

Chestnut Grove Bylaws

PREAMBLE

In accordance with the principles of the Unitarian Universalist Association (“UUA”), as expressed in Article II of the Bylaws of the UUA, we, as interested and concerned members and friends of UUA societies, join together in association to advance a free and responsible exploration of our religious and spiritual values and to promote the understanding of those values within the UUA and among the broader community.

Article I NAME

The full name of this organization is the Chestnut Grove Covenant of Unitarian Universalist Pagans within the Unitarian Universalist Church of Greater Lansing (“Chestnut Grove of UU Lansing” or simply “Chestnut Grove”).

Article II AFFILIATION

Chestnut Grove is intended to be an organization in relationship with the Unitarian Universalist Church of Greater Lansing and CUUPs, Inc..

Article III MISSION

The mission of **Chestnut Grove** is to be a diverse, compassionate, and inclusive community of UU Pagans, seekers, and friends who celebrate the UUA 7th principle¹, to provide a welcoming home to

¹ Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.

connect and support each other as we live more in balance with nature, and to enrich our lives with teachings, traditions, and philosophies of the world's Pagan and Earth-centered spiritualities and religious practices.

Article IV MEMBERSHIP

1. Any person subscribing to the mission and by-laws of Chestnut Grove and the mission and ends of UU Lansing shall be eligible for membership. Membership in the **Chestnut Grove** shall be open, without regard to age, race, color, ethnicity, sex, affectional or sexual orientation, gender expression, physical or mental ability, relationship status, family structure, national origin, or social condition. A list of voting members shall be kept by the Board.
2. The organization shall hold its meetings at least once per month unless agreed upon for unusual circumstances. The Annual Business Meeting will be held in September. The agenda for the Annual Business Meeting shall include nomination and election of new co-Presidents and Board members, as well as delivery of an Annual Report on the past year's activities from the outgoing Board members. You must have attended at least six of the previous years meeting to run for the Board.
3. Each member who attends three meetings or gatherings per calendar year has one vote. At the annual Board election, members may vote in real time. For the Board election ballot and other official business, such as bylaws revisions, members may vote by a secure method as determined by the board and sent to all current members. Notice of such a polled vote will specify all items of business and will be sent to members at least 20 days in advance.

4. Members may indicate that their data is confidential and shall not be shared outside of the Board, staff, or bonded volunteers.

Article V BOARD OF DIRECTORS

1. The Board members (Board) shall consist of five active CUUPS members including two co-Presidents. Should a Board member leave the **Chestnut Grove** before their term has expired, the Board may appoint an acting member to fill the remainder of that term.
2. Members of the Board shall be elected annually and terms shall begin November 1st.
3. The Board shall meet at least quarterly. Meetings may be conducted in person, electronically, or by conference call. A quorum² of the Board is necessary to conduct business and consists of the majority of its members.
4. The responsibilities of the Board shall be to manage the affairs of the organization, including but not limited to the following:
 - Act as liaison with the larger UU Lansing congregation
 - Assist in developing organizational resolutions
 - Manage the financial resources of the organization within the UU Lansing operational budget
 - Establish policies and procedures necessary to conduct the business and programs of the organization
 - Prepare an Annual Report of the organization's status and activities
 - Provide regular monitoring reports to the UU Lansing Senior Minister

² Being defined as greater than 50% of the elected board members

- Keep a record of members who have met the requirement for voting
- Keep the calendar of events and programs for the organization
- Collaborate with the UU Lansing Senior Minister to restore right relationship if a member is exhibiting behavior out of accordance with the mission and ends of either UU Lansing or Chestnut Grove

Article VI AMENDMENT OF THE BY-LAWS

Amendment to these bylaws may be proposed by the members at the Annual Business Meeting, or by the Board at any Board meeting or at the Annual Business Meeting. Before amendments are voted on, members shall be notified by the Board not less than 30 day before the vote. The vote may take place either by electronic or mail-in ballot, or, if a quorum is present, at the Annual Business Meeting, or electronically in real time. Approval of bylaw amendments require a two-thirds affirmative vote of the members.

Article VII RULES

The board of the **Chestnut Grove** may propose and enact Rules. The Rules of the **Chestnut Grove** shall contain such provisions as these articles, or the CUUPS Standard Operating Procedure Book and may require any other provisions which the Board or the members may deem necessary for the proper conduct of the affairs of the **Chestnut Grove**. No Rule of the **Chestnut Grove** shall be valid which is inconsistent with the mission of CUUPS Inc., the bylaws and policies of UU Lansing, or these articles. The Rules of the **Chestnut Grove** shall be adopted upon approval by an ordinary act of the members. The Rules of the **Chestnut Grove** shall

become effective upon publication via email to all the voting members, or upon such a date subsequent to publication as may be therein specified.

Chestnut Grove Covenant with UU Lansing

As a ministry of UU Lansing, our covenant is to strive to fulfill the mission stated in our bylaws:

to be a diverse, compassionate, and inclusive community of UU Pagans, seekers, and friends who celebrate the UUA 7th principle, to provide a welcoming home to connect and support each other as we live more in balance with nature, and to enrich our lives with teachings, traditions, and philosophies of the world's Pagan and Earth-centered spiritualities and religious practices.

and strive to fulfill the mission and ends of UU Lansing. Additionally, we encourage our membership to live in sympathy with the congregational covenant of UU Lansing.