

## FUUSF's Governance model: Overview and Principles

### **Background:**

From 2004-6, the Board revised its Policy Governance model. The revised governance document, as well as the Society's bylaws, are available on the Board's page of the Society's website. This one-page overview is also on that page.

### **Overview of FUUSF Governance**

Our congregationally-elected Board provides leadership to ensure that the Society fulfills its mission, while acting as responsible stewards of the Society's resources. It sets the overall vision for the Society, and facilitates progress toward that vision through its linkages with the Senior Executive, committees and the entire congregation.

### **Guiding Principles**

The following principles guided the Board in its revision of the document:

- The Society's Ends should be succinct.
- The Governance model should be clear and transparent. Documentation and communications about the model should minimize use of jargon.
- Governance is about how the Board organizes itself to fulfill the Society's mission. One important and essential aspect of Governance is how the Board delegates authority to the Senior Executive and how it then performs its oversight function. The Board's job is to set broad policy and priorities. It should not be involved in the daily work of the paid staff.
- Governance encompasses many other aspects, including establishing goals for our community and developing processes that engage the Senior Executive, committees, and the entire congregation, as appropriate, in determining and achieving goals.
- Good Governance incorporates accountability: goals should be measurable and plans for achieving goals, including roles and responsibilities, should be clear.
- While an important Board responsibility is to identify problems and ensure that policies are not violated, the Governance process should focus primarily on the positive: establishing what we can do together and monitoring progress of what has been done.
- Processes for involving the entire congregation should aim to get input from all members, including those who may not be comfortable speaking at meetings, as well as members more skilled in that context.
- Conflict is healthy and to be expected. Governance should reflect that reality.

Please contact a board member with any questions about our governance model.