

UNITED CHURCH OF RELIGIOUS SCIENCE

Current Bylaws
(Including revisions through December 6, 2007)

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Bylaws of United Church of Religious Science

A California NOT-FOR-PROFIT Religious Corporation

Preamble

American metaphysician Ernest Holmes developed the Science of Mind, a spiritual teaching for the modern world. He defined it as "a correlation of laws of science, opinions of philosophy, and revelations of religion, applied to human needs and the aspirations of man." Science of Mind unites, in a simple and useful form, the essence of the spiritual concepts which have been presented by the great teachers of all ages, doing so in a manner which is clear, concise and practical.

We believe that the Science of Mind philosophy can transform the hearts and minds of humanity and contribute significantly to bringing love, harmony, peace and abundance to all people everywhere, without consideration of race, color, gender, sexual orientation, religion, national origin, age or physical conditions. Therefore, the United Church of Religious Science spiritual community does hereby affirm that it is a teaching and healing ministry carrying Science of Mind to the people of the world, using all available resources in the most effective manner to achieve these objectives.

Article 1

1 Name

The name of this corporation is United Church of Religious Science doing business as United Centers for Spiritual Living.

Article 2

2 Offices

2.1 Principal Office

The principal executive office for the transaction of the business of United Church of Religious Science is located at 2600 W. Magnolia Blvd. Burbank, CA 91505. The CORE Council designates the principal executive office and may change the principal executive office from one location to another.

2.2 Other Offices

The CORE Council may at any time establish branch or subordinate offices at any place or places where United Church of Religious Science is qualified to do business.

Article 3

3 Purpose

3.1 Science of Mind

The purpose of United Church of Religious Science is to foster the teaching and practice of the Science of Mind.

3.2 Vision and Mission

Our Internal Vision:

We are a global presence and resource for spiritual awakening.

Our Internal Mission:

We implement our vision with the highest levels of service and professional excellence.

Our External Vision:

We inspire and serve our local and global community in spiritual evolution.

Our External Mission:

We support individuals in their personal growth and spiritual transformation.

3.3 Global Heart

The United Church of Religious Science is a global spiritual community of people pervasively caring for and about each other and the entire human family, thereby bringing the gift of active compassion to the world. Our local churches and communities become points of inspiration, which effectively advance the vision of Global Heart as articulated in the Organizational Design Model.

3.3.1 The United Church of Religious Science is a vision-guided, values-based spiritual community.

Article 4

4 Fulfillment Structure

4.1 CORE Council

The CORE Council (also referred to herein as Council) takes its name from the acronym Consciousness of Reality Evolving. The role, functions and powers of the Council shall be those detailed in the Organizational Design Model, which is hereby incorporated by reference. Without prejudice to the Organizational Design Model, and subject to the same limitations, the Council shall synthesize the input flowing from the Vision, Stewardship and Manifestation Cores into a clear direction for the Community.

4.1.1 GENERAL CORPORATE POWERS

Subject to the provisions of the California Nonprofit Corporation Law and any limitations in the Articles of Incorporation and these Bylaws relating to action required to be approved by the members, the business and affairs of the United Church of Religious Science shall be managed and all corporate powers shall be exercised by or under the direction of the CORE Council.

4.1.2 SPECIFIC POWERS OF THE COUNCIL

Without prejudice to the general powers referred to above, and subject to the same limitations, the Council members shall have the power to appoint and remove all officers of United Church of Religious Science, as herein provided, and may provide for their compensation. The CORE Council may appoint Teams and prescribe such powers and duties for them as are consistent with law, the Articles of Incorporation of United Church of Religious Science and these Bylaws.

The Council may also cause United Church of Religious Science to be qualified to do business in any other state, territory, dependency or country and conduct business within or outside the State of California. The Council shall adopt, make and use a corporate seal and alter the form of the seal and may borrow money and incur indebtedness on behalf of United Church of Religious Science.

4.2 Vision Core

The role, functions and powers of the Vision Core shall be those detailed in the Organizational Design Model. Without prejudice to the Organizational Design Model, and subject to the same limitations, the Vision Core shall receive input from Vision Teams throughout the spiritual community and integrate this input into a core vision, for our evolving pathway. The Vision Core may appoint Teams and prescribe such powers and duties for them as are consistent with law, the Articles of Incorporation of United Church of Religious Science and these Bylaws.

