

The Bylaws of the Mystic Grove of the First Unitarian Church of Orlando

PREAMBLE

In accordance with the Principles of the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA), we as members and friends of the First Unitarian Church of Orlando (1U), join together in association to advance a free and responsible exploration of our religious and spiritual values and to promote understanding of those values within the UUA and among the wider religious community.

Article I. Name

The Name of this organization will be the Mystic Grove.

Article II. Affiliation

As of Nov 2001, Mystic Grove is affiliated with the First Unitarian Church of Orlando (1U) and will follow all applicable bylaws and policies of 1U.

As of June 2016, Mystic Grove is affiliated with Covenant of Unitarian Universalist Pagans (CUUPS) and is a CUUPS chapter.

Article III. Purposes

The Purposes of the Mystic Grove shall be to:

1. Provides a safe, welcoming place for Unitarian Universalists and Pagans to gather where people of differing age groups and ability levels are free to participate.
2. Supports Unitarian Universalists and Pagans in their spiritual growth and encourage personal responsibility through educational opportunities and sharing the collective wisdom of past and present.
3. Provides information and opportunities for Pagan and Unitarian Universalist networking to help promote understanding between people with different belief systems.
4. Provides meaningful, engaging, and vibrant Pagan or Earth Centered worship.
5. Provides fellowship opportunities for people to socialize, laugh, and celebrate with our own brand of UU Pagan flair!

We organize these activities by creating our “Annual Charter” document each summer, adjust the plan as needed at monthly meetings throughout the year, and report back to 1U with our annual report for the May congregational meeting.

Article IV. Fiscal Year

The fiscal year shall correspond with 1U’s fiscal year in the Eastern Standard Time Zone. (July 1 to June 30).

Article V. Membership

There are two types of members -- Unitarian Universalist Pagans (Registered Members) and Pagans in sympathy with UU values. (Registered Friends). The main difference is that only Registered members can hold office and vote on governance issues.

Members in good standing may take part and cast votes during business meetings, may propose amendments to these bylaws and may hold elected office in the Mystic Grove.

Requirements of membership:

1. Membership shall be open to individuals regardless of race, color, sex, sexual orientation, physical disability, religious or national origin, social condition or gender identity.
2. Members must be members in good standing with First Unitarian Church of Orlando or with another Unitarian Universalist organization.
3. Members must affirm sympathy with the Principles and Purposes of the UUA and with the purpose of the Mystic Grove as stated in these Bylaws.
4. Members shall attend at least four monthly meetings and one ritual per year. They may hold office, teach classes,
5. Membership is open to persons 18+ years of age or older. Children may attend most events with their parent/guardian.
6. Members shall pay five dollars upon joining Mystic Grove and five dollars in annual dues.
7. In special circumstances, officer position, dues, or attendance requirements may be waived by approval of the officers of the Mystic Grove.

Article VI. Officers Requirements

1. The officers' terms of office shall be one year corresponding to the Mystic Grove's fiscal year. (July 1 to June 30). There may be a week of overlap as outgoing officers and incoming officers change.
2. Elections shall be conducted at the June annual meeting in accordance with Article XI.
3. There is no limit to how many terms a member may serve in a particular office.
4. Each officer must be a member of the Mystic Grove as of the date of election.
5. A member can hold up to two officer positions at one time.

Duties and Responsibilities of Officers

Please refer to "Mystic Grove Officer Duties and Typical Calendar" document.

Filling of an Officer Vacancy

The officers of the Mystic Grove shall appoint all temporary replacements to fill officer vacancies.

Removal of Officer

An officer may be removed from office upon a vote of no confidence from at least two-thirds of the membership of the Mystic Grove at a special meeting called for that purpose.

Article VII. Committees

Committees may come into existence at the suggestion of or the perception of need by the officers and/or the membership.

Article VIII. Business Meetings

Conducting Business

1. The annual business meeting of the Mystic Grove, called by the officers, shall be held in June.
2. Special business meetings will be held whenever the officers deem necessary, or with the request of a simple majority of the voting members.

