

Procedures for Life Members to Vote by Absentee Ballot at Congregational Meetings

Background

In relation to business meetings of the congregation, Article VII B.4) of the Bylaws provides, “There shall be no proxy or absentee voting except for Life Members, who may vote by absentee ballot according to Board approved procedures.”

According to Article VI F., Life Membership “may be granted to members who have been active for an extended period of time, and who are no longer able to participate actively due to advanced age, health, or disability.” Life Members retain “full voting privileges.”

Currently, the congregation holds its annual meeting both in person and on-line, but some Life Members may not be able to attend or access the voting process at the meeting by either means because of their age, health, or disability.

Procedures

A Life Member who wishes to vote by absentee ballot must provide that absentee ballot to the Director of Finance and Operations prior to the commencement of the meeting at issue.

The absentee vote may be made by conveying the Life Member’s desire to vote for or against any person, slate of nominees, or item on the warning of the meeting in writing (email from the Member’s email address on file with FUUSB or signed document) or verbally to the Director of Finance and Operations. That absentee vote should then be recorded in the Society’s records and retained no less than three years.

The ballot must be received by the Director of Operations and Finance at least one day before the commencement of the meeting.

If an amendment is made at the meeting, the Life Member will not be able to vote for or against the amendment itself, but if the amendment is accepted, the Director will determine whether the amendment has made a substantive change to the item or merely a corrective or minor change that does not change the substance on which the absentee ballot has been cast. If the amendment is substantive, the absentee ballot will not be counted for that nominee or item only.

An absentee ballot may be withdrawn by the Life Member before the commencement of the meeting without having to give a reason.