

# FUS Board Resolution

## Governance Initiative & Creation of Governance Task Force

July 14, 2010

### Rationale for Governance Initiative

The Board of the First Unitarian Society believes there is a need to fully review our governance structures and move to a policy-based approach. We believe this for the following reasons:

- The First Unitarian Society of Madison has increased in size and complexity over the years, and unclear lines of responsibility and accountability have sometimes lead to confusion and contention;
- The current policy manual is inadequate and out of date;
- The Board finds itself focused too often on administrative and “situational” decisions instead of on focusing on providing long-term direction and vision for FUS;
- Other organizations within our denomination, including the UUA, several districts, and various congregations have successfully moved to policy-based governance and seen positive benefits including improved operational efficiency and higher volunteer satisfaction.

### Creation and Role of Governance Task Force

The Board also realizes that past attempts at moving to policy-based governance have proven to be only partially successful. Therefore, in an effort to maximize the probability of success for this initiative, the Board is creating a Governance Task Force whose function is to:

- Create a structured timeline to have the Board examine the key policy decisions that need to be made before moving toward a trial run of policy-based governance;
- Produce draft policy proposals for the Board to discuss using various resources (documents from other congregations, books, and consulting help);
- Insure a high level of internal consistency in the policies being affirmed and ultimately approved;

- Communicate policy proposals that have been affirmed by the Board to the broad membership of FUS for further feedback;
- Receive, collect and summarize the feedback on affirmed policies and provide the Board with a summary.

By adopting this resolution, the Board is committing itself to work diligently on the creation of policies necessary to have FUS adopt a policy-based governance structure that is both appropriate and effective.