3. Members can propose agenda items for business meetings. Proposed items should be presented to the officers in order for the items to be included in the agenda of the next business meeting.
4. The officers shall set the agenda for all business meetings.
5. The officers shall notify, in writing, all members of the time, place and agenda of any business meeting at least two weeks in advance.
6. One third of the membership shall constitute a quorum for a business meeting unless otherwise specified in these bylaws.
7. During business meetings the officers may add agenda items as needed.
8. During business meetings members can propose agenda items; however it is up to the discretion of the officers in attendance if the proposed item will be added to the agenda or will be tabled until a later meeting.
9. During a business meeting, members may propose nominations, resolutions and amendments to motions on the floor, but they may not propose amendments to these bylaws. Bylaw amendments must be made in accordance with the provisions of Article XII.
10. All motions shall pass by simple majority unless otherwise noted in these bylaws.
11. Proxy voting will be allowed by written (including e-mail) proxy only.
12. Balloting will be open unless a member requests that it be secret, in which case the entire vote will be taken secretly.
13. All meetings will follow the rules and codes of, and will remain sympathetic to, the mission stated in these bylaws.

Code of Conduct

1. All Mystic Grove events and meetings are open to all members and friends of First Unitarian Church of Orlando and the community at large.
2. Respectful behavior is expected of all attendees during all Mystic Grove functions. Any persons engaging in behavior that disrupts Mystic Grove functions may be removed from that gathering or on a more permanent basis at the discretion of the officers. If no officer is in attendance the removal will be at the discretion of any member(s) in attendance.
3. Clothing is required at all Mystic Grove rituals and events.

4. Children are welcome. Those under 18 must be accompanied by a parent or have a permission slip signed by both parents or their primary guardian.

Statement of Privacy

Members of the Mystic Grove should insure the privacy of other members. The Mystic Grove will not publish the names or contact information of any member or participant to any media or in Mystic Grove or First Unitarian Church of Orlando publications without the member's permission.

Article IX. Finances

1. A budget line within First Unitarian Church of Orlando's budget should be maintained for the use of the Mystic Grove.

2. Funds may be derived from dues collected from each member, income from fundraising activities and gifts to the Mystic Grove.

3. No loans shall be contracted on behalf of the Mystic Grove and the Mystic Grove shall not become indebted for any reason.

4. The membership, by simple majority vote of those present at any regular or special meeting, must approve any project requiring the expenditure of funds in excess of \$500.00. The officers must also approve any such project.

Article X. Communication

A Mystic Grove website will be maintained that will include, but not be limited to, announcements of Mystic Grove events and basic information about the Mystic Grove's organization and requirements for membership.

(<https://www.orlandouu.org/groups/mystic-grove/> and <https://mysticgrovecfl.wordpress.com>)

A Mystic Grove email address will be maintained so that people may inquire about the group via the Internet. (mysticgrove@orlandouu.org)

Article XI. Elections

1. Nominations shall be made for each elective office at the annual meeting each year. (June)

2. Voting shall be conducted in accordance with Article VIII.

3. Ballots will be tallied by at least two members who are not candidates for that particular office.

4. The candidate receiving the largest number of votes shall be declared the winner.

Article XII. Adoption and Amendment

Adoption

1. These Bylaws shall become effective upon approval of at least two-thirds of the membership of the Mystic Grove.

Amendment

1. These Bylaws may be amended upon approval of at least two-thirds of the membership of the Mystic Grove at either the annual meeting or a special meeting called for that purpose.
2. Members may propose amendments. The proposal of an amendment must occur at least four weeks prior to the annual meeting or a special business meeting.

Article XIII. Dissolution

1. In the event of the dissolution of the Mystic Grove, any property and funds remaining after payment of any debts or liabilities shall become the property of First Unitarian Church of Orlando.
2. Member-owned items stored by the Mystic Grove must be claimed within four weeks of the dissolution decision. Any items going unclaimed become the property of First Unitarian Church of Orlando.

THESE BYLAWS WERE LAST UPDATED AND ADOPTED ON JUNE 2, 2019.