

Bylaws of the Society for Universal Immortalism

Adopted: January 13, 2010

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Article 1: Name

Section 1 Name

The name of this organization shall be “The Society for Universal Immortality, Incorporated” hereafter referred to as “the Society”.

Article 2: Purpose

Section 1 General Purpose

The Society is organized to make known the ideals of the Society and to carry out its sacred, eternal mission.

The Society has its historical roots in Religious Humanism, Religious Transhumanism, and The Society for Venturism, and continues their belief in reason inspired by love for humanity and the practical quest for a better life for all. We maintain that important problems which may seem impossible to address through reasoning and science can indeed be addressed in this manner.

We hold critical reasoning and the scientific method in general as the authentic source of knowledge and truth and as the foundation of valuable practice. We believe that all beliefs should be evaluated objectively and scientifically, including our own. Our beliefs thus have a provisional character and take the form of working hypotheses rather than dogmatic assertions. Our commitment to our ideals and guiding principles is solemn and sincere, nonetheless.

We hold that religion is the deepest response to the most important and meaningful concerns of life. As such true religion requires us to purify ourselves from belief in superstition and the supernatural so that we may best pursue all our highest hopes, including perfect bliss, eternal life, and the divine.

We dedicate ourselves to improving ourselves continually. We believe that humans can transcend their current natures in the material world by directing their own evolution and discovering emergent states and modes of being greater than what has ever been achieved or found possible.

We support the material eradication of aging, disease, and death. We also support the development, in ourselves and all persons, of superior intelligence and wisdom, higher ethical capacity, higher baseline levels of meaningful happiness, and enhanced physical capacities. We support the ascension of all persons to forms that may be described as divine.

We believe that the distinctive essence or “soul” of an individual person can be considered informational in nature. We believe that through its associated information the soul can survive what is presently considered death if the information itself is physically preserved. We believe that in the future, with the advancement of biological and computational science and medical technology, this information will make it possible to restore a person to a living state.

We commit ourselves to being preserved informationally after legal death, for example, by hypothermic biostasis. We solemnly dedicate ourselves to resuscitating or reviving all those who have already been or will be preserved. We believe that all persons – rich or poor, wherever they live in the world – should have such opportunities.

We also believe that one day it will be possible, through sufficiently advanced science and technology, to restore to life all persons who have ever lived, whether they had been preserved or not. This belief is called Universal Immortalism. The process could involve recreating lost information in such systematic fashion that eventually every lost person is recovered and restored.

We solemnly dedicate ourselves to helping to make this universal resurrection possible, and to bringing it about whenever and however it becomes possible.

We strive to live ever more meaningful and ethical lives of love, compassion, tolerance, and informed appreciation of the world and sentient beings; to maximize and enhance the good qualities in our natures, while minimizing or eliminating the bad ones, such as hatred, jealousy, envy, or closed-mindedness.

We aim continually to grow and improve ourselves as individuals and as communities. We believe we have a responsibility to improve both our own lives, and the overall welfare of the entire community of life. We seek to help one another live healthy lives and prosper in our states of mind and the circumstances of our lives. We seek to form an open, friendly, and supportive overall community. We enact ceremonies, conducted by qualified celebrants, to accompany important events that may occur in our lives and our communities.

Section 2 Further Principles and Working Hypotheses

(a) We have a soul and it is informational in nature. The soul, by definition, is the center of our being, the essence of who we are. In most religious systems the soul is seen as an entity not of this world. We do not accept a supernatural definition of the soul, and instead provide a rational, scientific definition of what constitutes our soul. To us the soul does exist, but it is not supernatural. The memories we have, the thoughts we consider, the emotions we feel – these form the essence of who we are. For without these qualities we would cease to be ourselves. There need be no supernatural explanation for these qualities. These memories and processes are represented in the brain biologically as information. No “otherworldly” essence is involved. It is simply akin to software running on a vastly complex computer. And like software, it is the pattern of information that is important, not the medium in which it resides or is expressed. Our soul may arise from the structure of our brain, but need not strongly depend on it.

