Proposed Changes to the CVUUS Membership Bylaws – 2017 (with existing)

Article IV: Membership

Section 1. Preamble.
Existing – Membership in the Champlain Valley Unitarian Universalist Society implies an ongoing involvement in the life of the Society: participation in events and activities of the Society, attendance at Sunday services, participation at duly warned congregational meetings and annual financial support of the Society. We recognize that people will participate in the life of the Society in different ways and establishing objective criteria for this involvement is impossible. Members who do not contribute in any way may be asked to reconsider their membership. Therefore, the criteria described below are the official minima for entering into or maintaining membership.

Proposed – The Champlain Valley Unitarian Universalist Society (CVUUS) values both its members and its friends, but recognizes that membership entails a special relationship that carries additional rights, benefits, and responsibilities. CVUUS members are people who wish to be actively involved in the life of the Society. Such involvement typically includes some or all of the following: attendance at Sunday services, attendance and voting at congregational meetings, participation in other events and activities, serving in short term or long term leadership roles, and annual financial support of the Society.

Section 2. Members.
Existing – A member is a person 16 years of age or older who signs the membership book, who supports the purposes of the Society, who attends as able, who becomes involved with his/her time, skills and abilities as able, and who makes a financial contribution of record annually. Membership is open to all such persons regardless of race, color, sex, affectional or sexual orientation, or national origin.

Proposed – A member is a person 14 years of age or older who is familiar with and supports the purposes of the Society, who attends as able, who becomes involved with his/her/their time, skills and abilities as able, who makes a financial contribution of record annually, unless waived, and who signs the membership book. Membership is open to all such persons regardless of race, color, gender identification, affectional or sexual orientation, socioeconomic circumstance, or national origin.

Section 3. Voting Eligibility
Existing – Any person who has been a member for at least thirty (30) days shall have one vote. This vote must be exercised in person unless absentee voting arrangements are approved by the Board of Trustees at the time of the notification of the meeting.

Proposed - Any person who has been a member for at least sixty (60) days shall have one vote. This vote must be exercised in person unless absentee voting arrangements are approved by the Board at the time of the notification of the meeting.
Section 4. Membership List (no change)
The membership list will be available to all members and at all business meetings. It will be the source of information regarding voting eligibility, presence of a quorum, and eligibility to serve as an officer.

Section 5. Resignation and Removal

Existing – (Resignation) Member may remove themselves from membership by submitting a letter of resignation to the Clerk or the President.
(Termination) A person may be removed from membership in the following ways: 1) by failing to fulfill the criteria of membership as set forth in Section 2 of this Article; or 2) immediately, for cause and/or actions which constitute a violation of the safe congregation policy, by the unanimous vote of the entire Board.

Proposed –

Resignation:

- Members may resign from membership by submitting a letter of resignation to the President or a Minister.

Removal from Membership:

- A person may be removed from membership immediately, for cause and/or for actions which constitute a violation of the safe congregation policy, by the unanimous vote of the entire Board.
- A person may be removed from membership by failing to fulfill the criteria of membership as set forth in Section 2 of this Article by the process outlined in the Membership Policy.