

Statement on Political Speech

The UUFB Board of Directors has approved this statement to provide guidance to the congregation on political speech.

Because of our 501(c)(3) status as a tax-exempt non-profit organization, there is a complete ban on what the IRS calls “political campaign intervention.” Under this ban, congregations and their representatives can do nothing using UUFB resources that advocates for or against political parties or candidates for public office. This ban prohibits speaking in support of or against any candidate or party during announcements, joys and concerns, on the listserv or from the pulpit. Such advocacy could jeopardize our tax-exempt status.

We *may*, however, engage in issue advocacy, and speak or act for or against specific pieces of legislation. UUFB’s Social Witness policy, for example, states that the Board may take such positions.

Perhaps more importantly, we should remind ourselves that just as UU’s have no religious creed, we also have no political creed. Our first principle calls for us to recognize the inherent worth and dignity of all people, even those with whom we disagree politically. We want everyone who supports our principles to feel welcome in our congregation, regardless of their political persuasion.

Approved, UUFB Board of Directors, September 15, 2016

Related documents

UUA Resources

<http://www.uua.org/action/realrules>

Pew Forum on Religion & Public Life: 2012 Guide to IRS Rules on Political Activity by Religious Organizations

http://www.pewforum.org/files/2012/10/PF_politics-and-the-pulpit-2012.pdf

UUFB “Joys and Concerns” Policy

<http://www.uufbozeman.org/uploads/2/7/9/7/27978683/joysandconcerns.pdf>

UUFB Group Email [Listserv] Policy

http://www.uufbozeman.org/uploads/2/7/9/7/27978683/group_email_policy_5_10_12.pdf

UUFB Social Witness Policy

http://www.uufbozeman.org/uploads/2/7/9/7/27978683/social_witness_policy_1_10.pdf