

**WARRANT FOR THE ANNUAL  
CONGREGATIONAL MEETING OF THE  
UNITARIAN CHURCH OF SHARON**

**4 N. Main Street and Zoom**

**Friday June 13th, 2025 @ 7:00 pm**

**To all members of Unitarian Church of Sharon Massachusetts:**

The Annual Meeting has been called at 7:00 pm on the second Friday in June, June 13th 2025 at 4 N. Main Street in Sharon, Massachusetts. The meeting will be a hybrid meeting, both in the sanctuary and on Zoom. Meeting Materials such as Zoom link, slate of officers, proposed budget, and all annual reports will be sent prior to the meeting.

Members empowered to vote by our bylaws are asked to decide the following at this meeting:

Article I. To receive the reports of the Officers, the Minister, the Director of Religious Education and the committees and organizations of the church. Reports will be sent prior to the meeting.

- Board of Trustees Report
- Nominating Committee Slate of Nominees
- Treasurer's Report

Article II. To elect Officers and Standing Committee members. To recognize outgoing volunteer leaders.

To give recognition for staff and other leaders for the role in bringing us together and encouraging engagement among members and friends online, in person, and in hybrid activities.

Article III. To see if the members will make such appropriations as are recommended by the Board of Trustees in a proposed budget for the fiscal year

2025-2026 and authorize expenditures under the control and direction of the Board of Trustees, in accordance with the budget adopted.

Article IV. To see if the members will approve Bylaw changes recommended by the board: (full text of the proposed changes follows the agenda below)

1. Modification to the Bylaws related to the Unitarian Church of Sharon Committee on Ministry
2. Deletion of text in the Bylaws related to the Meetinghouse Preservation Fund (which was dissolved)
3. Modification to the Bylaws related to the Endowment Committee
4. Addition to the Bylaws of a section related to establishment of special endowment funds

Article V. To grant Emeritus status to Rev. Jim Robinson and Louise Marcoux. See full text below.

Article VI. To see if the members will authorize the Board of Trustees to appoint lay and ministerial delegates to represent the Unitarian Church of Sharon at meetings of the Unitarian Universalist Association General Assembly.

Article VII. To see if the members will approve the following non-binding resolutions of the Name Consideration Committee:

1. Moved: that the Unitarian Church of Sharon continue to consider whether to change its name with the expectation of a binding vote next year.
2. Moved: that one of the possible names to be considered be the “Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Sharon”.

Article VII. To see and act upon any other business that may legally come before the meeting by vote of the Board of Trustees, June 11, 2025, Jon Slavin (President) Christine Raskin (Vice-President), Courtney Hopkins (Clerk), Julie Armstrong (Treasurer), Chloe Kline (Trustee), Kim Miller (Trustee), Rebecca Kinraide (Trustee)

This notice to all members of Unitarian Church of Sharon of Sharon Massachusetts, complies with our bylaws.

By: Courtney Hopkins-Nestler, Church Clerk

Full text related to proposed Bylaw changes:

1. Modification to Bylaws related to the Unitarian Church of Sharon  
Committee on Ministry in Article 9:

*Current Bylaws:*

Section 9.7 Committee on Ministry. – The purpose of the Committee on Ministry is to strengthen the quality of ministry within the congregation. It serves as a sounding board for the Minister, maintains a channel of communication between the Minister and the Congregation, and nurtures the shared ministry of the congregation.

Add the following sentence to the paragraph above:

**In the first year(s) of a newly settled minister joining the congregation, the committee will be focused on the new minister's needs.**

Delete next two paragraphs of current Bylaws:

The Committee on Ministry shall consist of no less than three, nor more than six members. For the first appointment following the adoption of these bylaws, one-third of the members shall be appointed for one-year terms, one-third for two-year terms and one-third for three-year terms. Thereafter, members will be appointed each year for three-year terms to replace members whose terms have expired.

Each year the Board of Trustees shall appoint members to this committee from a list provided by the Minister of twice as many candidates as positions to be filled. The Committee on Ministry shall each year select one of its members to serve as Chair.