(b) The aim of life is to grow and improve ourselves and our “Community.” This is a continual process with no end. We embrace the ideals of Humanism. We must all strive to live meaningful and ethical lives while supporting the rights of others to do so as well. Self-improvement should be the center of our lives. We must strive to maximize and enhance the good qualities in our human nature: compassion, love, understanding, tolerance – while minimizing or eliminating the bad ones: hatred, jealousy, envy, closed-mindedness. We understand that no person lives in isolation and that we all belong to a greater “Community.” This community consists not only of other

human beings, but life as a whole. We have a responsibility to improve both our own lives, and the overall welfare of the entire community of life. The process of growth and self-improvement, both for the individual and our community, is one that has no limit. There will always be new challenges to conquer, new ideas to explore, and new ways to improve our nature. The thought that we will never reach a pinnacle or perfect state should not sadden us, but instead fill us with happiness and joy. For it is the path we follow, and not only the destination, that gives our life its meaning and purpose. And this path will extend to the very limits of time itself.

(c) We are our own saviors. We cannot rely on supernatural or external forces to guide us on our journey. Responsibility is on our shoulders to create the world in which we wish to live. Ethics, morality, and other philosophical issues must have answers that we provide for ourselves through rational exploration. No "higher" power or supernatural entity need be turned to for these answers. All must take part in this process, to the best of their abilities. It is our future and we all must lend a hand in its realization. To that end we believe in the free flow of information and ideas, and a caring community in which all take part and are recognized. By coming together as one, in an informed and rational manner, we can arrive at the solutions to the problems that face us.

(d) Reason, rational thought, and the scientific method are our tools in reaching our goals. We reject supernatural revelation and other superstitious approaches to arriving at truth or assisting our progress. We also reject such possibilities as help from extraterrestrial beings, in the absence of extraordinary evidence which has not yet been seen. The past century has shown us some of the wonders we can achieve when we properly direct our efforts. But these tools can also lead to destruction and chaos if put to the wrong use. We must be ever vigilant and hold to the tenets of our faith.

(e) We must transcend our current biological limits to ensure the continued growth and existence of our soul. While our beliefs imply that there is no limit to the progress the individual can achieve, we do find that there are practical limits. The human body, while wondrous in its current form and function, is not designed to carry our growing souls forever. Age, disease, death, and the limited capacities of our body put an absolute limit on how much an individual can achieve. But we believe that these limitations can, should, and will be overcome. To continue our growth and self-improvement, we must transcend our current biological limitations. Age, disease, and even death itself should be eliminated. Our biological form should be modified and enhanced to surpass these limits. Our mental capabilities should be enhanced by integrating new and more powerful subsystems. Our growing capacities will enable us to evolve into beings with many of the attributes of the Gods of past religions. It may become desirable to supersede our biological form entirely and express our nature through other forms of existence. But no matter what form our transcendence takes, we will always maintain our soul, the essence of who we are. We will be the architects of our new and greater nature. Science and reason will lead us on the path to creating a better existence. Already we see the beginnings of this with organ transplants, artificial limbs, cloning, and tissue engineering. With time on our side there should be no limit to what we can achieve. Our physical form will continue to evolve, through our own efforts, to keep pace with our ever-growing soul.

(f) Preservation of our soul is paramount. Everything we are, everything we will ever be, is contained, or will be contained, within our developing soul. Deep within the confines of our amazing brains our soul sits, encoded in the biological structure of neurons and neurochemicals. But this biological machine, wondrous though it may be, is fragile. In the blink of an eye our entire existence can come to an end, the information melting away as the brain is destroyed. When the Transhuman era arrives, we will be better able to protect and preserve the soul of our being. But that time has not yet arrived, and we must turn to other ways to preserve our existence. At this time the most viable option is hypothermic biostasis or cryonics. We believe that after death the body can be kept in a form of biostasis through the process of cryonics. There our soul will sit, safe in the cryopreserved structure of the brain, awaiting the Transhuman era when we can be revived. We must also look for other ways to complement or even replace cryonics as a method of preservation. For it is not the how that concerns us, but the why. Revival of those placed in cryopreservation or otherwise adequately preserved must also be a solemn commitment. We therefore dedicate our efforts to (1) encouraging preservation at clinical death with the goal of eventual revival, (2) seeing that those preserved remain so as long as is necessary, and (3) seeing that revival is accomplished when ways to bring it about have been perfected.