4.3 Stewardship Core

The role, functions and powers of the Stewardship Core shall be those detailed in the Organizational Design Model. Without prejudice to the Organizational Design Model, and subject to the same limitations, the Stewardship Core shall be responsible for fiscal oversight and cultivation, along with basic legal and corporate oversight and development of budgets, as well as financial reports and tracking. It may appoint Teams and prescribe such powers and duties for them as are consistent with law, the Articles of Incorporation of United Church of Religious Science and these Bylaws.

4.4 Manifestation Core

The role, functions and powers of the Manifestation Core shall be those detailed in the Organizational Design Model. Without prejudice to the Organizational Design Model, and subject to the same limitations, the Manifestation Core shall be comprised of both operational and ecclesiastical Teams charged with fulfilling particular aspects of the evolving pathway of the Community. The Manifestation Core may appoint Teams and prescribe such powers and duties for them as are consistent with law, the Articles of Incorporation of United Church of Religious Science and these Bylaws.

4.5 Composition of Council and Cores

4.5.1 The CORE Council of this corporation shall consist of the Community Spiritual Leader, the Coordinator of the Vision Core, the Coordinator of the Stewardship Core, the two Coordinators of the Manifestation Core, along with two Ministers, one Practitioner and three Laity.

4.5.2 The Vision Core shall consist of the Community Spiritual Leader, the Community Youth Leader, three Ministers, three Practitioners and three Laity. The Community Spiritual Leader shall appoint the Vision Core Coordinator from the Vision Core members.

4.5.3 The Stewardship Core shall consist of a Coordinator hired by the Council, paid staff, and members of the Community gifted and motivated to serve in this Core.

4.5.4 The Manifestation Core shall consist of an Operational Coordinator and an Ecclesiastical Coordinator hired by the Council, paid staff and members of the Community gifted and motivated to serve in this Core.

4.6 Council and Vision Core Eligibility

To be eligible to be elected or appointed as a member of the Council or Vision Core, a candidate must be a member (for lay positions) or a Minister (for ministerial positions) or a Practitioner (for practitioner positions) of a Community Member in good standing with the Community. Criteria for eligibility shall be set by the Nominating Core and shall be guided by the Organizational Design Model Proposal.

4.7 Council and Vision Core Member Terms

Each Council or Vision Core member shall serve a term of three years, which term shall begin immediately upon election. A Vision Core or Council member serving a full term of office may be re-elected to a successive term only once. A Vision Core or Council member filling a term remainder of two years or less shall be eligible for immediate election to a full term of office.

4.7.1. For the 2005 election only, the Minister candidate for the CORE Council receiving the most votes shall serve a full three-year term, which shall expire in 2008, and the Minister candidate receiving the second, most votes shall serve a two-year term, which shall expire in 2007.

4.7.2. For the 2006 election only, the Lay candidate for the CORE Council receiving the most votes shall serve a three-year term which shall expire in 2009 and the Lay candidate receiving the second, most votes shall serve a two-year term which shall expire in 2008.

4.8 Annual Meeting of CORE Council

4.8.1 The Annual Meeting of the Council shall be for the purpose of electing officers of the Council as appropriate, scheduling regular meetings of the Council, appointing Teams, and transacting such other lawful business as the Council deems appropriate.

4.8.2 The date and/or place of the Annual Meeting shall be determined by and may be changed by the Council.

Article 5

5 Officers

5.1 Corporate Officers

The corporate officers of United Church of Religious Science shall be Chair of the Council, a Vice Chair of the Council, a Secretary, and a Treasurer. United Church of Religious Science may also have, at the discretion of the Council, one or more Assistant Secretaries, one or more Assistant Treasurers, and such other officers as may be elected by the Council.

5.2 Officer Restrictions

The same person may not hold more than one office. The Coordinators of the Vision Core, Stewardship Core, and the Manifestation Core are ex-officio, advisory, voting members of the Council and may not serve as an officer of the Council or the Chair of the Council.

The Manifestation Core, Ecclesiastic, and Stewardship Core coordinators shall not vote on administrative matters.

5.3 Election of Corporate Officers

Except where a term of office is specified, corporate officers shall serve at the pleasure of the Council. The Council shall elect the corporate officers of United Church of Religious Science.

5.4 Resignation of Officers

Any officer may resign at any time by giving written notice to the Council. Any resignation shall take effect at the time of receipt of the notice or at any later time specified in that notice. Unless otherwise specified in the notice, the acceptance of the resignation shall not be necessary to make it effective.

