

UCUCC PROCESS FOR TAKING POLITICAL DECISION

In taking political positions as a church we need to respect our role as moral force and provide a method by which the congregation comes to “own” an issue adopted.

Any issue put before the church must have theological relevance as reflected in our local, conference or national covenant.

An issue needs the sponsorship of a “core group” or individual church member who ushers the issue through the stages of discussion and deliberation. To enable the congregation to understand the issue the sponsoring party needs to discuss the issue with the relevant board, conduct forums that enable congregational discussion and inform church members in church literature. Included in any discussion should be a plan for how the church can carry out its mission related to an adopted issue in the greater community.

Process for making decision:

- A. The sponsoring party brings the issue to the relevant board that discusses the issue and votes on whether to recommend a position be taken. An AIR form (Agenda Item Request) is authored by the sponsoring party or the board and presented to the Executive Committee. A discussion of the plan of action engaging the larger community should be included with the AIR form.
- B. The Executive Committee discusses the issue and votes to place the issue on the Council agenda, or sends the proposal back with suggested changes.
- C. The Church Council discusses the issue and either:
 1. Sends the issue to the congregation for a vote,
 2. Sends the issue back to the relevant board for amendment, or
 3. Votes against the issue, thus ending discussion.
- D. Education of the congregation through at least one forum and one piece in church literature is suggested. Consistent with the Bylaws there should be a prior publication of the proposed resolution along with statements presenting the positive and negative views.
- E. If the matter is referred to the Congregation, a vote will take place on the resolution as stated in the AIR form.
- F. The Church Council or any Board may act alone on issues they believe warrant greater urgency than the above process provides.