

**The Bylaws of the Youth Adult Committee
of NY Metro District Young Religious Unitarian Universalists
(YAC of Metro District YRUU)**

approved June 10, 2005

ARTICLE I: Name

The name of this organization shall be the Youth Adult Committee of the New York Metro District Young Religious Unitarian Universalists. It shall be referred to as Metro YAC.

ARTICLE II: Affiliation

Metro YAC is a district affiliate of the Young Religious Unitarian Universalists (YRUU) of the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA). The YAC is a subcommittee of the Unitarian Universalist District of Metropolitan New York (Metro District).

ARTICLE III: Purposes

Section 1. We affirm the stated purposes of YRUU:

- Young Religious Unitarian Universalists shall serve its members for the purposes of fostering spiritual depth, creating a peaceful community on earth and peace within us, and clarifying both individual and universal religious values as a part of our growth process. Our purposes are to provide and manifest a greater understanding of Unitarian Universalism and to encourage the flow of communication between youth and adults.
- In doing so we shall embrace criticism and embrace all persons of diverse backgrounds. We shall encourage the development of a spirit of independence and responsibility.
- We shall strive to support our members and member groups with educational resources, with a communication network and with love.
- These purposes shall assist us in developing an effective system for social action and serve to raise our levels of mutual respect, communication, and community consciousness.

Section 2. In addition, the Metro YAC affirms the following purposes:

- Create intentional community and provide support for it.
- Strive to support the community in creating a safe space physically and mentally for people to grow and learn.
- Provide leadership and encourage leadership development.

ARTICLE IV: Responsibilities and Objectives

The following responsibilities and objectives will serve as action guidelines to assist us in achieving the above stated purposes:

- Development of quality programming with and for Metro District youth.
- Provide a forum for communication between youth and adults at district and continental levels.
- Act as a liaison between the local and continental levels of the YRUU.
- Facilitate interaction between district youth groups.
- Provide training and support for local youth group advisors.
- Provide leadership training and experience for youth.
- Provide support to local youth groups within the district.

- Maintain an up-to-date mailing list of district youth and advisors.
- Manage funds in coordination with the District staff.
- Keep the Metro District community on a course of sustained progress.
- Be model members of the community by upholding the covenants of the Energy Committee and the YAC.
- Create rules to safeguard the community and provide a structure to enforce these rules.
- Create and responsibly coordinate the district youth programming calendar.

ARTICLE V: YAC Membership

Section 1. Optimum group size will be 18-20 youth members.

Section 2. Optimum adult membership will be 4-5, but no less than three adult members, including the District Religious Education Program Consultant, who is a standing member of YAC.

Section 3. A representative balance of members in terms of congregation, geographic area, age, gender, and racial identity that reflects the demographics of youth participants in the Metro District will be attempted.

Section 4. Prospective YAC members, both youth and adult, will submit an application for membership at their third YAC meeting. Members must have attended at least one official district or continental youth event. Membership shall take effect immediately upon acceptance.

Section 5. A nominating committee of at least four (consisting of graduating seniors and adults) shall be appointed each year by the co-chairs to review applications for YAC officers for the following year. They will present a slate of YAC members and officers to the Metro YAC for approval at the second to last YAC meeting of the school year. Additional candidates can also be nominated if the candidate is willing to serve. The last YAC meeting of each school year shall be transitional.

Section 6. It is the responsibility of YAC, by consensus, to request resignation of a member if that member does not attend or contribute to committee or community functions, or abide by all covenants.

Section 7. In the event that a vacancy shall exist on YAC, the co-chairs will appoint a person, subject to approval by the YAC membership at the next meeting, to serve until the next slate is approved.

ARTICLE VI: YAC Officers

Section 1. Elected officers of the YAC shall consist of: two youth Co-chairs and two adult Co-chairs. Ideally Youth co-chairs will serve a two-year term, for their junior and senior years. Adult co-chairs shall serve a one-year term.

Section 2. The Co-chairs shall serve as ex-officio members of all committees, convene and publicize YAC meetings, construct the meeting agenda, and perform all duties commonly associated with the office.

Section 3. The Co-chairs shall appoint one Youth Council Representative from among the YAC membership, subject to approval by the YAC membership at the next meeting. The Youth Council Representative will serve for two years.

Section 4. The Youth Council Representative shall represent the Metro District in Continental YRUU for two years; perform all duties that the YRUU specifies, and keep the Metro District updated with continental news and events. She/he shall submit a written report to YAC and to the UUDMNY Board after each Youth Council meeting.

Section 5. At every YAC meeting there shall be a scribe who keeps a complete record of the proceedings and mails the minutes of the meeting to YAC in a timely fashion (within two weeks). If the scribe is not present or has not been appointed, the co-chairs shall delegate the responsibility.

Section 6. The YAC Co-chairs will appoint, subject to approval by the YAC membership, two liaisons (District Board Representatives) to the UUDMNY Board of Trustees. The two attending liaisons will have one combined vote in the District Board.

Section 7. The YAC Co-chairs may appoint, subject to approval by the YAC membership, other positions such as Social Action Coordinator(s) (SAC), Energy Committee Coordinator(s) (ECC) and Treasurer.

ARTICLE VII: YAC Meetings

Section 1. The Co-chairs will notify members of the date and agenda of YAC meetings no later than one week prior to the meeting.

Section 2. Members unable to attend a scheduled meeting must notify a Co-Chair in advance. Members who miss a meeting without giving notice will receive a warning. Members who miss two consecutive meetings or more than one third of the meetings of that year will have their membership reviewed and may be asked to resign.

Section 3. Each YAC member and officer shall have one vote.

Section 4. For a YAC Meeting to occur, a quorum of three-fifths of the membership must be in attendance.

Section 5. The YAC shall operate by consensus. When consensus cannot be reached on a decision that cannot be tabled, a vote may be requested. Two thirds of those members present must approve of the vote. A simple majority will rule on the resulting vote.

Section 6. Visitors are welcome to participate in meetings and indicate their preferences, but only members and officers have an official vote.

ARTICLE VIII: Amendments

Section 1. Amendments to these bylaws must be presented to the YAC members at least 15 days prior to the meeting at which they will submit for approval.

Section 2. Amendments must be approved by a two-thirds majority at an official YAC meeting.