

## **BYLAWS MINISTRY TEAM REPORT**

The Bylaws Ministry Team was formed in August of 2006. This ministry team consists of Nancy and Morty Abish, Laurie Lamothe, Sandy Fisher, and Pat Pearson. We have met almost weekly since our formation and are currently working on our third draft of the church bylaws.

The purpose of this ministry team is:

1. To simplify and clarify the bylaws so they are consistent and readable without losing the intent with which they were written.
2. To update the bylaws and bring them more in line with those recommended by the Association of Unity Churches, but keeping sections and wording that are specific to our church.

The bylaws of our church were originally adopted in 1947. Through the years, they have been amended a number of times, making them difficult to read, wordy, and not well organized. Our current bylaws were adopted in February of 1999 and no updates or changes have been made since that time. We are working to simplify the wording of the bylaws and put items in a logical order.

To accomplish our purpose, we have read the bylaws thoroughly, word by word and line by line, to fully understand the meaning and intent of each section. We have also compared them in this manner to the bylaws recommended by the Association of Unity Churches. In many cases, we have kept the original wording. However in other cases, we recommend using the Association wording, which is more simple and concise.

Issues that have generated extensive discussion are:

1. What it means to be a member of Unity Church of Practical Christianity and what the responsibilities of membership are.
2. How active or inactive membership is determined, and the rights and privileges of each.
3. Employment, duties, and responsibilities of the minister.
4. Structure, qualifications, nominating procedures, vacancies, and duties of the Board of Trustees and its officers.

Although our ministry team has made significant strides in updating the bylaws, there is still much to be done. Our team expects to complete at least one more draft before the recommended changes are presented to the Board of Trustees for their approval. After receiving approval from the board, the recommendations will be presented to the active membership for ratification.