In their place insert:

Membership on the Committee on Ministry shall consist of no less than three members and members will be subject to the minister's approval. The Committee on Ministry shall each year select one of its members to serve as Chair.

#### Rationale:

The new language reflects how the committee has actually been operating for several years. The Board has decided that it is unnecessary for the Board to be involved in approving members of the committee. Members of the committee have decided that the formal term structure is unnecessary.

#### 2. Removal of text related to the Meetinghouse Preservation Fund

The Meetinghouse Preservation Fund was dissolved. The Board recommends deletion of all text in the Bylaws that relates to the fund. In Particular Article 16 describes the purpose and operation of the fund. Brief references to the fund are scattered throughout the Bylaws.

#### 3. Modification to several Bylaws related to the Unitarian Church of Sharon Endowment Fund in Article 15:

#### Current Bylaws:

Section 15.2 The Fund's Board. -- The Fund's Board shall consist of seven (7) members, all of whom shall be voting Members of the Congregation. Except as herein limited, the term of each elected member shall be three (3) years. Upon adoption of this article by the Congregation, it shall elect five (5) members of the Fund's Board: two (2) for a term of three (3) years, two (2) for a term of two (2) years and one (1) for a term of one year. Thereafter, at each Annual Congregational Meeting, the Congregation shall elect the necessary number for a term of three (3) years. No member shall serve more than three (3) three-year terms. After a lapse of one (1) year, former Fund Board members may be reelected.

#### Proposed new wording:

Section 15.2 The Fund's Board -- The Fund's Board shall consist of five members (5) members, all of whom shall be voting Members of the Congregation. These members include three (3) elected members plus two ex-officio members

described in the next paragraph. Except as herein limited, the term of each elected member shall be three (3) years.

This changes the number of Board members from seven (7) to five (5) and simplifies some of the language around election of Endowment Fund Board members. Recruitment of new members for the Fund's Board has been difficult to impossible. This change may make it possible for the Nominating Committee to fulfill the annual requirement to identify a single new member.

Current Bylaws:

The Fund's Board shall meet at least quarterly, or more frequently as deemed necessary by the Fund's Board in the best interest of the Fund. A quorum shall consist of five (5) members, who must be present to vote.

Proposed new wording:

The Fund's Board shall meet at least quarterly, or more frequently as deemed necessary by the Fund's Board in the best interest of the Fund. A quorum shall consist of three (3) members, including the ex-officio members, who must be present to vote.

This changes the quorum requirement to be consistent with the smaller number of board members.

Current Bylaws Under Section 15.4 Distribution Availability.:

The Fund's Board may vote to release Principal Account funds when particular, major, unforeseen and rare circumstances occur, and where the integrity of the gift

restrictions permit. Distributing principal shall require the unanimous vote of all seven (7) members of the Fund's Board and the approval of the congregation at an Annual or Special Congregational Meeting. A maximum of one third (1/3) of the principal may be released at any one time and the Fund's Board may not vote to release principal more than once within any three (3) year period.

Proposed new wording:

The Fund's Board may vote to release Principal Account funds when particular, major, unforeseen or rare circumstances occur. Distributing principal shall require the unanimous vote of all five (5) members of the Fund's Board and the approval of the congregation at an Annual or Special Congregational Meeting. A maximum of one third (1/3) of the principal may be released at any one time and the Fund's Board may not vote to release principal more than once within any three (3) year period.

This changes the number of board members from seven to five, consistent with above and removes the language "...and where the integrity of the gift restrictions permit." after "...rare circumstances occur"

#### 4. Special Purpose Endowment Funds

This is a new proposed section under Section 15 Unitarian Church of Sharon Endowment Fund

Section 15.7 Special-Purpose Accounts. --

In addition to the Endowment Fund described in this section, the Fund's Board may vote to accept donations designated for the purpose of funding specific church activities on an indefinite recurring basis, subject to the following conditions:

##### 1. Separate Financial Accounts

Funds designated for special purposes shall be held in a separate financial account from the Endowment Fund. These accounts shall be managed independently, and all activities, contributions, and distributions will be reported separately to the Congregation and the Board of Trustees.

