian Universalist Association for its general
134 purposes, this transfer to be made in full compliance with whatever laws are applicable.

135 **Article XIII Non-discrimination.**

136 Section I The Church of the Larger Fellowship declares and affirms its responsibility to
137 promote the full participation of persons in all of its activities and in the full range of human
138 endeavor without regard to race, ethnicity, gender, disability, affectional or sexual
139 orientation, gender expression, age, language, citizenship status, economic status, or national
140 origin and without requiring adherence to any particular interpretation of religion or to any
141 particular religious belief or creed.
142