(g) Universal Immortalism is one of the ultimate goals of existence. All souls, past, present, and future, have a right to exist and grow and improve eternally. We regard an "evil nature" as not permanent and think that, with proper enlightenment, any soul will become a seeker of what is good and right. And we regard it as a supreme tragedy that past souls have been lost and not preserved. To that end, we dedicate ourselves to finding a way one day to bring back all persons who have ever lived, so they can join in our eternal adventure. This is the idea known as Universal Immortalism (R. Michael Perry – *Forever for All*). Our concern for "persons" also extends to other life forms besides human, which may also have souls capable of unlimited growth and betterment. We hope to achieve our goal of universal revival and betterment, once again, through scientific, rational means. Based on the informational concept of the soul, it may be possible to accurately recreate souls where all information about them has been lost. At this point we do not know if it can be done. But that does not mean we should not try, and it is our "leap of faith" that one day we will succeed.

Article 3: Members

Section 1 Qualifications

Those who wish to be identified with the Society and promote the purpose of the Society may apply to become members.

Applicants must demonstrate that they have made adequate arrangements for themselves to be placed into biostasis in the event of an interruption of life ["death"] (see below).

Section 2 Methods of Biostasis

The Society accepts the following methods of biostasis in the event of an interruption of life [“death”], in the order of the Society’s recommendation.

- (1) Cryopreservation (cryonic suspension) through the following service providers: Alcor Life Extension Foundation, the Cryonics Institute, American Cryonics Society, and KrioRus. Cryopreservation arrangements through other means may be authorized in particular cases by the Society.
- (2) Chemopreservation, according to the Society’s accepted protocols.
- (3) Bioinformation preservation – conservation of genetic information and biographical information in various formats, according to the Society’s accepted protocols.

Members with biostasis arrangements (1) or (2) are also encouraged to make arrangement (3) as a backup. Members who only have biostasis arrangement (3) are encouraged to make arrangement (2) or (1) as soon as possible.

The Society may in the future add additional acceptable methods as they become technically feasible. The Society may also modify its list of service providers for cryopreservation, and the ranking for older and newer methods according to improvements in available protocols.

The Society encourages members to make the best possible preparations for themselves and those they care for.

Section 3 Custodians for Biostasis

If the next of kin, guardians, or authorized representatives of a member are not members, then a Custodian for Biostasis, explained below, must be formally and legally authorized, in the event of the member’s interruption of life [“death”], through a will, or similar instrument, to take immediate and full possession of the member’s body and/or bioinformation, in order to prepare the member for the best and most timely resurrection.

A Custodian for Biostasis must be either (1) a biostasis service provider (listed in Section 2 above), (2) a member of the Society, or (3) the Society itself. A Custodian for Biostasis must be given sufficient resources in advance for the biostasis of the member.

Unless it is specifically authorized and funded by written contract to arrange biostasis, the Society is not responsible for arranging the biostasis of members.

Section 4 Facilitating Custodians

The Society strongly recommends, but does not require, that if the next of kin, guardians, or authorized representatives of a member are not members, another Custodian, a Custodian for Facilitating Biostasis or Facilitating Custodian, be given formal and legal authority through an advance directive, power of attorney, or similar instrument. The Facilitating Custodian would be present and make health care decisions to facilitate biostasis and advance resurrection, in case the member becomes

incapacitated near the time of an interruption of life ["death"] and unable to make binding decisions.

The Facilitating Custodian must be different from the previously defined Custodian for Biostasis, and avoid conflicts of interest.

Section 5 Joining

A person may apply for membership in the Society by making a request to the Secretary.

The Secretary will verify that applicants wish to be identified with the Society and promote the purpose of the Society.

The Secretary will verify that applicants have made adequate arrangements for themselves to be placed into biostasis in the event of an interruption of life ["death"].

Section 6 Carryover Provision

All voting and nonvoting members of the Society under the previous bylaws who have made adequate arrangements for biostasis (Section 2, above) will automatically be members of the Society upon the adoption of these bylaws.

Section 7 Member Obligations and Rights

Members of the Society shall promote the purpose of the Society.

Members shall persist in adequate arrangements for themselves to be placed into biostasis in the event of an interruption of life ["death"].

If feasible, members shall place into biostasis, in case of interruption of life ["death"], all those for whom they have sufficient legal authority, including dependents and next of kin.

