

# The VTU's Bylaws –Plain Language Summary

## Part 2 – Members

Anyone who either doesn't own the property they live in, are without shelter, or agrees to uphold the VTU's purpose and objectives can join the VTU.

As long as at least two-thirds of them agree, the Steering Committee is allowed to revoke a member's membership if they are harming the VTU. There is another rule that lets members challenge this decision.

In order to be 'in good standing', members have to have been a member for at least 65 days. Members can only vote if they're 'in good standing'. The point of this rule is to prevent the VTU from being infiltrated by people who want to harm it. This rule doesn't apply at the first AGM.

## Part 3 – General Meetings of Members

Every year, there has to be an Annual General Meeting ("AGM"). There have to be at least 6 Regular General Meetings ("RGMs") every year.

The Steering Committee has to notify the members before an AGM happens. They can do this by emailing all the members and putting it on the VTU's website.

A member can challenge any Steering Committee decision (including a decision to revoke someone's membership) as long as 2 other members agree to support their challenge. At the next General Meeting, the membership votes on whether they agree or not. Two-thirds of members who vote have to agree with a challenge like this in order to change the Steering Committee's decision.

At least 10% of members have to be at an AGM in order for it to happen. At least 20 members have to be at an RGM for it to happen.

At an AGM, the Steering Committee or the members decide who is leading the meeting, then make sure there are enough members there. Then we approve the agenda and look at any reports the Steering Committee is presenting to the members. This includes financial reports, but also covers any other important things they've done over the last year.

Then we elect the members of the Steering Committee. The end of this summary explains how the election process works.

## Part 4 – Steering Committee

There are up to 15 members of the Steering Committee. Some of them are elected, but every Working Group gets one representative on the Steering Committee. If more Working Groups are created, the size of the Steering Committee grows to include their representatives.

No one can be a member of the Steering Committee for more than 4 years in a row.

If someone steps down from the Steering Committee and creates a vacancy, the position can be filled by a vote at the next General Meeting.

One member of the Steering Committee is the Treasurer. They're in charge of the finances of the VTU. Another member is the Secretary. They're in charge of things like taking notes and replying to emails and messages from members and other people. The Treasurer doesn't change until there is a new Steering Committee, but the Secretary changes every so often.

At least 5 Steering Committee members have to be at a meeting in order for it to happen. If a Steering Committee member is absent from meetings too often (more than 10 times in a year), the Steering Committee can choose to replace them as though they stepped down from the Steering Committee. They can't do this if the member had a good reason to miss the meetings.

The Steering Committee has to follow a vote of the membership before making important decisions like spending more than \$1000 or taking a position on a political issue. This doesn't apply if the decision has to be made immediately, but the Steering Committee still has provide the membership with the opportunity to vote on their decision at the next General Meeting.

### **Part 5 – Working Groups**

The Steering Committee has to allow 3 or more VTU members to start a new Working Group unless the Working Group goes against the VTU's objectives and purposes.

Working Groups can do their work however they want to, but they have to explain their activities and how they do them to the Steering Committee.

There can also be Temporary Working Groups, who can work on short-term campaigns.

### **Part 7 – Conflict Resolution**

The Bylaws include a process for conflict resolution. Both the offended person and the offending person choose 2 VTU members to be part of a conflict resolution committee. Together, those 4 people decide what should be done to resolve the conflict.

### **Appendix A – Steering Committee Election Process**

Each Working Group gets a representative. The rest of the Steering Committee is elected. If at least 2 candidates have lived experience with homelessness, SRO tenancy, or living in social housing, then the top 2 vote-getters with that lived experience are elected. After that, as long as there are enough candidates, at least half of the elected Steering Committee members must self-identify as part of an equity-seeking group.

Voters rank the candidates, who are assigned votes based on how highly they're ranked.