

Policy on the Use of UUCO's Name

Members of UUCO may speak for themselves on any issue, and may identify themselves as members of UUCO, but should make clear that they are not speaking for UUCO unless so authorized. For example, a group of members at a public demonstration could carry a banner stating "members of UUCO" but not one stating "UUCO."

A committee of UUCO that wishes to make a statement in the name of the committee must receive prior approval by a 2/3 vote of all Board members. For example, authorization would be needed for a group of members at a public demonstration to carry a banner stating "UUCO."

The UUCO Board may make a statement in the name of the Board by a 2/3 vote of all Board members.

The UUCO Board may authorize a statement made in the name of the UUCO congregation if the Board agrees by consensus that the statement is clearly appropriate, or may decline to issue a statement if it is clearly inappropriate. If the appropriateness of the statement is not clear, the Board will seek feedback from the congregation as a whole, for example through survey, discussion during service, Town Hall Meeting, cottage dinners, or phone calls. If the feedback provides a clear sense of the congregation, the Board will act accordingly. If the feedback from the congregation is not clear, the Board will call a Congregational Meeting. A 2/3 vote of the congregation in attendance will authorize the use of the congregation's name. If the vote is not unanimous, any statement issued will include a disclaimer such as: "UUCO is by nature a diverse congregation, and not every member may agree with this statement."

A request may be made from any member, officer, or trustee to speak for UUCO, represent UUCO in public, or have the Board issue a statement in the name of UUCO. The request should explain how the statement in question is consistent with UUCO's mission and/or the UU Seven Principles.

Adapted in part from the policy of the Second Unitarian Church of Omaha, NE, and comments by Rev. Bill Gardiner.

Adopted by the Congregational Board of the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Oxford on February 4, 2011.