

How to propose amendments under Robert's Rules of Order

UUCB's congregational meetings follow Robert's Rules of Order, and these can be confusing especially with a complex motion. Please take a look at the following information for what to expect as well as how to propose amendments to the resolution.

The board has voted to move Resolution 22-1 at the congregational meeting. First it will be formally moved and seconded, then a bit of introduction will happen. Once the general discussion time arrives, any voting member can suggest an amendment to the motion, and since some are expected to be moved, the moderator of the meeting (UUCB board president, Beth Pollard) will likely call for them. Once an amendment is moved and seconded, then discussion on the overall resolution will pause and the amendment will be discussed then voted on. If passed, the resolution will be changed accordingly.

Amendments are a good thing to propose if there is something that you would like to be different in the resolution. This can be a word change, a sentence change, adding an entirely new sentence or item, or deleting words, sentences, or items.

The best way to propose these is to note which letter or number your proposed motion corresponds to, or would fall after if it would be an additional item, and state the change, both what it is currently and how you are proposing it to read. Here are some examples of what that might look like:

Sample amendment for deleted words:

In line S, to change "civil and structural engineer" to "structural engineer"

Sample amendment for changed words:

In line I, to change "May 1, 2024" to "June 1, 2024"

Sample amendment for an added item:

After line K, add "Picnics and pancake breakfasts are a crucial way that the UUCB community spends time together building community."

Since the board is endeavoring to be as transparent and collaborative throughout this process as possible, you are invited to share motions that you are intended to move at the meeting ahead of time, so that they can be included in the information packet that will go out to members prior to the meeting. To do this, please send your amendment to Selene Fabiano at secretary@uucb.org by October 11 since the packet will be sent out on October 13. If you are working on your amendment after that time, please send it to Selene so that it can be included in the printed materials for the board meeting. All of these help to facilitate the congregation's consideration of the motion as well as members' wishes for changes to it. The resolution is the result of many months of exploration with many stakeholders in the congregation and has attempted to put forward a proposal that is acceptable to as many members of the congregation as possible, one of the goals of this overall process. If you would like to see something different, you are encouraged to work with amendments to this main motion which was created in the spirit of flexibility, compromise, and collaboration. If you do have an entirely different motion to propose, please be in communication with Beth Pollard (board@uucb.org) and Selene Fabiano (secretary@uucb.org) in advance of the meeting.