

GUIDELINES OF HEARTLAND YOUNG RELIGIOUS UNITARIAN UNIVERSALISTS

Revised December 6, 2008.

ARTICLE I: NAME

SECTION 1: The name of this organization shall be Heartland Unitarian Universalist District Young Religious Unitarian Universalists (HUUDYRUU), a district affiliate of the Young Religious Unitarian Universalists (YRUU) of the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA).

ARTICLE II: PURPOSES

SECTION 1: The purpose of the HUUDYRUU is to support the needs of Young Unitarian Universalists in the Heartland Unitarian Universalist District (HUUD) of the UUA.

SECTION 2: We also embrace the stated purposes of YRUU: that YRUU shall serve its members for the purposes of fostering spiritual depth, creating a peaceful community on earth and peace within us, and clarifying both individual and universal religious values as part of our growth process. Our purposes are to provide and manifest a greater understanding of Unitarian Universalism and to encourage the flow of communication between youth and adults. In so doing, we shall nurture the freedom and integrity of the questioning mind and embrace all persons of diverse backgrounds. We shall encourage the development of a spirit of independence and responsibility. We shall strive to support our members and member groups with educational resources, a communication network, and love. These purposes shall assist us in developing an effective system for social actions and serve to raise our levels of mutual respect, communication, and community consciousness.

ARTICLE III: MEMBERSHIP

SECTION 1: Members of HUUDYRUU shall be youth, 14 through 18 years of age, and 19 year olds who are still attending high school, and the adults ages 25 and up who support them who reside in the HUUD and who participate in programs or activities of local societies or of the district. Exceptions to the article will be considered by the DYSC on an individual basis.

ARTICLE IV: ANNUAL MEETING

SECTION 1: There shall be at least one Annual Conference of HUUDYRUU. This conference shall be held at a time and place to be determined by the District Youth Steering Committee (DYSC) defined within.

SECTION 2: The DYSC defined herein shall be responsible for planning the agenda of the Annual Conference. This agenda shall include the election of DYSC officers for the following year.

ARTICLE V: CONFERENCES

SECTION 1: Conferences may be organized by one of the following:

- a. The DYSC, which shall ensure one Conference per year, at which officers will be elected.
- b. The youth and adults of a local congregation.
- c. Any combination thereof.

ARTICLE VI: DISTRICT YOUTH STEERING COMMITTEE

SECTION 1: The governing body of HUUDYRUU shall be the District Youth Steering Committee, consisting of:

- a. One Youth Chair, elected at the previous year's Election Conference.
- b. One Youth Chair-Elect, elected at the Election Conference.
- c. Three Adult Advisors, elected at the Election Conference.
- d. One Post-High School Transitional Age range Representative (TARR), selected by the Young Adult and Campus Ministry Sustainability Corps.
- e. One Junior High School Transitional Age range Representative (TARR), elected at the Junior High School Election Conference.

- f. One Social Action Coordinator (SAC), elected at the Election Conference.
- g. One Communications Officer (CO), elected at the Election Conference.
- h. One Continental Outreach Person (COP), elected at the Election Conference.
- i. On Spiritual Advisor, elected at the Election Conference.
- j. Representatives from other Heartland district committees at the discretion of the DYSC membership. These representatives are to be requested from said committees and appointed by those committees.
- k. Not more than 2 youth at-large positions, elected at the Election Conference.
- l. Every effort should be made to ensure that the membership of the DYSC is geographically diverse within the district.

SECTION 2: Vacated Positions:

- a. In the event that a DYSC member with duties pertinent to the meeting is unable to attend, another member of DYSC should be contacted before the meeting to fill that vacancy. If that is not possible, another DYSC member will be appointed at the beginning of the meeting to fill the missing role for the duration of the meeting.
- b. In the event that a DYSC member misses two consecutive meetings, the remaining DYSC members are at liberty to choose a replacement for the duration of the term.

ARTICLE VII: DUTIES OF DYSC MEMBERS

SECTION 1: The Youth Chair and Chair-Elect shall:

- a. Preside over DYSC meeting as facilitators.
- b. Ensure meeting ordinance.
- c. Ensure attendance by a DYSC member at the meetings of the Programs Council and the Board.
- d. Delegate responsibilities during meetings.

SECTION 2: The Adult Advisors shall:

- a. Assist the youth as advisors and mentors.
- b. Perform any duties which require adults.
- c. Act as a support for and liaison to other HUUD adults.

SECTION 3: The Post-High and Junior High TARRs shall:

- a. Voice the opinions, interests, and concerns of their constituency, defined as those youth within their age range.
- b. Be within the age range of their constituency.

SECTION 4: The Social Action Coordinator (SAC) shall:

- a. Organize District social action activities.
- b. Bring an awareness of social justice issues to the attention of DYSC and HUUDYRUU.

SECTION 5: The Communications Officer (CO) shall:

- a. Ensure that DYSC list-servs are maintained.
- b. Maintain a DYSC website or appoint a person to do this.
- c. Ensure DYSC minutes are taken and distributed to all relevant parties.

- d. Act as a contact for the Conference Sanctioning Process and assure that changes in the policy document are reflected in the sanctioning guidelines in a timely manner.

SECTION 6: The Continental Outreach Person (COP) shall:

- a. Represent HUUDYRUU to YRUU.
- b. Represent YRUU to HUUDYRUU.
- c. Keep HUUDYRUU updated about Continental news and events.
- d. Promote and facilitate outreach to neighboring districts.
- e. Promote greater involvement of congregations within the Heartland District.

SECTION 7: Representatives from other Heartland District committees shall:

- a. Represent the interests of their committees to the DYSC.
- b. Be an advocate for youth and youth interests to their respective committees.
- c. Be an equal partner in the decision making process of the DYSC unless otherwise determined at the annual summer meeting of the old and new DYSC members.

ARTICLE IX: DECISION MAKING PROCEDURE

SECTION 1: SECTION 1: All official DYSC decisions will be made based on a consensus of all DYSC members present at an officially scheduled DYSC meeting. Consensus procedures will follow those set out by the UUA.

ARTICLE X: RULES OF ORDER

SECTION 1: The process of consensus is used to govern the conduct of the meetings and affairs of the DYSC. The Youth Chair and Youth Chair-Elect will define the specific rules at their first meeting.

ARTICLE XI: AMENDMENTS:

SECTION 1: These Guidelines may be amended by a two-thirds (2/3) vote at an official meeting provided that all DYSC members have seen the change beforehand.

ARTICLE XII: DYSC POLICIES:

SECTION 1: There shall be a policy document that will compile decisions the DYSC has made.

SECTION 2: The policy document shall be made available to new DYSC members at the summer DYSC meeting each year.