

**Birmingham Unitarian Church  
Congregational Meeting  
Sunday, November 16, 2025**

**Call to Order:** 12:07pm

Covenant - All

Started meeting with 75 people in room and seven on-line for a total of 82 congregants, which easily met the requirement for a quorum, currently 27 members (10% of the congregation).

**Bylaws – Mary Jo Ebert**

The bylaws committee was: Art Hillman, Marilyn Kelly, Brian Schandavel and Silvia Whitmer with support from Randy Safford and Rev. Connie.

Mary Jo summarized changes to Bylaws: Updated terminology, clarified membership, reduced number of people on the Board from nine members to seven; Nominating Committee is reduced from ten members to seven and definition of a quorum. Other changes were for clarification regarding the Endowment Committee and electronic elections.

**Vote – Randy Safford (Parliamentarian)**

Marilyn Mast moved to approve the Bylaws; Art Hillman seconded. Two amendments were presented by Harper West:

- Amendment 1: change wording to “their” in Article XV, Section 1, instead of “his or her.” Harper West moved to approve the amendment, Tanya Nordhaus seconded. Approved (80 votes for).
- Amendment 2: remove “no later than 10am” in Article VIII, Section 9. The sentence now reads: *Electronic ballots must be completed and validated, and paper ballots completed, signed, returned and validated, no later than the date and time set by the Board and set forth in the notice of meeting. ... so long as such member’s ballot is completed and validated prior to the time set by the Board for such meeting.* Harper West moved, Eric Sargent seconded. Approved (86 votes for).

Questions: In 8.11 it says 75% have to agree to a position on societal issues before the congregation will take a position. Has that changed? No, it was not changed. What is a societal issue and why 75%. If the church is making a public statement on an issue, it was thought if 75% did not agree, the congregation did not have a consensus. It has been used on three issues in the past, which were: The Eighth Principle, Gun Control and Climate Commitment. The revised Bylaws were approved (86 votes for).

Meeting adjourned at 12:23pm