5.5 Chair of CORE Council

The Chairperson shall preside at meetings of the Council, shall be the Presiding Officer for Annual Gathering business meetings and may serve as the Chair of the Annual Gathering Planning Team or designate a Chair for the Annual Gathering Planning Team. The Chairperson shall exercise and perform such other powers and duties as may from time to time be assigned to the Chair by the Council or prescribed by these Bylaws.

5.6 Vice Chair of CORE Council

The Vice Chairperson shall preside at all meetings of the Council in the absence of the Chair and shall perform such other duties as may be delegated to the Vice Chair or required by the Council.

5.7 Secretary

The Secretary of the CORE Council shall provide notice of all meetings of the Council as required by the Bylaws. The Secretary shall keep the seal of the corporation in safe custody and perform such other duties as may be prescribed by the CORE Council or these Bylaws.

5.8 Treasurer

The Treasurer shall be the chief financial officer of United Church of Religious Science and shall answer directly to the Council. The Treasurer shall maintain depositories for all money and valuables in the name and credit of United Church of Religious Science as may be designated by the Council for receipt and disbursement of funds of United Church of Religious Science. This shall be done in a manner consistent with the policies adopted by the Council. The Treasurer shall render to the Council members, whenever they request it, statements of the financial condition of United Church of Religious Science. The Treasurer shall perform such other duties as may be prescribed by the Council or these Bylaws. If required by the Council, the Treasurer shall give United Church of Religious Science a bond in the amount and with the surety or sureties specified for faithful performance of the duties of the office of Treasurer. Such bond shall be at the expense of United Church of Religious Science.

5.9 Community Spiritual Leader

The principal leader for the Community is the Community Spiritual Leader (also referred to herein as CSL), whose role and qualifications shall be those detailed in the Organizational Design Model and these Bylaws. The Community Spiritual Leader shall have been ordained as a Minister of the United Church of Religious Science.

5.9.1 ELECTION

See Section 7.4.2

5.9.2 TERM OF OFFICE

The term of office for the Community Spiritual Leader shall be five years, with the opportunity to be re-elected to successive terms.

5.9.3 SUPPORT OF THE COMMUNITY SPIRITUAL LEADER

A staff shall support the CSL. The Community Spiritual Leader shall receive compensation as determined by the Council.

5.9.4 VACANCY OF COMMUNITY SPIRITUAL LEADER

In the event that the position of Community Spiritual Leader becomes vacant during the balance of a term, the CORE Council will appoint an interim Community Spiritual Leader until the next scheduled Community Gathering. The interim Community Spiritual Leader is required to meet all the same criteria set forth in Article 5, Section 5.9 of the United Church of Religious Science Bylaws as the elected Community Spiritual Leader. The interim Community Spiritual Leader may run for the permanent position of Community Spiritual Leader at the next scheduled Community Gathering.

5.9.5 TRANSITION OF THE COMMUNITY SPIRITUAL LEADER

The term of Community Spiritual Leader will be completed 90 days after the annual Community Gathering. An incoming Community Spiritual Leader will take office 90 days after the annual Community Gathering election. The CORE Council will appoint a transition team to support a healthy transition of leadership. The incoming Community Spiritual Leader will receive 50 percent of compensation for a period of 90 days. If there is no change in the position of Community Spiritual Leader there will be no transition team or change in compensation.

5.10 Community Youth Leader

The Community Youth Leader represents and emphasizes the importance of youth in our Community. The role and qualifications of the Community Youth Leader (also referred to herein as CYL) shall be those detailed in the Organizational Design Model. Without prejudice to the Organizational Design Model, and subject to the same limitations, the CYL shall serve as Chair of the Youth Council, and participate on the Vision Core as much as possible.

5.10.1 ELECTION

The Community Youth Leader shall be elected by the youth of our Community.

5.10.2 TERM OF OFFICE

The Community Youth Leader shall serve a two-year term, with the opportunity to be re-elected to one successive term.

5.10.3 SUPPORT FOR THE COMMUNITY YOUTH LEADER

The Community Youth Leader shall receive an expense stipend to be determined and allocated by the Council.

5.11 Indemnification of Council Members, Officers, Employees and Other Agents

The Council may, to the extent allowed by law, authorize United Church of Religious Science to indemnify its Council members, officers, employees and other agents against damages and liabilities, including court costs and attorneys fees, incurred in the course and within the scope of their employment, or in the performance of duties on behalf of United Church of Religious Science, or arising out of their status as such Council members, officers, employees and other agents; and may authorize the purchase of insurance on behalf of such persons for the foregoing purposes.

