



Authority to Speak for, or Commit The UU Church of the Restoration

Members of the Unitarian Universalist Church of the Restoration may find themselves in situations where they are moved to speak out upon, or make a commitment of some resource(s) to, an issue. If/when they are identified as members of Restoration, it is incumbent upon them to make clear the boundary of their power to speak, i.e. whether for themselves or for the church or only some entity within the church, for example the Social Justice Ministry.

With respect to speaking for, or committing the church, then consistent with our congregational polity, no individual, clergy or lay, has a vested authority and prerogative of speaking on behalf of the church or committing the church or its resources to any project, effort or cause. That authority rests within the congregation as a whole or within the Board of Trustees as stated in the by-laws:

Between meetings of the congregation, the Board shall have the powers of the Church itself, except those reserved to the full congregation by law or by these Bylaws ... (V:3).

Therefore, an individual, clergy or lay, seeking to speak for the church or to commit the church's resources must first secure the consensus of the Board of Trustees who may, if they judge the situation merits it, require the endorsement of the congregation as a whole via a congregational meeting. Calling such a meeting will be done in conformance with requirements as stated in the by-laws (IV:4).