

AMERICAN ETHICAL UNION

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Bylaw Amendment

Amendment to Article I. Membership with the addition of Section 7 below:

“Section 7. Individual Members. The AEU is authorized to admit to membership individual Members at Large under such requirements and rules (including provisions for termination) as the Board may adopt from time to time. Such Members at Large would not be eligible to run for the Board but would be eligible to participate as members of AEU Committees.”

CURRENT BYLAW – ARTICLE I, Sections 1-6

ARTICLE I. Membership

Section 1. In General. Membership in the AEU shall be available to organizations meeting the qualifications set forth in these Bylaws.

Section 2. Admission - Societies and Fellowships.

a) In General. An organization shall be eligible for membership if its purposes are in harmony with those of the AEU, if it meets the qualifications hereinafter set forth, and if it complies with the procedural requirements of the AEU. Such organization shall be admitted as either a Society or a Fellowship, following a recommendation of the Membership Committee, as specified below and in Section 5.

b) Societies. An organization shall be admitted to membership as a Society by a majority vote of the Assembly. To be eligible for admission as a Society an organization:

i) Shall have met regularly and conducted a program for at least three (3) years after admission as a Fellowship;

ii) Shall have made provision for some Leadership services;

iii) Shall have made provision for the ethical education of children and/or of adults; and

iv) Shall have at least 50 individual members and shall be legally incorporated.

c) Fellowships. An organization shall be admitted to membership as a Fellowship by a majority vote of the Board of Directors. To be eligible for admission as a Fellowship an organization:

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- i) Shall have met regularly and conducted a program;
- ii) Shall have made provision for the ethical education of children and/or of adults; and
- iii) Shall have at least 10 individual members.

Section 3. Affiliated Organizations. The Board of Directors of the AEU, after consultation with the National Leaders Council or the Membership Committee, may admit to affiliate status in the AEU any other organization, to be known as an Affiliated Organization, the purposes and programs of which, in the judgment of the Board, are auxiliary to and support the purposes and objectives of the AEU and its Committees. Such organization shall make written application for affiliated status, stating that it subscribes to the purposes and objectives of the AEU and pledging to support the AEU. Such affiliate status shall continue so long as the purposes and programs of the Affiliated Organization continue, in the judgment of the Board, to be auxiliary to and in support of the objectives of the AEU. Each Affiliated Organization shall have voting rights as set forth in Article II, shall be required to participate with the appropriate Committee as determined by the Board, and shall make a financial contribution to the AEU annually, in an amount to be determined by the Board. Pre-fellowship groups accepted for membership shall be referred to as Circles and shall participate with the assistance and guidance of the Membership Committee.

Section 4. Adjustment of Status - Societies and Fellowships. The Membership Committee shall annually review the membership status of Societies and Fellowships. Such status may be adjusted as follows:

- a) Societies which fail to meet the requirements of Article I, Section 2b for three (3) consecutive years may revert to Fellowship status.
- b) Fellowships which fail to meet the requirements of Article I, Section 2c for three (3) consecutive years may lose their Fellowship status, but may, with Board approval, become Circles.

Section 5. Termination of Membership:

- a) Voluntary Termination. Any member organization may withdraw from membership on six (6) months' notice to the Board. Such notice shall be signed by at least three (3) officials of such organization, duly certifying that a majority of the members of such organization have voted for withdrawal. If the member organization has fulfilled all of its obligations, financial and otherwise, to the AEU, and the Board is unable to remove the grounds of such organization's decision to withdraw, the Board shall notify the other member organizations. Such withdrawal from membership shall become effective on expiration of the period of such notice.
- b) Involuntary Termination. The membership of any Society may be terminated for reasonable

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cause by a two-thirds vote at any Regular or Special Assembly. Such vote shall be taken only following a resolution of the Board after review and recommendation by the Mediation Committee. The Society involved shall be given written notice of such resolution and the reasons thereof not less than three (3) months prior to such Assembly and shall have the right to attend such Assembly and be heard on such resolution. In addition to the adjustment set forth in Section 5, the membership of any Fellowship or the status of an Affiliated Organization may also be terminated for reasonable cause by the Board after review and recommendation by the Mediation Committee.

c) Use of Name Restricted. Admission to membership in the AEU of any member organization shall constitute its consent and agreement that on termination of such membership, whether voluntary or involuntary, such organization will cease to use the name Ethical Society or Fellowship, Ethical Culture Society or Fellowship, or Ethical Humanist Society or Fellowship, or variation thereof, and will otherwise avoid the use of words or conduct which convey the impression of membership in or affiliation with the AEU.