Article 6

6 United Church of Religious Science Spiritual Community

6.1 Membership

6.1.1 COMMUNITY MEMBERS

Members of the United Church of Religious Science spiritual community shall be those Churches, Ministries, Study Groups, groups, international centers or institutes and other not-for-profit corporations of United Church of Religious Science operating and in good standing in accordance with the Community Membership Covenant granting such membership. They shall also be referred to herein as Community Members of the United Church of Religious Science spiritual community.

6.1.2 GOOD STANDING

Good standing shall be presumed unless a finding is made by the Council that a given Community Member is not in good standing pursuant to the provisions of its Community Membership Covenant.

6.1.3 TERMINATION OF MEMBERSHIP

Membership may be terminated through procedures set forth in the Community Membership Covenant under which the Community Member holds membership.

6.2 Community Membership Covenant

Conscious alignment with the Science of Mind teachings as stated by Ernest Holmes, the shared values and shared vision of the United Church of Religious Science, and the guiding principles stated in the Organizational Design Model are the minimal requirements for affiliation and participation in the Community. As well, each Community Member agrees:

6.2.1 to embrace and actively support the vision of Global Heart (stated in the Organizational Design Model) as well as the values and guiding principles of the Community.

6.2.2 To spread our teaching and offer our transformational consciousness to the world, to the best of their ability. The Community Member shall foster the teaching and practice of the Science of Mind as expressed by Dr. Ernest Holmes.

6.2.3 To honor the standards embraced by the Community.

6.2.4 To support the Community with the gifts and talents of the individual members of their group, encouraging awareness and participation in the projects and ministries of the total Community.

6.2.5 To contribute 10 percent of its contributed income to the work of the Community. This level of support will be achieved according to a schedule determined by each individual Community Membership Covenant.

6.3 No part of this Community Membership Covenant shall pertain to any property rights upon disaffiliation.

6.4 Ecclesiastical Offices

The Ecclesiastical Offices of United Church of Religious Science shall be: A Minister of Religious Science (also referred to herein as Minister) and licensed Practitioner of Religious Science (also referred to herein as Practitioner).

Article 7

7 Annual Gatherings

7.1 Meetings of Community Members at the Annual Gathering

The United Church of Religious Science spiritual community shall meet at the Annual Gathering. The Annual Gathering shall consist of representatives of our spiritual community and delegates as provided in Section 7.2.

7.1.1 TIME AND PLACE

The Annual Gathering shall meet at such time and location as determined by those voting at the Annual Gatherings and shall be at a location accessible to the general membership.

7.1.2 PURPOSE

The Annual Gathering is a time of inspiration, education, deepening, sharing and testimony, music and rejoicing, recruitment for key projects for the Community and for the world, and renewing our commitment for the Vision. Business and politics shall be kept to a minimum.

7.2 DELEGATIONS

United Church of Religious Science spiritual community Delegations shall be determined by their Community Membership Covenant. Delegations shall not exceed one Lay delegate, one Minister delegate, one Practitioner delegate, and one Youth delegate. Community Members may provide alternates equal to the number of its delegates. Delegates shall have one vote. Delegates shall serve only at the specific Annual Gathering for which registered.

7.3 Procedural Matters

The Council shall prescribe all rules for the conduct of the business and affairs of the Annual Gathering.

7.3.1 DELEGATION ROSTER

Each Community Member qualified to send delegates to the Annual Gathering shall submit to the Secretary of United Church of Religious Science a roster of delegates and alternates eligible to attend when and as determined by the CORE Council. Such roster shall contain each delegate and alternates' name, mailing address and telephone number, e-mail address, designation of each delegate as a Lay delegate, Practitioner delegate, Youth delegate or a Minister delegate and designation of each alternate as a Lay alternate, Practitioner alternate, Youth alternate or a Minister alternate.

7.3.2 CHANGES TO DELEGATION ROSTER

Prior to the close of business on the first day of the Annual Gathering for which the delegate was elected, a Community Member may revoke or designate substitute delegates and alternates by action of its board of trustees, or a duly authorized representative of its board of trustees. If received prior to the opening of the Annual Gathering, such revocation and/or substitution shall become effective when received by the office of the Secretary of United Church of Religious Science. If received after the opening of the Annual Gathering, changes shall become effective when received by the office of the Annual Gathering Chair.

