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## **LREDA REQUESTS UUA BYLAW CHANGE GIVING DELEGATE STATUS TO RELIGIOUS EDUCATORS**

Today, the Liberal Religious Educators Association's Board of Trustees submitted a formal request to the UUA Board of Trustees for a Bylaw amendment modifying Article 4.8B to grant delegate status to all "Active members of LREDA who are currently serving a congregation." Delegate status is only available to religious educators who are members of a congregation and selected according to the church's bylaws, or who have achieved Credentialed Religious Educator – Masters Level status. Since current practice is for non-ordained staff to refrain from joining the congregation they serve, this leaves most religious educators without a voice in matters that concern the faith they serve. The LREDA Board seeks a vote on this matter at the 2018 General Assembly in Kansas City, Missouri.

Of the decision to pursue a Bylaw amendment, LREDA President Annie Scott, Credentialed Religious Educator says, "Over the past several months we, along with many other Unitarian Universalists, have been examining systems and practices within our faith through a critique of white supremacist and patriarchal culture. The voices of religious educators have been historically minimized and the time is right for a reevaluation of who is allowed to represent congregations in an association that holds congregational polity at its heart. This is an issue of justice and equity; we feel that our active members currently serving a congregation should be able to voice their experience and wisdom in service to our association."

The text of the proposed change may be found [here](#). Certified member congregations that support this initiative may submit their own [Proposed Amendment to Bylaws](#) to the Unitarian Universalist Association by the end of January. Details of who qualifies as an active member may be found [here](#). In short, active members have generally been working for at least three years and/or have taken at least five (75 hours) Renaissance Modules.

**About the Liberal Religious Educators Association:** LREDA promotes love, justice and equity through Unitarian Universalist faith development. Founded in 1949, LREDA is a continental organization, comprising over 700 members in 15 Chapters. Members are professional religious educators, ministers, youth ministry professionals, UUA and CUC program staff, and more. [www.lreda.org](http://www.lreda.org)

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