



# American Ethical Union

## Inspiring Ethical Communities

2 West 64<sup>th</sup> Street • New York, NY 10023 • [www.aeu.org](http://www.aeu.org)  
Phone 212.873.6500 • Fax 212-624-0203 • [office@aeu.org](mailto:office@aeu.org)

## ANNUAL COMMITTEE REPORT

### Committee Report for Policy Committee

Chair(s): Casey Gardonio-Foat  
Members: Elizabeth Singer  
Law'nence Miller  
Bonni Blarcom  
John Daken

**Please provide brief updates on the following areas of your Committee that occurred or developed during 2020:**

#### **Committee's Mission/Purpose:**

The Policy Committee was created by the Board this year (2020-2021) to continue the work recommended by the Policy Task Force. Its primary charge is to compile and create policies and procedures to govern the work of the AEU, its Board, Committees and Task Forces, and staff. The goal of such policies is to ensure cohesive functioning of the organization, mutual understanding among its various stakeholders, and compliance with relevant state and federal laws.

#### **Programs/Projects:**

Building on last year's work collecting existing AEU policy documents into a comprehensive digital *Policy Handbook*, the Committee continues to draft policies as requested by the Board and other AEU committees. One major accomplishment of this past year has been the creation and approval, after thorough discussion, of a full Conflict of Interest Policy and procedures for the disclosure of potential and actual conflicts of interest. In response to a committee and Board request, we also recommended an amendment to the Bylaws that will allow committee members to serve longer (ten-year) terms while providing for the regular refreshing of committee leadership (this amendment will be presented for a vote at the 2021 Assembly Business Meeting).

#### **Goals for 2021:**

Our primary goal for 2021 is to create a plan for completing the AEU Policy Handbook. This



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includes a conducting a thorough inventory of existing AEU policies, including those that have not been digitized; gaining a sound understanding of New York state laws that apply to non-profit organizations such as ours and ensuring our compliance with them; discussing relevant policies with the Board and other affected stakeholders to obtain buy-in; and making the resulting Policy Handbook publicly accessible. This is a significant undertaking that may require more than one year to complete, but our enthusiastic team is dedicated to making significant headway, especially in organizing the project so that future teams may continue our work seamlessly.