Members must, if feasible, place into biostasis all those for whom they are Custodians for Biostasis, to the extent that funding was made available or is available for this purpose, in the event of an interruption of life ["death"].

Members must, if feasible, facilitate the biostasis of all those for whom they are Facilitating Custodians, in the event of an interruption of life ["death"].

Members of the Society are not eligible to vote in matters before the Society unless they are also members of the Society's Assembly (see below).

Section 8 Dependents

Dependents of members may become members by the sponsorship of their parents, guardians, or authorized representatives, if the latter are members.

Section 9 Members Not Currently Alive

Those who were not members at the time of interruption of life [“death”] may become members by the sponsorship of any member or members who place what remains of the former into biostasis or preserve their bioinformation and register them in the Society’s Book of Life. This registration shall be accompanied by a ceremony in which the membership is formally confirmed and it is verified that suitable remains and bioinformation have been placed in the care of the Society or in a location registered with the Society.

Section 10 Resignation and Removal

Any competent, adult member who desires to resign his or her membership or the membership of his or her dependent(s) in the Society may do so at any time for any reason by notifying the Secretary.

The Society reserves the right to revoke a membership.

Section 11 Participation

The Society declares and affirms its special responsibility to promote the full participation of persons in all of its activities and in the full range of human endeavor without regard to sex, gender, affectional or sexual orientation, race, color, nationality, disability, wealth, education, social class, or age.

Article 4: The Assembly

Section 1 Powers and Purpose

The members of the Society who are eligible to vote in matters before the Society shall be known as the Assembly.

The Assembly shall have the authority to elect and remove members of the Assembly, amend and replace the Society’s bylaws, elect and remove Officers and members of the Board of Directors, and to vote on any other formal or official actions to be taken by the Society.

As with the Board of Directors, a majority of the members of the Assembly and their related parties must not be involved in any regular or significant conflict of interest transactions with the Society.

Membership in the Assembly is not transferable.

Members of the Assembly shall not be personally liable for the debts, liabilities, or other obligations of the Society.

Section 2 Qualifications

Members of the Assembly must be members in good standing of the Society.

A member of the Assembly must have cryopreservation arrangements (Article 3 Section 2) in place and continue these arrangements in place in order to continue as a member of the Assembly.

Section 3 Joining

A member of the Society may apply for membership in the Assembly by making a request to the Secretary, along with recommendations from two other members of the Assembly who know the applicant.

The Secretary shall verify the cryopreservation arrangements of the applicant.

Approval at the Annual Assembly is required for an applicant to become a member of the Assembly (see Annual Assembly below).

Section 4 Carryover Provision

All voting members of the Society under the previous bylaws will automatically be members of the Assembly upon the adoption of these bylaws.

Section 5 Tenure

Members of the Assembly shall serve an unlimited term as long as they meet the qualifications for being a member of the Assembly.

Section 6 Electronic Meetings of the Assembly

Meetings may be held by email or by other electronic or online media, in an ongoing fashion, except for the Annual Meeting (see below).

Section 7 Annual Meeting

Physical, face-to-face meetings of the Assembly shall be called once a year, if feasible, to conduct any business, to elect new members of the Assembly, or to conduct the annual program.

Notice shall be at least two months in advance. The quorum for the Annual Meeting shall be three (3).

At all Annual Meetings, accommodations will be made for other members of the Assembly to participate electronically or online.

Section 8 Elections and Voting

Paragraph 1. Electronic Polling

The Society is organized as a direct democracy of the members of the Assembly.

In matters before the Assembly, all votes and elections not in person shall use the polling mechanism of the Yahoo group mailing list universalimmortalism.

Members of the Assembly are responsible for being sure that the Secretary always has their latest email or electronic/online contact information and that the Secretary is informed if they will be away from electronic or online communication, and if so, how they may be contacted in the meantime.

A question before the Assembly shall be open for voting until all of the members of the Assembly have voted or explicitly abstained or until two weeks has passed. No quorum will be required for electronic polling as long as the minimum polling period of two weeks has elapsed.

The approval voting method shall be used for all questions with three or more choices, including elections.

In all elections, "none of the above" shall be listed as an alternative to the listed candidates.

