

Update to Amend Bylaw Section III C Eligibility

The Community and Belonging Working Group is recommending that one of the requirements for nomination to the Board of Trustees be updated to reflect the CSA's values and current practices.

The Bylaws currently contain language, added in the 1960's, requiring that board nominees "uphold Christian Fellowship". The Nominations Committee has not used or discussed this requirement for at least a decade and agrees that this language needs to be updated to ensure the continued integrity of the Board nomination process.

Currently, the Bylaw reads:

All persons elected to the Board of Trustees shall be Members or Associate Members in good standing of the Assembly and shall have demonstrated their willingness to participate in and contribute to the Christian fellowship of the Assembly. Not less than three-fifths shall consist of Members, a spouse of a Member, or an adult child of a Member at the time of their election to the Board of Trustees. After an elected Trustee has served for a term of three years, he/she shall not be eligible to be reelected or reappointed until one year has elapsed.

Proposed change replaces underlined text above from the purpose of the CSA and will read:

demonstrate a willingness to promote the physical, intellectual, moral, and religious welfare of its constituency.

Explanation:

The requirement for Board nomination will now be based on willingness to uphold the CSA's statement of purpose, which was adopted in 1905 at the CSA's inception and is available on the first page of every edition of the *Assembly News*. The CSA's purpose is "To promote the physical, intellectual, moral and religious welfare of the constituency which it seeks to serve." Basing the language of the Bylaw on the stated purpose will provide a clear and simple expression of the charge for potential Board members.

Therefore, we are voting to update the wording to:

All persons elected to the Board of Trustees shall be Members or Associate Members in good standing and shall ***demonstrate their willingness to promote the physical, intellectual, moral, and religious welfare of its constituency***. Not less than three-fifths shall consist of Members, a

spouse of a Member, or an adult child of a Member at the time of their election to the Board of Trustees. After an elected Trustee has served for a term of three years, he/she shall not be eligible to be reelected or reappointed until one year has elapsed. By approving this amendment, the bylaw will align with the Nomination Committee's current practices.

We ask all members to vote in favor of this bylaw amendment so our governance can reflect the CSA's values and the established practices of the Nominations Committee. Your vote in favor will ensure that our bylaws allow all members to be considered for service on our Board and will not change any founding or current principles of the Congregational Summer Assembly.

If you have any additional questions, please contact any member of the Community and Belonging Working Group.

Susie Ratner, Mark Johnson, Chris Sturgis, Julia Gibson, Nadine Chang Dupre, Nadia Metina Belknap