7.3.3 QUORUM

A majority of the registered Community Member delegates designated in accordance with these Bylaws shall constitute a quorum of delegates for the transaction of business at the Annual Gathering. An Annual Gathering at which a quorum is initially present may continue to transact business, notwithstanding the absence of a quorum from any subsequent session of the Annual Gathering. The delegate majority that is required by these Bylaws must approve any action taken.

7.4 Specific Powers of Annual Gathering

7.4.1 ANNUAL GATHERING PROGRAM

The Gathering shall have the power to conduct a program of inspiration, education and deepening, sharing and testimony, music and rejoicing which supports a climate of safety, trust, and an absolute reliance upon the guidance of Spirit.

7.4.2 CONDUCT OF BUSINESS

The Gathering shall elect members of the Council, the Vision Core, the Community Spiritual Leader, and the Nominating Core as provided herein, and hear and consider recommendations and reports of the Council. By resolution, the Gathering may establish policy and give direction to the Council for its implementation with due diligence to the values and vision of the United Church of Religious Science and prudent management of the assets of the United Church of Religious Science.

7.4.3 AMEND BYLAWS

The Gathering has the power to amend these Bylaws in accordance with Article 16 of these Bylaws and to consider and act on reports and resolutions not affecting these Bylaws and not in conflict with rules prescribed by the Council.

7.4.4 RECALL OF ELECTED OFFICIALS

Any elected official of United Church of Religious Science may be removed from office for cause by authority of the electing body. Such proceedings may be initiated by a written statement of charges of misfeasance, malfeasance or nonfeasance against said official signed by at least five members of the electing body and delivered to the presiding officer of the electing body. Within fifteen days after delivery of the charges, the presiding officer shall convene a preliminary investigative panel of three members of such body. If the charges cannot be resolved and dismissed at that level, they shall be returned to the presiding officer of the electing body. Such charges shall then be forwarded to an evaluation board composed of six members of the electing body, three members of which shall be chosen by the presiding officer and three by the elected official under consideration. Except in extreme circumstances said evaluation board shall complete its investigation and render its decision within forty-five days after being named. A majority decision of said evaluation board shall be final except that the elected official under consideration may appeal such decision to the Council.

7.4.5 LIMITATIONS ON PUBLIC POLICY PRONOUNCEMENTS

As a general rule, public policy pronouncements shall not be made on behalf of United Church of Religious Science by anyone other than the Community Spiritual Leader. If a demanding situation arises, a public policy pronouncement may be made, but only if it is consistent with the provisions of Article 13 of these Bylaws.

7.5 Voting

7.5.1 REGISTERED VOTERS

Except as otherwise provided herein, individuals registered and in attendance at the Annual Gathering who are entitled to one vote on each matter submitted for a vote, shall be delegates or alternates. The United Clergy of Religious Science, the Wisdom Council, the Staff of United Church of Religious Science, the Community Spiritual Leader and the Community Youth Leader shall be entitled to one vote each representing their constituency.

7.5.2 REQUIRED MAJORITY

Any matter properly brought before a Gathering of the Community may be adopted by the affirmative vote of a majority of the delegates present and voting, except that said affirmative vote is at least equal to a majority of a quorum as defined in Subsection 7.3.3 of these Bylaws. A simple majority requirement shall not apply to resolutions relating to Bylaw changes as provided for in Article 16 and public policy pronouncements as provided for in Section 7.4.5 of these Bylaws.

7.5.3 CONDUCT OF ELECTIONS

If more than one person is nominated to fill an office and no candidate receives a majority vote on any ballot, the name of the candidate with the least number of votes shall be dropped at each round of voting until one candidate receives a majority of the votes cast.

7.5.4 PARTICIPATION BY THOSE OTHER THAN DELEGATES

The Council may prescribe rules under which appropriate persons or groups may participate in Annual Gatherings.

7.6 Nominations

7.6.1 NOMINATIONS BY NOMINATING CORE

The Nominating Core of United Church of Religious Science shall prepare a slate of one or more nominees qualified for each office to be filled. This slate shall be filed with the Secretary of the Council at least one hundred days prior to the Annual Gathering at which the office is to be filled. The Nominating Core shall prepare a biographical guide correlating the qualities of the nominee with the qualifications as stated in the Organizational Design Model and shall obtain the written consent to serve of each nominee. The Secretary shall communicate the slate to all Community Members at least ninety days prior to the Annual Gathering.

