



BRIEF OVERVIEW

CONSTITUTIONAL AND BY-LAW AMENDMENTS FOR GENERAL COUNCIL CONSIDERATION IN NASHVILLE, FEBRUARY 24, 2023

Submitted by General Councilors Tom Allen, Cecelia Lampley, Barbara Newsom, John Lange, Brent St. Denis, David Schlundt, Sue Seccombe, Douglas Burns, Bobbie Dreier, and Jackie Koury.

FOR DETAILED RATIONALE SEE THE THE ATTACHMENT

1. Motion to Amend Section 15.1 in Article XV in the UBF Constitution (amend voting threshold from three-fourths (3/4) to two-thirds (2/3) and other measures detailed with rationale in the attachment)

Summary

This amendment proposes

- to reduce our constitutional amendment requirement from three-fourths (3/4) to two-thirds (2/3).
- Sixty (60) days' notice and at least forty-five (45) days of public discussion is proposed.
- The Executive Committee requirements for amendment submission to the General Council will be changed to majority vote instead of three-fourths (3/4)
- Six (6) General Councilors remain as a requirement for amendment submission.
- A new subsection allows ten (10) members who are not necessarily General Councilors to submit amendment resolutions.

Whereas, RONR (Robert's Rules) suggests a two-thirds (2/3) vote for bylaw amendment ratification

Whereas, current constitutional amendment approval requires a Three-fourths (3/4) vote by secret ballot of the General Council to ratify,

Whereas, increasing the time for the General Council to consider constitutional amendments to sixty (60) days required for submission and forty-five (45) days of public comment will improve communication and education about submitted amendment resolutions, and,

Whereas, SCICR voted unanimously to recommend this amendment resolution, therefore be it

Resolved, that the General Council adopt the following revised constitutional amendment to replace Section 15.1 in Article XV in the UBF

ARTICLE XV

Section 15.1. Procedure for Amendment: Amendments to the CONSTITUTION OF THE URANTIA BOOK FELLOWSHIP may be originated by:

- a) Six (6) members of the General Council may submit resolutions to the Secretary-General of THE URANTIA BOOK FELLOWSHIP, or
- b) Majority vote of the Executive Committee, or
- c) Ten (10) members in good standing may submit resolutions to the Secretary-General of THE URANTIA BOOK FELLOWSHIP.

General Councilors must be notified of amendment proposals sixty (60) days before any meeting of the General Council. The proposed amendment must be posted on a discussion forum for comment and input from the membership of THE URANTIA BOOK FELLOWSHIP for at least forty-five (45) days during the sixty (60) days. Once received, amendment resolutions will be placed on the agenda of the next General Council meeting with proper General Council notice. Amendment adoption requires two-thirds (2/3) favorable vote by secret ballot of the General Council membership present and at least a majority favorable vote of the entire General Council membership. If there is unanimous consent for adoption, a secret ballot is not required. With a vote cast in favor thereof, the amendment shall immediately become effective and a part of the CONSTITUTION OF THE URANTIA BOOK FELLOWSHIP.

2. Rescind Paragraph 9.2 in the UBF By-laws (redundancy)

Whereas, if this resolution to rescind Paragraph 9.2 is adopted, the General Council may still make By-law amendments according to Section 8.8 (b) in the UBF constitution,

Resolved, that the General Council rescind Paragraph 9.2.