

**BY LAWS OF THE NORTH SHORE UNITARIAN
UNIVERSALIST SOCIETY
OF LOUISIANA, INC.**

ARTICLE I. Name

The name of this religious institution is the North Shore Unitarian Universalist Society of Louisiana, Inc. (hereafter "NSUUS")

ARTICLE II. Purpose

The purpose of NSUUS is to foster liberal religious living through worship study, service, and fellowship.

ARTICLE III. Membership

A. General Membership

Any person may become a general member by participating in the programs and activities, expressing sympathy and understanding for the purposes and history of the Unitarian Universalist movement and demonstrating to the Minister or any Trustee an interest in continuing involvement. Membership is open to all person, regardless of race, color, sex, age, disability sexual or gender orientation, or national origin.

B. Voting Membership

Voting membership shall be those members who met the definition of General Membership and who also satisfy all of the following conditions:

1. Is age 18 or older.
2. Has been a member for at least 30 days.
3. Has pledged, in writing, to financially support the programs of NSUU and has made at least one partial contribution of record sufficient to cover the administrative costs of the membership under terms and conditions established from time to time by the Board of Trustees.
4. Has been accepted into membership by a vote of the Board of Trustees or was a member in good standing on April 21, 2002.

Lists of the general and voting members shall be maintained by the Secretary. The Board of Trustees shall review the membership lists annually and may remove from voting or general membership anyone who has (a) made no financial contribution in the preceding six months;

or (b) attended no church sponsored activities; or (c) indicated in writing a desire to discontinue membership.

ARTICLE IV. Denominational Affiliation

NSUUS shall be a member of the Unitarian Universalist Association and of the Southwestern District of the Association. NSUUS intends to make an annual financial contribution equal to its fair share as determined by the Association and the District, but any actual contribution shall be determined by the Board of Trustees from time to time.

ARTICLE V. Meetings

A. Meeting Call

Meetings of the Voting members may be called on such dates, at such times, and in such places as determined by the Board of Trustees or by the President.

B. Quorum

A quorum is defined as attendance in person of twenty percent (20%) of the voting membership.

C. Voting

A simple majority of those voting shall decide all questions coming before the meeting including election of Trustees unless specified otherwise in these bylaws.

D. Meeting Notice

1. Ten (10) days' advance written notice shall be given for all meetings.
2. Any proposal to buy, sell, mortgage, pledge, or hypothecate real property, and the time and location of the meeting at which the proposal is to be considered, shall be distributed to all members at least ten (10) days prior to such meeting.

E. Annual Business Meeting

1. The Annual Business Meeting shall be held each year in the month of November or December at such time and place as shall be fixed by the Board of Trustees.
2. If the congregation is unable to meet on the scheduled day because of a declared state of emergency or severe weather conditions that would render travel to and from the meeting unsafe, the Board of Trustees may postpone the meeting. For meetings shaded near the end of December, the postponement may extend into the following year.

F. Proxies

All votes shall be cast by voting members, who may vote either in person or by written proxy given to another voting member.

ARTICLE VI. Board of Trustees

A. Duties

1. The management of NSUUS shall be vested in and exercised by a Board of Trustees of no less than six (6) and no more than eight (8) members, elected at an Annual Congregational Meeting. All Officers and Trustees shall serve for one (1) year terms. Officers of the Board of Trustees shall be the President, Vice President, Treasurer, and Secretary while remainder of Board of Trustees would be Trustees.
2. All business of NSUUS, other than proposals to buy, sell, mortgage, or pledge, or hypothecate real property, rectify or dismiss a minister, and amendments to these Bylaws, shall be conducted by the Board of Trustees.

B. Election

1. Trustees are elected at the Annual Business Meeting by a majority of voting members participating in the meeting.
2. All members of the Board shall be elected annually.
3. The term of office shall be from January 1 to December 31.
4. To enable these bylaws, the terms of all Officers and Trustees holding office at the adoption of the revision dated December 4, 2011 shall expire on December 31, 2011.

C. Meetings

1. A majority of Trustees shall constitute a quorum at any meeting of the Board of Trustees, and a quorum shall be necessary to consider any question that may come before any such meeting. If a quorum is not present, a majority of those present may adjourn that meeting until another time, but may not transact any other business at that meeting.
2. The affirmative vote of a majority of Trustees present shall be necessary to decide all questions.
3. The Board of Trustees shall be chaired by the President. In the absence of the President, the following order for chair shall be: Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary.

D. Replacement

Any Trustee, upon failure to attend three (3) consecutive Board meetings may, at the discretion of a majority vote of the Board, be removed from office and a replacement may be elected for the remainder of the unexpired term.

ARTICLE VII. Committees

1. Committees designed to further the interests of NSUUS shall be formed or dissolved only with the consent of the Board of Trustees.
2. The power of appointment of the committee chairpersons shall be vested in the President, and such appointments shall become effective upon confirmation by the Board of Trustees.
3. All committee chairpersons must be voting members of NSUUS.
4. Appointments of committee members shall be vested in the chairperson with the advice and consent of the President.
5. Committee members must be general or voting members as defined in Article III or be friends of UUS who have specialized skills that benefit of the work of the committee.

ARTICLE VIII. Amendments

1. The authority to amend these By Laws shall be reserved to the voting membership.
2. Any proposal to amend the By Laws, as well as the time and location of the meeting at which the proposal is to be considered, must be distributed to all voting members at least ten (10) days prior to such meeting.
3. A two-thirds majority of those voting shall decide any proposal to amend the By Laws.

ARTICLE IX. Fiscal Year

The Fiscal Year shall begin on January 1 and end on the following December 31.

ARTICLE X. Dissolution

Should NSUUS cease to function and the membership vote to disband, any assets of NSUUS shall be transferred to the Unitarian Universalist Association for its general purposes. This transfer is to be made in full compliance with whatever laws are applicable.

ARTICLE XI. Bonding

The Treasurer and all other Officers, Trustees, and employees shall be bonded. The amount of the Bond shall be 10% of the cash assets at the beginning of the previous fiscal year, plus all revenue received during that year, or \$10,000.00, whichever is greater.

ARTICLE XII. The Minister

A. Freedom of the Pulpit]

The Minister shall have freedom of the pulpit as well as freedom to express his or her personal opinion outside the pulpit.

B. Responsibilities

1. The Minister shall be responsible:

- a. Specifically for the conduct of worship
 - b. Generally for the spiritual interests and affairs of NSUUS.
2. The Minister shall be an ex-officio member of the Board of Trustees and of all committees.

C. Calling or dismissing a minister

1. Attendance in person of forty percent (40%) of the voting membership shall constitute a quorum for the purpose of ratifying the selection of a minister or to dismiss a minister.
2. The Minister shall be called upon the recommendation of a two-thirds majority of the Board of Trustees, and ratification by a four-fifths majority vote of the voting members actually voting.
3. The Minister may be dismissed by a majority vote of the voting members at any meeting legally called for the purpose.

D. Severance

1. In the event of the Minister's dismissal, his or her salary and allowance shall be continued for three months after date of dismissal notice.
2. Should the minister offer his or her resignation, three months' notice must be given at the time the resignation is made unless a different period is approved by the Board of Trustees.

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