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First Unitarian Church of Niagara Falls

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### Bylaws; 1959

First Unitarian Universalist Church of Niagara Falls

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FIRST UNITARIAN CHURCH OF NIAGARA FALLS  
Niagara Falls, New York  
Est. 1920

CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS

(Including all revisions thru April 10, 1959)

CONSTITUTION

Article I - Name

The name of this church shall be FIRST UNITARIAN CHURCH OF NIAGARA FALLS, NEW YORK.

Article II - Purpose

The First Unitarian Church of Niagara Falls is a fellowship of religious liberals, bound by no dogma and restricted by no creed. Brought closer by the bond of fellowship, we seek to grow in understanding of ourselves and of our world. Relying upon reason and free inquiry as our guides, we seek to follow truth in its advance and to enhance human dignity.

Article III - Membership and Voting Privileges

1. Any person in sympathy with the purpose and methods of this church, who shall be approved by the Board of Trustees as of moral seriousness and probity of character, may become a member of this church by signing the Bond of Fellowship.

2. The Bond of Fellowship of this church shall read: "We unite as members of the First Unitarian Church of Niagara Falls which is a fellowship of men and women who are seeking to serve the best and highest that they know in an atmosphere of freedom, fellowship and truth."

3. The right to vote at business meetings of the church shall be reserved for members who have attained the age of eighteen years, or to stated attendants who are regular contributors to the maintenance of worship and have reached maturity.

Article IV - Officers

1. The Board of Trustees shall consist of nine members of this church chosen for terms of three years. Three trustees shall be chosen at each annual meeting. The trustees shall annually choose from their number a President, and Vice-president, and shall also choose a Secretary and a Treasurer, neither of whom need be members of the Board of Trustees. A trustee whose term is expiring shall not be eligible to succeed himself.

2. The Board of Trustees shall have the power to fill vacancies occurring in its number, such appointments to be subject to confirmation by the church at its next regular annual meeting. All members of the Board of Trustees must reside within twenty miles of Niagara Falls, New York, or within Niagara County.

Article V - Meetings

The Annual Meeting of the Church shall be held in April not later than the fifteenth day thereof, the exact date to be fixed by the Board of Trustees. The purpose of this meeting shall be the election of officers and the transaction of other business. Special meetings may be called at the order of the President or the Board of Trustees for such purposes as may be specified in the call for the meeting. Ten days notice shall be given of the date of the Annual or Special Meetings.

Article VI - Denominational Relationship

This church shall be a member of the American Unitarian Association, and of the Regional Conference serving this area.

Article VII - Amendments and By-Laws

1. Amendments to this Constitution may be made at any legal meeting of the Church provided the proposed amendment shall have been fully set forth in the call for such meeting, a two-thirds vote of the members present being necessary to the adoption of such amendment.

2. By-laws not conflicting with the provisions of the Constitution or with the State Laws may be added or changed at any meeting of the Church by a majority vote by those present.

BY-LAWS

1. THE PRESIDENT: It shall be the duty of the President to preside at all meetings of the Church and of the Board of Trustees.

2. THE SECRETARY: It shall be the duty of the Secretary to keep record of all meetings of the Church and of the Board of Trustees, to keep a correct roll of its members, to hold in custody all papers and documents belonging to the Church and to perform such other duties as may naturally devolve upon his office.

3. THE TREASURER: It shall be the duty of the Treasurer to hold in custody all funds of the Church, to keep an account of all receipts and expenditures, to pay such bills as may be approved by the Board of Trustees, and to render at the annual meeting and at such other meetings as may be required, a financial statement of the Church.

4. THE TRUSTEES: The Board of Trustees shall have general charge of all business affairs of the Church and the control of its administration, but no contract involving any expenditure of money exceeding five hundred dollars (\$500.00) shall be made without a vote of the Church. The Board of Trustees shall meet monthly on a day to be chosen by the Board. Special meetings may be called by the President. At any meeting of the Board of Trustees, five members shall constitute a quorum.

5. THE MINISTER: The Minister of the Church shall be chosen and his salary determined by vote of the Church at a regular called meeting; and a vote of the Church shall be necessary for his dismissal.

BY-LAWS (continued)

6. THE CHURCH ACTIVITIES: "The Board of Trustees shall determine what divisions shall exist for the current year.

The President shall appoint convenors for the various divisions not necessarily exclusively from the Board of Trustees.

Each convenor shall organize his division with whatever members are required to perform its task, and divide it into such committees as may be advisable.

Due consideration shall be given to representation from all organizations and from the membership at large.

Upon being organized, the division shall elect a chairman who shall be responsible for seeing that the activities of the division are carried out, and that the Board of Trustees and membership are kept informed of its activities and accomplishments. This may be accomplished by appointing a Board member to each division, in cases where the convenor was not a Board member; Board members shall serve as reporters to the Board for their respective Divisions.

Reorganization of Divisions shall take place as soon after the election of a Church President as possible; however, all Divisions shall remain active until re-organized.

The Board of Trustees shall have supervision of the over-all functions and services of the church, and be responsible for the coordination of the Divisions. It shall continue to recognize that the over-all functions of the church shall include the following activities: Churchmanship; Church Extension; Finance; Building and Grounds Maintenance; Education; Service; Social Action, but the Board may recognize the structure by which these activities are assigned to divisions, according to the needs of particular times involved.

7. THE CHURCH COUNCIL: The Church President, the Minister, the Superintendent of the Church School, the Presidents of all Church organizations, and the Chairman of each Division, shall constitute the Church Council. Its first yearly meeting shall be held in May or June. The Church Council shall consider the general welfare of the Church and make such recommendations to the Board of Trustees or to a Division as shall seem conducive to the general good. The President shall call and preside at all Church Council meetings.