Section 6. Restrictions on Member Organizations:

a) Personal Rights. Member organizations shall be committed to freedom of thought concerning theological, social, governmental, and religious matters; and there shall be no discrimination on account of race, religious background, national origin, gender, or sexual orientation.

b) Governmental and Judicial Proceedings. No member organization shall, without prior consultation with the Law Committee, file any application or other legal document, nor institute, defend or participate as a party in any legal or administrative proceeding, whether at the federal, state or local level, with respect to any substantial matter, such as status as a tax-exempt organization or qualification as a religious organization.

c) Ethical Education. New member organizations shall consult with the Ethical Education Committee prior to instituting any program of ethical education.

d) Leadership. No member organization shall appoint any person to perform the functions or use the title of Leader or Associate Leader unless such person has been so approved by the Board and placed on the roster by the Leadership Committee, as provided in Article V. Section 4. d). Any member organization wishing to appoint a new Leader or Associate Leader or to change Leaders shall consult with the Leadership Committee before negotiating with any individual or member organization directly. No member organization shall appoint any person to a position of Leadership training without the approval of the Leadership Committee.

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Bylaw Amendment

Amendment to Article VII, Section 3. Chaplaincy Responsibilities and Titles

Proposed Amendment to Article VII, Section 3... members of an Ethical Culture Society, Fellowship, Circle or Exploratory Group ***"or individual member of the American Ethical Union."***

CURRENT BYLAW – ARTICLE VII, Sections 1-3

ARTICLE VII. Leadership and the National Leaders Council Section 1. Leadership

a) Responsibilities and Titles. The Leaders of the Ethical Culture Movement shall be responsible for the performance of pastoral functions, the conduct of the religious meetings, and, in general, ministering to the spiritual life of the membership. Every Leader shall have unlimited freedom of expression. The term Leaders includes the Leaders, Associate Leaders, Assistant Leaders, Leaders Emeritus, Acting Leaders, Ethical Culture Officiants, Ethical Humanist Officiants, and Leaders-in-Training who have received interim certification.

b) Certification and Licensing of Leaders:

i) A person shall be deemed certified or licensed as a Leader when: A) Such person's qualifications are approved by the Leadership Committee, and after such approval, B) The Board of Directors grants certification or license.

ii) Interim certification, for a limited period, may be granted by the Board of Directors upon recommendation of the Leadership Committee.

iii) Interim licensing for limited periods and for specific functions may be granted on recommendation of the Leadership Committee and approval by the Board of Directors to persons who are to serve as Ethical Culture Officiants, Ethical Humanist Officiants, Acting Leaders or Assistant Leaders, and to Leaders-in-Training in advanced stages of their training.

c) Termination of Certification or License. On the effective date of resignation as a Leader in the AEU, or on revocation of certification or license by the Board of Directors, following recommendation of the Leadership Committee and consultation with the Mediation Committee, the certification or license of a Leader shall be terminated.

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d) Leaders Emeritus. Upon the recommendation of any member organization or the National Leaders Council, any Leader may, because of long and devoted service to a member Society or to the AEU or because of special circumstances, be appointed a Leader Emeritus as set forth in Article VII, Section 1. b) i). Any Leader Emeritus presently so designated as such, shall not be affected by this amendment.

Section 2. The National Leaders Council. There shall be an association of Leaders known as the National Leaders Council, for the purposes of establishing and maintaining professional standards of conduct and achievement, encouraging the individual growth and development of the Leaders and the interchange of ideas, and fostering the spirit of fellowship and good will among its members. The Council may adopt its own bylaws or rules of procedure which shall, however, not be inconsistent with these Bylaws. The National Leaders Council shall send representatives to the Board of Directors and Committees, as specified in Articles III and V respectively.

Section 3. Chaplaincy Responsibilities and Titles: An Ethical Culture/Ethical Humanist Chaplain for Health Care shall be responsible for ministering to the spiritual life of those receiving health care services. Chaplains shall be certified Ethical Culture Leaders or lay members of an Ethical Culture Society, Fellowship, Circle or Exploratory Group.

a) A certified Ethical Culture Leader is deemed endorsed and a lay member is deemed commissioned as an Ethical culture/Ethical Humanist Chaplain when: such person's qualifications are approved by the Leadership Committee, upon satisfactory completion of both Ethical Culture training, and professional chaplaincy training and after such approval, the Board of Directors grants such approval.

b) Those who are granted this endorsement or commission will have the title of Ethical Culture/Ethical Humanist Chaplain.

c) The initial term of a Commission will be for one year, with subsequent renewals for three years terms.

d) Termination of Commission: On the effective date of resignation as an Ethical Culture/Ethical Humanist Chaplain, or on revocation of commission by the Board of Directors following recommendation of the Leadership Committee and in consultation with the Mediation Committee, the commission of a Chaplain shall be terminated. The commission shall be co-terminus of the certification of the APC or an AEU approval equivalent.

e) The AEU Leadership Committee shall notify the certifying body if any endorsement or commission is terminated or not renewed.