

UUA Article II Study Process and Adoption Timeline

Article II of the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) Bylaws, Principles and Purposes was last revised over 35 years ago, in 1987. The UUA Board of Trustees established the Article II Study Commission to review Article II and propose potential revisions for consideration by the UUA General Assembly.

The Article II Study Commission convened in the fall of 2020, developing a shared understanding of its charge, the history of Article II, and the study process. In the Spring of 2021, the Study Commission began hosting theological panel discussions with surveys to gain an understanding of the values and sources of inspiration shared amongst Unitarian Universalists. At General Assembly 2021, the Commissioners introduced the Article II study process in a General Session, and engaged attendees in focus groups.

Congregational resources, for small group ministry and group discussion, were developed and shared in the fall of 2021. Focus groups, individual interviews, and surveys continued through the winter and spring of 2022. Draft language was prepared and shared during General Session at the 2022 General Assembly. Focus groups and surveys were used to collect feedback on these drafts.

In the fall of 2022, the Article II Study held feedback sessions and surveys on different drafts of Article II, each draft informed by previous feedback sessions and surveys.

The Article II Study Commission has completed its two year study. They submitted their [Article II Study Report \(PDF 26 pages\)](#) to the UUA Board of Trustees at their meeting held on January 20, 2023. The report includes the Study Commission's recommended revisions to Article II.

Amendment Process

Following the presentation of the Article II Study Proposal in January, the UUA Board of Trustees began developing a congregational engagement and amendment process. Requests for edits to the proposal have already begun to pour in, indicating the likelihood of many, many amendments at General Assembly. Therefore the UUA Board of Trustees has developed a four phase process which will begin in April, to support the Co-Moderators in prioritizing amendments on the General Assembly agenda.

Suggesting Amendment Ideas - April

Anyone interested in proposing an amendment to be considered for priority should submit their suggested amendment idea through the Article II Amendment form, that will be live on the Article II Study main page starting April 1st. Suggested amendment ideas for priority would need to be submitted by April 30; the form would remain open after that to capture other suggestions. The UUA Board reviews all amendment ideas suggested by April 30, and posts these to the Article II Study site if they meet the standards outlined in the form, along with suggester's contact info.

Discussing Amendment Ideas - May

The UUA Board hosts three amendment discussion workshops. These are open to anyone, and may include A2SC members. Workshops will discuss areas where multiple amendments have

been submitted, to help proposers align with each other. People can also self-organize based on posted amendments. Dates of these amendment discussion workshops will be posted to the Article II Study site April 1st.

Formally Submitting Amendments and Mini-Assembly - June

After the final agenda For GA is published and the delegate platform is open, delegates may submit amendments (limit 1 per delegate). The amendment submission form will clarify whether the amendment is based on an amendment idea which was previously suggested and discussed; this would be required for priority consideration by the Moderator. Proposed deadline for formally submitting amendments to be considered for priority – June 5

Delegates may submit amendments up through the General Assembly mini-assembly, but last-minute amendments may not be considered for priority. The mini-assembly will be all virtual, likely to happen at 12:30 ET on Thursday during General Assembly. The mini-assembly will discuss possible amendments, but will not include a straw poll or other vote.

The Co-Moderators, Co-Chairs of the Article II Study Commission and General Assembly Parliamentarian, will review and prioritize amendments made by the delegates and the Board of Trustees and place them on the General Assembly agenda for discussion and balloting.

Article II Revision Votes

The final version of Article II, as amended by 2023 General Assembly, must receive a simple majority vote to move forward. The Article II Study Commission will have six months following the 2023 General Assembly to incorporate and clean up any amendments passed by the delegates, and send it back to the UUA Board of Trustees to be placed on the General Assembly 2024 agenda for a final vote.

The Article II proposal is subject to amendment in 2024 only by a three-fourths vote in favor of an amendment submitted to the General Assembly in writing by the UUA Board of Trustees or a minimum of fifteen (15) certified congregations by action of their governing boards or their congregations; such proposed amendments must be received by the UUA Board of Trustees by February 1, 2024.

Final approval of the Article II proposal requires a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the 2024 General Assembly to adopted the revision as the new Article II of the UUA bylaws. If either 2023 or 2024 General Assembly votes fails, the process ends and a similar proposal cannot be considered for two years.

<https://www.uua.org/uuagovernance/committees/article-ii-study-commission>