

Proposed Amendments to IUCC's Bylaws

WHEREAS: Irvine United Congregational Church bylaws and other organizational and financial arrangements generally have served the congregation well in times when in-person gatherings were routine and non-threatening; and

WHEREAS: The pandemic of 2020 and the threat of COVID-19 disease have made many in-person gatherings unwise, and have led congregational leaders to propose ways of doing church business without requiring large in-person gatherings; and

WHEREAS: The pandemic has led the licensing authority for the IUC Early Childhood Center (ECC) to greatly reduce the allowable number of children to be served, with the consequence that the ECC will not be able to offer the financial support to the congregation that was planned for in the budget adopted by the congregation on February 9, 2020; and

WHEREAS: The risk of disease transmission in the ECC may open the congregation to claims or lawsuits;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED: That Irvine United Congregational Church does hereby:

1. At Article 8, CONGREGATIONAL MEETINGS, add a new Section 6 as follows.

Section 6 CONGREGATIONAL MEETING VIA ELECTRONIC MEANS

- A. By a majority vote of both the Administration Board and the Ministries Board, a congregational meeting may be held by electronic means.
- B. Any electronic meeting shall be preceded by a forum held at least seven (7) days beforehand, where members of the congregation may ask questions and discuss issues.

(RATIONALE: This allows an appropriate response to emergencies, including but not limited to earthquake, tsunami, fire, civil insurrection, or pandemic.)

2. Authorize the Administration Board to make changes to IUCC Bylaws that explicitly indemnify any IUCC director, officer, employee, agent, or member who suffers a loss because of their service to IUCC, and to add to the agenda of the next Regular or Special meeting of the congregation a motion to secure congregational approval of the bylaw or bylaws.

(RATIONALE: This will take working with a lawyer, and the Administration Board has retained a lawyer for this purpose and other immediate questions.)