

HUUF CONSENSUS

Definition of Consensus

A group reaches consensus when all members agree upon a given response and each group member can honestly say: "I believe that you understand my point of view and that I understand yours. Whether or not I prefer this decision, I support it because:

1. It was reached fairly and openly, and
2. It is a workable solution for us at this time."

Guidelines on Reaching Consensus

- Listen: Pay attention to others.
- Encourage participation.
- Share information.
- Take your time in coming to an agreement
- Stick to your determination to reach consensus
- Treat differences as a strength.
- Create a response that meets as many needs as possible and can be supported.
- Speak in "I" statements for yourself
- Be aware of the multiple views and insights in your group as well as your own.
- Seek a win-win response when there are multiple needs.

Article IV, Section 1, Bylaws of the Humboldt Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

"Each member shall have one vote in the conduct of the affairs of the Fellowship. The Congregation shall strive to make decisions by consensus. If, after much discussion, it appears that consensus will not be reached, 90% of those present may agree by ballot, to vote by ballot, upon the matter being decided. A simple majority will then carry the vote on the issue."