Paragraph 2. Results of Voting

A majority vote of those voting shall decide any vote or election or matter put to a vote, except for a vote to elect a new member of the Assembly, a vote to remove a member of the Society, a vote to remove a member of the Assembly, or a vote to amend the bylaws.

A vote to elect a new member of the Assembly, a vote to remove a member of the Society, a vote to remove a member of the Assembly, or a vote to amend the bylaws shall require a two-thirds (2/3) vote of those voting.

The Secretary shall verify the credentials of the members of the Assembly voting and announce the results of a vote of the Assembly.

The vote of a member of the Assembly on a question shall be public to other members of the Assembly.

Section 9 Proxy Voting

Proxy voting will not be allowed at any meeting of the Assembly or as part of reaching any decision by the voting members.

Section 10 Resignation and Removal

Membership in the Assembly shall terminate if at any time the member of the Assembly's cryopreservation arrangements have lapsed or could not be verified by the Secretary for more than thirty days, except that the Assembly may override this provision and extend the membership in the Assembly in a specified manner.

The Assembly may revoke membership in the Assembly.

Anyone desiring to resign his/her membership in the Assembly may do so at any time and for any reason by notifying the Secretary.

Article 5: Officers and Board of Directors

Section 1 Powers and Purpose

The Officers of the Society shall constitute the Board of Directors.

The Board of Directors shall have general supervision of the affairs of the Society, make recommendations to the Assembly, and perform such other duties as are specified in these Bylaws. The Board shall be subject to the orders of the Assembly, and none of its acts shall conflict with action taken by the Assembly.

The Board of Directors may meet at any time and may conduct business by any mode of communication.

Officers of the Society and members of the Board of Directors of the Society shall not be personally liable for the debts, liabilities, or other obligations of the Society.

Section 2 Qualifications, Number, and Compensation

Only currently qualified members of the Assembly may serve as Officers.

The Officers of the Society shall be a President, a Secretary, a Treasurer, and a Statutory Agent (known in some jurisdictions as Resident Agent or Registered Agent). These Officers shall perform the duties prescribed by these Bylaws and by the parliamentary authority adopted by the Society.

Officers shall serve without compensation except that the Society may pay them reasonable advancements or reimbursements for expenses incurred in the performance of their duties.

Section 3 Election and Term

Nominations for the regular election of the President, Secretary, and Treasurer will be accepted by the Secretary in November of each calendar year.

The office of Statutory Agent (see Section 5) is not subject to regular election but is conferred automatically upon the Statutory Agent of the corporation, for the duration of service.

Any member of the Assembly may nominate candidates for elective office, or for Statutory Agent in case of a vacancy.

Regular elections will be held during December. Special elections may be held at any time to fill office vacancies, including that of Statutory Agent.

A regular term of elective office shall coincide with the calendar year.

Section 4 Duties of the Secretary

The Secretary shall ensure that the Society maintains an up-to-date record of the names, addresses, emails, other contact information, and biostasis arrangements of all members.

The Secretary shall also perform all other duties enumerated in these bylaws.

Section 5 Statutory Agent

The Statutory Agent shall maintain a public address for correspondence in the jurisdiction where the Society is incorporated, and shall have authority to file documents for the corporation and otherwise act as an Officer of the corporation as prescribed by law.

The Statutory Agent may simultaneously hold other offices in the Society and may be a Celebrant (See Article 6).

The Statutory Agent may be appointed by the President or selected by vote of the Assembly.

The Assembly reserves the right to remove the Statutory Agent. A new Statutory Agent must be chosen within 30 days following a vacancy.

Section 6 Carryover Provision

All Officers of the Society under the previous bylaws will automatically continue as Officers of the Society upon the adoption of these bylaws, until the regular end of their terms.

Article 6: Celebrants

Section 1 Duties and Salaries

A Celebrant will serve as a knowledgeable and sincere ambassador of the ideals of the Society.

Celebrants will be able to perform ceremonies on behalf of members and for others who may desire them. These ceremonies will include, but not be limited to, welcoming ceremonies, dedication ceremonies, union ceremonies, cryopreservation ceremonies, memorials, and resurrection ceremonies.

The salaries of Celebrants, if any, shall be fixed from time to time by the Assembly. In all cases, any salaries received by Celebrants shall be reasonable and be given in return for services actually rendered to or for the Society. Celebrants will be compensated by members for whom they perform ceremonies, for the performance of those ceremonies and related expenses.