## 2. Funding Activity

Each year, 4% of the total value of a Special Purpose Account as of December 31 of the previous year shall be allocated to fund the designated activity. Unexpended balances may accumulate for future distribution, similar to the provisions for the Income Account of the Endowment Fund. The minimum threshold for distribution shall also follow the same guidelines as for the Income Account of the Endowment Fund.

## 3. Additional Donations

Additional donations for the purpose of funding the same designated activity may be accepted, pending approval by the Fund's Board. These donations shall be added to the principal of the relevant Special Purpose Account and governed by the same terms and conditions as the original account.

## 4. Oversight and Reporting

The Fund's Board shall oversee the management of Special Purpose Accounts, ensuring compliance with donor restrictions and the stated purpose of the account. The Board shall include a full accounting of all Special Purpose Accounts in its quarterly and annual reports to the Congregation and the Board of Trustees.

## 5. Restrictions on Use

The disbursement of funds and procedures shall align with those specified for the Endowment Fund in Section 15.4. The principal of a Special Purpose Account shall not be disbursed except in extraordinary circumstances, which shall require unanimous approval of the Fund's Board and a vote by the Congregation at an Annual or Special Congregational Meeting.

**Full Text of Article V. To grant Emeritus status to Rev. Jim Robinson and Louise Marcoux**

Background information on what it means to grant Emeritus status, and the Emeritus Policy of the UCS may be found in this [What does it mean to be Emeritus at UCS](#) document.

### **Rev. Jim Robison, Emeritus Proposal**

The Board of Trustees of UCS has unanimously passed a resolution to confer the Emeritus designation on Rev. Jim Robinson. The Board is now asking the members to vote on the resolution at our upcoming Annual Meeting on Friday, June 13.

If the Congregation votes to confer Emeritus status, there will be a special ceremony to formally confer this honor.

### **PROPOSAL**

Whereas Rev. Jim Robinson served the Unitarian Church of Sharon Congregation with dedication, vision, and distinction as a minister from 2010 to 2017, be it resolved that the members of the Unitarian Church of Sharon confer on Rev. Robinson the title of Minister Emeritus of Sharon Unitarian Church.

This honor is in recognition of Rev. Robinson's distinguished, meritorious and longstanding service to the congregation; it is to honor his dedication, accomplishments, and deep connection to our community.

In recognition of Jim Robinson's tremendous contributions to the Congregation of UCS, the Board is recommending to the Congregation that he be named, "Rev. Dr. Jim Robinson, Minister, Emeritus," and that the UCS bestow the honorary title of Emeritus on Jim Robinson.

To learn more about Reverend Robinson's role at the Unitarian Church of Sharon, please read this document: [Background on the Emeritus Proposal for Rev. Robinson](#).



## **Director of Religious Education Louise Marcoux, Emeritus Proposal**

The Board of Trustees of UCS has unanimously passed a resolution to confer the Emeritus designation on Louise Marcoux. The Board is now asking the members to vote on the resolution at our upcoming Annual Meeting on Friday, June 13.

If the Congregation votes to confer Emeritus status, there will be a special ceremony to formally confer this honor.

### **PROPOSAL**

Whereas Louise Marcoux served the Unitarian Church of Sharon Congregation with creativity, vision, and commitment as the Director of Religious Education from 2004 to 2020, be it resolved that the members of the Unitarian Church of Sharon confer on Louise Marcoux the title of Director of Religious Education Emerita of Sharon Unitarian Church.

This honor is in recognition of Louise's distinguished and longstanding service to the congregation; it is to honor her many accomplishments, her deep connection to our community, and her comprehensive vision of religious education. The granting of this title recognizes our appreciation and lasting connection to Louise, celebrating the legacy and the impact she has made in the spiritual, emotional, and physical life of the congregation and the broader community.

In recognition of Louise's tremendous contributions to the Congregation of UCS, the Board is recommending to the Congregation that she be named, "Louise Marcoux, Director of Religious Education, Emerita," and that the UCS bestow the honorary title of Emeritus on Louise Marcoux.

To learn more about Louise Marcoux's role at the Unitarian Church of Sharon, please read this document: [Background on the proposal to Confer Emeritus Status on Louise Marcoux.](#)