7.6.2 NOMINATION BY PETITION

A candidate who meets the qualifications for election as stated in the Organizational Design Model may be proposed by a petition signed by at least ten delegates representing five or more Community Members of the United Church of Religious Science. This petition shall be filed with the Nominating Core at least sixty days prior to the election. A biographical guide correlating the qualities of the nominee with the qualifications as stated in the Organizational Design Model and the written consent to serve of the nominee shall be filed with the petition. The Nominating Core shall file the petition with the Secretary of the Council at least forty-five days prior to the Annual Gathering at which the office is to be filled. The Secretary shall communicate the petition to all Community Members at least thirty days prior to the Annual Gathering.

7.6.3 NOMINATION BY THE BOARD OF A COMMUNITY MEMBER

The board of trustees of a Community Member of the United Church of Religious Science spiritual community may propose candidates for election who meet the qualifications for election as stated in the Organizational Design Model by a resolution adopted by their board. This resolution shall be duly certified and filed with the Nominating Core at least sixty days prior to the election. A biographical guide correlating the qualities of the nominee with the qualifications as stated in the Organizational Design Model and the written consent to serve of the nominee shall be filed with the resolution. The Nominating Core shall file the resolution with the Secretary of the Council at least forty-five days prior to the Annual Gathering at which the office is to be filled. The Secretary shall communicate the petition to all Community Members at least thirty days prior to the Annual Gathering.

Article 8

8 Teams

8.1 Standing or AD HOC Teams

Teams may be designated from time to time by the Council. Members of such Teams shall serve at the pleasure of the Council.

8.2 Authority and Limitations of CORES or Teams

Cores, to the extent provided in the resolution of the Council, shall have the authority delegated by the Council. No Team, regardless of Council resolution, may take any final action on matters that, under the Nonprofit Religious Corporation Law of California, also require Members approval or approval of a majority of all the Members. Cores may not fill vacancies on the Council, or on any

Core that has the authority of the Council, amend or repeal these Bylaws or adopt new bylaws, amend or repeal any resolution of the Council or appoint any other Cores or the members of any Cores.

8.3 Meetings and Actions of Cores and Teams

Regular meetings of Cores may be scheduled by the Council or by the Core. Special meetings of Cores may be called by the Chair of the Core or by the Council. Notice of special meetings of Cores or teams shall be given to all persons who have the right to attend meetings of the Core of Team. Minutes shall be kept of each meeting of any Core or Team and shall be filed with the corporate records. The Council may prescribe rules for the conduct of the business of any Core or Team not inconsistent with the provisions of these Bylaws.

8.4 Nominating Core

8.4.1 MEMBERS

The Nominating Core of the United Church of Religious Science shall be elected at the Annual Gathering. It shall be comprised of two Ministers, two Practitioners, and four Laity.

8.4.2 TERM OF OFFICE

All Nominating Core members would serve two-year terms. Half of the two-year terms expire each year. A Nominating Core member serving a full term of office may be re-elected to one successive term.

Article 9

9 Meetings of Council, Core and Team Members

9.1 Vacancy

A vacancy or vacancies of an elected or appointed position shall be deemed to exist on the occurrence of the death or resignation of any member, or the finding of a court that a member is of unsound mind or is convicted of a felony. A vacancy is created by removal of a Council, Core or Team member pursuant any provision of the California Nonprofit Religious Corporation Law. A vacancy is also created by removal in accordance with Subsection 7.4.4 of these Bylaws, or by the affirmative vote of three-fourths of the total membership of the Council for actions inconsistent with the responsibilities of a Council, Core or Team member of United Church of Religious Science. The failure of delegates to elect a Council, Core or Team member scheduled for election at that business meeting shall also create a vacancy.

9.2 Resignation

Except as provided in this paragraph, any Council, Core or Team member may resign. The resignation shall be effective on giving written notice to the Council, Cores or Teams unless the notice specifies a later time for the resignation to become effective. If the resignation of a Council, Core or Team member is effective at a future time, the Council, Cores or Teams may elect a successor to take office as of the date when the resignation becomes effective. If a Council, Core or Team member is absent from three consecutive meetings, that Council, Core or Team member shall, at the election of the Council, Cores or Teams, be deemed to have resigned. If a Council, Core or Team member ceases to meet the eligibility requirements of his/her position, the Council, Core or Team member, at that time, is deemed to have resigned.

