

I. POLICY STATEMENT

It is our understanding at FPC that the United States flag is a symbol of our nation. Due to separation of church and state, and the fact that our faith is a multi-national one, the U.S. flag and flags of other nations are not customarily displayed at FPC. From time to time, FPC allows the display of banners or other displays with messages related to the UUA Seven Principles.

II. SCOPE

This policy covers the display of flags and banners or other displays within the grounds of the First Parish Church of Stow and Acton, both outside and inside the building facilities. Specifically:

1. U.S. flags and flags of world countries may be displayed for memorial services upon request of the next of kin in rooms being used for the memorial service or reception.
2. U.S. flags and flags of world countries may be displayed by rental groups and individuals for the duration of their rental period in any room that is rented.
3. U.S. flags and flags of world countries may be displayed during FPC programs and events upon approval by the Minister or Board of Trustees when the display is pertinent to the program or event.
4. When U.S. flags and flags of world countries are displayed, the display shall follow Chapters 4 and 36 of the United States Code.
5. Internal and external flags and banners representing anything else may be displayed as approved by the Minister or the Board of Trustees.
6. External displays of flags and banners that represent social justice statements, such as the Rainbow Flag or United Nations flag, may be referred by the Board of Trustees to the congregation for vote.
7. People may personally carry flags at their discretion anywhere on the FPC campus.

First Parish Church of Stow and Acton

Flags and Other Displays

Policy # 021

Revision # 00

III. RESPONSIBILITY

The Minister or the Board of Trustees has the responsibility for approval of displaying flags and banners or other displays anywhere on the FPC campus.

IV. DEFINITIONS

Flags usually refers to flags of the U.S. or other world countries. However, the terms “banner” and “flag” may be interchangeable in certain instances, for example an LGBTQ flag or a Black Lives Matter banner.

Social Justice statements refer to displays that represent causes recognized by the FPC Social Justice Council or the Board of Trustees as having a meaning for one or more social justice causes, such as but not limited to the Transgender Day of Remembrance, Black Lives Matter, or the Gay Pride Day.

Other displays may include signs or placards or other large displays meant to convey a message that supports any or all of the UUA’s Seven Principles.

V. REFERENCES

Chapters 4 (“Flag and Seal, Seat of Government, and the States”) and 36 (“Patriotic Societies and Observations”) of the United States Code

VI. APPROVAL SIGNATURES

On behalf of the Board of Trustees



8/18/2019

FPC President / Date