A Celebrant may simultaneously serve as an Officer in the Society.

Celebrants shall not be personally liable for the debts, liabilities, or other obligations of the Society.

Section 2 Qualifications

A Celebrant must be a member in good standing of the Assembly.

A Celebrant must have full understanding of Universal Immortalism.

Section 3 Selection

A candidate for Celebrant may be nominated by any member of the Assembly.

A candidate must have been a member of the Assembly for at least one year prior to applying.

A candidate must be a knowledgeable and sincere ambassador of Universal Immortalism.

Section 4 Term, Number, and Termination

Celebrants shall serve an unlimited term as long as they meet the qualifications for being a Celebrant

There is no limit to the number of Celebrants who may serve at any one time.

Celebrants may resign at any time by submitting a request to the Secretary.

The Assembly reserves the right to remove a Celebrant.

Section 5 Carryover Provision

All Celebrants of the Society under the previous bylaws will automatically continue to be Celebrants of the Society upon the adoption of these bylaws.

Article 7: Committees

Section 1 Finance Committee

When feasible, a Finance Committee composed of the Treasurer and four other members of the Assembly shall be appointed by the President promptly after regular elections.

It shall be the duty of this committee to prepare a budget and to submit it to the Society. The Finance Committee may from time to time submit amendments to the budget.

Section 2 Program Committee

When feasible, a Program Committee of five members of the Assembly shall be appointed by the President promptly after regular elections, whose duty it shall be to plan the Annual Meeting and program of the Society.

This committee's report shall be submitted to the Society for its approval.

Section 3 Auditing Committee

When feasible, an Auditing Committee of three members of the Assembly shall be appointed by the President at the end of the fiscal year, whose duty it shall be to audit the accounts of the Treasurer at the close of the fiscal year and to report to the Assembly.

Section 4 Other Committees

Other committees, standing or special, shall be appointed by the President as shall from time to time be necessary to carry on the work of the Society.

The President shall be ex officio a member of all committees.

Section 5 Carryover Provision

All committees of the Society under the previous bylaws will automatically continue as committees of the Society upon the adoption of these bylaws.

Article 8: Parliamentary Authority

Section 1 Rules

The rules contained in the current edition of Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised shall govern the Society in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with these Bylaws and any special rules of order the Society may adopt.

Article 9: Assets

Section 1 Disbursement

The disbursement of Society assets shall require a vote of the Assembly.

Section 2 Conflicts of Interest

Members of the Assembly shall publicize related actual or potential conflicts of interest prior to a vote on the disbursement of Society assets.

Section 3 Salaries and Expenses

Any salaries or expenses paid by the Society to any persons shall be fixed by the Assembly. In all cases, such salaries or expenses shall be reasonable and be given in return for services actually rendered to or for the Society.

Section 4 Insurance

Except as may be otherwise provided under provisions of law, the Assembly may adopt a resolution authorizing the purchase and maintenance of insurance on behalf of any agent of the Society (including a Director, Officer, employee or other agent of the Society) against any fine, liability, cost or expense, including attorney's fees, other than for violating provisions of law relating to self-dealing, asserted against or incurred by the agent in such capacity or arising out of the agent's status as such, whether or not the Society would have the power to indemnify the agent against such liability under these bylaws or the provisions of the law.

Article 10: Resurrection

Section 1 Times and Conditions

The Society shall, when the time is right, resurrect or assist in resurrecting members in biostasis and, ultimately, all other persons who have lived and are no longer living.

The Society shall respect the authority and good-faith efforts of any who may be Custodians or otherwise in possession of important material remains or information.

The Society must establish identity, mental and physical vigor, and opportunity for a good life for those who are resurrected, as well as assist them in taking their place in the world.

The Society must make its best efforts to establish and continue a friendly, supportive community so that all may enjoy a happy and endless existence.

CERTIFICATE OF SECRETARY

I, the undersigned do hereby certify that the foregoing bylaws constitute the bylaws of The Society for Universal Immortalism, Incorporated, as duly adopted by the Assembly on the _____ day of _____, 20__.

Signed this _____ day of _____, 20__.

Secretary of The Society for Universal Immortalism, Incorporated