9.3 Vacancies Filled by Council or Cores

Vacancies on Cores shall be filled by a majority vote of the Council or Core members then in office, even though less than a quorum. A member that is appointed to a Core by the Council or Cores to fill a vacancy shall serve the unexpired term of the vacant office. A Core member filling a term remainder of two years or less shall be eligible for immediate election to a full term of office. A Core member serving a full term of office may be re-elected to a successive term only once.

9.4 Virtual Meetings

Any regular or special meeting may be held by teleconference or Internet communication equipment so long as all Council, Core or Team members can participate and their identity is verified to one another. All such Council, Core or Team members shall be deemed to be present in person at such a meeting.

9.5 Time and Place of Meetings

Regular and special meetings of the Council or Cores may be held at any time and place, within or outside the State of California that has been designated from time to time by the Council or Cores. In the absence of a different designation, such meetings shall be held at the principal executive office of United Church of Religious Science.

9.6 Meetings by Consent

Notwithstanding the provisions of Subsection 9.5 a regular or special meeting of the Council, Cores or Teams may be held at any time and place consented to in writing by all Council, Core or Team members either before or after the meeting. If consents are given, they shall be filed with the minutes of the meeting.

9.7 Calling Special Meetings

The Chair or any two of the Council, Core or Team members have the authority to call special meetings of the Council, Cores or Teams for any purpose at any time. Notice of the date and time of such special meetings shall be given to each Council, Core or Team member by telephone at least five days prior to the meeting; or to a person at his/her office or residence who would reasonably be expected to communicate such notice promptly. Such notice shall be given to the Council, Core or Team members telephone number shown on the records of United Church of Religious Science. Written notice of the meeting must also be sent at least five days before the time set for the meeting by first class mail to the Council, Core or Team members address shown on the records of United Church of Religious Science. The notice shall state the date, time and purpose of the meeting.

9.8 Quorum

A majority of the authorized number of Council, Core or Team members shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business except to adjourn as provided in Section 9.11. A meeting at which a quorum is initially present may continue to transact business, notwithstanding the withdrawal of one or more members. The Council, Core or Team member majority that is required by these Bylaws must approve any action.

9.9 Voting

Every act or decision done or made by a majority vote of the total membership of the Council, Cores or Teams at a meeting where a quorum of members is present shall be regarded as the act of the Council, Cores or Teams, subject to the provisions herein relating to a larger required vote, and the provisions of the California Nonprofit Corporation Law, including without limitation, those provisions relating to

- (a) Approval of contracts or transactions in which a Council member has a direct or indirect material financial interest,
- (b) Appointment of Teams, and
- (c) Indemnification of Council members.

9.10 Waiver of Notice

The transaction of business at any meeting of the Council, Cores or Teams however called, noticed or held, shall be as valid as though taken at a meeting duly held after regular call and notice, if a quorum is present and if before or after the meeting, each of the members not present sign either a written waiver of notice, a consent to holding the meeting, or an approval of the minutes. The waiver of notice or consent need not specify the purpose of the meeting. All waivers, consents and approvals shall be filed with the corporate records or made a part of the minutes of the meeting. Notice of a meeting shall also be deemed given to any Council member who attends the meeting without protesting the lack of adequate notice before or at its commencement.

9.11 Adjournment

A majority of the Council, Core or Team members present, whether or not constituting a quorum, may adjourn any meeting to another time and place.

9.12 Action without Meeting

Any action required or permitted by the Council, Cores or Teams may be taken without a meeting, if all members of the Council, Cores or Teams, collectively or individually, consent in writing to that action. Such action by written consent shall have the same force and effect as a unanimous vote. Such written consent or consents shall be filed with the minutes of the proceedings of the Council, Cores or Teams.

Article 10

10 Administrative and Organizational Design Model

10.1 Administrative Structure

The Council shall provide for the establishment of such administrative structure of United Church of Religious Science as it deems necessary for the effective and efficient management of the affairs of United Church of Religious Science spiritual community.

10.2 Organizational Design Model

The Organizational Design Model Proposal by the subcommittee on Organizational Design of the Organizational Renewal Project committee, approved by the International Board of Trustees shall be the Organizational Design Model for the structure of the United Church of Religious Science. If there is confusion or conflict between provisions of the Organizational Design Model and these Bylaws, the Organizational Design Model shall control.

10.3 Organizational Design Team

The subcommittee on Organizational Design of the Organizational Renewal Project committee of the United Church of Religious Science shall be the ongoing Design Team to bring forth adjustments to the model as it is launched and utilized. The Organizational Design Team shall remain in place for five years with full authority to receive input and to make changes to the model. The Design Team is empowered to coach members of the Community in all aspects of the models operation.

10.4 Administrative Review

The Council shall, at least annually, review the administrative structure of United Church of Religious Science to maintain functional effectiveness and make such changes as are appropriate with respect to the Organizational Design Model.

Article 11

11 Records and Reports

11.1 Maintenance of Corporate Records

11.1.1 The Secretary of the United Church of Religious Science shall keep or cause to be kept, adequate and correct books and records of account, minutes, in written form, of the proceedings of each Annual Gathering, the Council and all teams of the Council. This shall include the time and place of holding, whether regular or special, and if special, how authorized, the notice given and the name of those present at such meetings. Also, a record of the names, addresses, and voting rights of all Community Members shall be maintained. All such records shall be kept at the principal executive office of United Church of Religious Science.

11.1.2 The Treasurer of the United Church of Religious Science shall keep or cause to be kept adequate and correct books and records of accounts of the properties and business transactions of United Church of Religious Science. This shall include accounts of its assets, liabilities, receipts, disbursements, gains, losses, and capital, retained earnings and other matter customarily included in financial statements.

11.2 Members Inspection Rights

Any Community Member, by its agent or attorney, may, at any reasonable time, upon demand on United Church of Religious Science given five business days prior thereto, and for a purpose reasonably related to the interest of such Community Member (a) inspect and copy the records of names and addresses of Community Members and records respecting the voting rights of Community Members; and (b) inspect and copy the accounting books and records and minutes of the proceedings of the Annual Gathering and the Council and Teams of the Council.

11.3 Maintenance and Inspection of Articles and Bylaws

United Church of Religious Science shall keep at its principal executive office the original or a copy of its Articles of Incorporation and its Bylaws, as amended to date, which shall be open to inspection by Community Members at all reasonable times.

11.4 Inspection by Council members

Every Council member shall have the right at any reasonable time to inspect, copy and make extracts of all books, records and documents of United Church of Religious Science and to inspect the physical properties of United Church of Religious Science. The Council member, his agent or attorney, may make such inspection.

Article 12

12 Dedication of Assets

The properties and assets of United Church of Religious Science are irrevocably dedicated to religious purposes. No part of the net earnings, properties or assets of United Church of Religious Science on dissolution or otherwise, shall inure to the benefit of any private person or individual or any Council member of United Church of Religious Science. On liquidation or dissolution, all properties and assets of United Church of Religious Science shall be distributed and paid over to an organization described in Internal Revenue Code, Section 501(c)(3) dedicated to religious purposes.

Article 13

13 Non Partisan Activities

The California Nonprofit Religious Corporation Law governs united Church of Religious Science. It shall be not-for-profit and nonpartisan. It shall not publish or disseminate materials with the purpose of attempting to influence legislation. It shall not participate or intervene in any political campaign on behalf of any candidate for public office, or for or against any cause or measure being submitted to the people for a vote.

Article 14

14 Construction and Definitions

Unless the context requires otherwise, the general provisions, rules of construction and definitions in the California Nonprofit Corporation Law shall govern the construction of these Bylaws. Without limiting the generality of the above, the masculine gender includes the feminine and neuter, the singular number includes the plural, the plural number includes the singular, and the term person includes both United Church of Religious Science and a natural person. The latest edition of Roberts Rules of Order Newly Revised shall, when applicable, control in any situation not covered by these Bylaws.

Article 15

15 Transitional Provisions

15.1 Codes and Policies

All Codes and Policies shall remain in effect until modified or rescinded by the Council.

Article 16

16 Amendment of Bylaws

16.1 Amendment By Delegates

These Bylaws may be amended, repealed, or new Bylaws may be adopted by the affirmative vote of two-thirds of the delegates present and voting at an Annual Gathering. Said affirmative vote must be at least equal to two-thirds of a quorum as defined in Subsection 7.3.3

16.2 Initiation Of Amendment

Either the Annual Gathering or the Council may take action to amend, repeal or present new Bylaws.

16.3 Procedures

The Council shall establish procedures for proposing new bylaws, or for proposing the amendment or repeal of these Bylaws, for consideration by the Council and the Annual Gathering.

16.4 Notice

Notice of a proposed bylaw change of any kind must be circulated to all Community Members at least two months prior to the Annual Gathering at which the bylaw change shall be considered.

16.5 Effective Date

All Bylaw changes shall become effective immediately after the required vote of the Annual Gathering unless otherwise specified.