



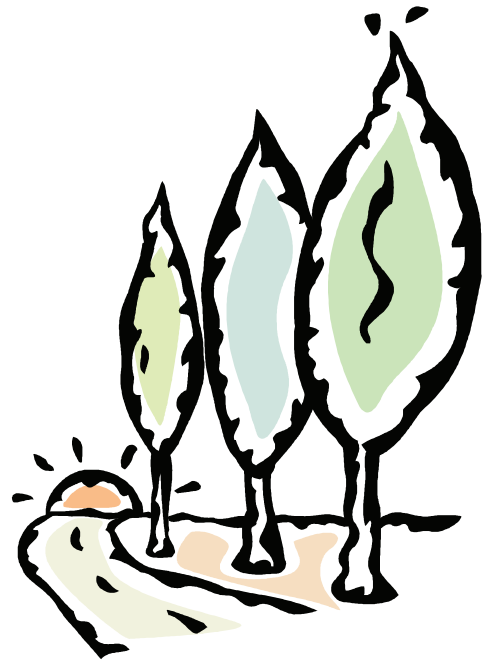
Membership Enrollment Kit

Welcome

The Path to Membership is a Journey to Deeper Commitment —

Church membership represents a deeper connection with your faith community. To help you discern whether or not *UU Fellowship of Corvallis* membership is right for you, we encourage you to attend the **Newcomer Orientation and Path to Membership class** (offered quarterly). Also, a variety of adult Religious Exploration classes are offered from time to time, and you are welcome to borrow books from our library at any time.

Membership is both simple and difficult. You are required only to be at least 18 years of age, sign the Membership Book, and make a minimum financial or service pledge. It is challenging because of what this simple act means: that a person has made a decision to join a faith community that is searching for truth, working for justice, and whose members would live in loving relationship with one another. It also means making a commitment to the financial health and stability of the church. Before you join, please carefully read this booklet. Then, complete the three forms at the back and bring them to the Enrollment Ceremony. **We look forward to welcoming you as a member.**



Seeking

Highly Committed Members —

Since its founding in 1948, generations of highly committed members have worked selflessly to create what you experience at The Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Corvallis today: a dynamic and liberal community of faith devoted to personal spiritual growth and to social justice in our world.

Carefully consider the responsibilities of Membership before you make the commitment. Members readily and generously give their time, talents and financial resources to support the Fellowship Mission (*see box*)—because they want to. Because this is their chosen church home. This spirit of generosity and commitment develops over time, and is the result of active participation in our programs. This is what is meant by *high commitment members*. *Are you prepared to make this kind of commitment?*

Our Mission

Our mission as a Unitarian Universalist congregation is to create a community where UU values provide the foundation for our efforts to study, to serve, and to celebrate life. It is to remind us that we are not alone and that our gifts and talents have a place in which we can co-create more than we could alone.

Getting Started

Four Steps to Membership —



1. Attend the Path to Membership class (offered throughout the year). sign up at Welcome Table.



2. Complete Enrollment Forms #1, #2 and #3 at the end of this Kit; each individual age 18 years or older is eligible for Membership.



3. Sign the Membership Record Book. An Enrollment Ceremony is offered after most Path to Membership classes. During this brief ceremony, you will sign the *Membership Record Book* and meet other new members. You may also arrange to sign the Membership Book with the minister by appointment.



4. Make your pledge (see next page)

Some Benefits of Membership

We welcome your decision to join us, and hope that your relationship with The Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Corvallis will be spiritually, intellectually and emotionally rewarding. In community, we have the power and strength to impact positive change in the world.

- As a Member, you'll become part of a vital and dynamic community of *faith* and *action*.
- Your voice will join hundreds of others who speak for social justice, freedom of thought and religious expression, the worth and dignity of every human being, and environmental stewardship.
- Voting Members* are eligible to make decisions about the budget and other important issues at the Fellowship Annual Meeting each spring, and at other member meetings as outlined in the church bylaws.
- You'll receive all regular church mailings—including *UUWorld*, the journal of the Unitarian Universalist Association.

* *Voting Member: A member who is at least 18 years of age, has signed the Membership Record Book, and, during the preceding 12 months, made (and is current with) a contribution of record.*

If you have any questions regarding the membership process, please call the Community Coordinator, at: 541-752-5218., ext. 230.

Getting Involved—Membership With Meaning

Attending the worship service on Sunday is a very special experience, but most members find that, over time, it is not enough to sustain their commitment to the church.

We know of no better way to deepen your connection, as well as increase your reward, than by active engagement in a church program that most closely matches your needs. Don't wait! Find a group, program or activity in which to involve yourself as soon as possible. This is how you will start "feeling a part of" the church, and in return, the people of First Church will become a community for you. Pick up a copy of the *Committees, Interest Groups, Annual Events and Volunteer Opportunities* guide, and review the many ways to get involved. Here's a small sampling of the opportunities for personal and spiritual growth:

- Music (choirs, hand bells)
- Social Justice Action Groups
- Religious Exploration for Children and Youth
- Adult Religious Exploration classes, retreats and workshops
- Chalice Groups
- 7 @ 7 Dinners
- Denominational affairs at the local, regional or national levels
- Partner Church activities
- Lay Ministry
- Sunday Morning Services, such as Ushering, Serving Coffee or Hosting at the Welcome Table
- Movie or book discussion groups
- House and Grounds maintenance activities
- Special interest groups, such as the Shawl Ministry, Poetry Group, Writers Group, etc.
- And a wide variety *other* events—devised for fun and fellowship.

Enrollment Forms to be Completed Before Joining

1. **New Member Information form:** Please print clearly. This information becomes part of our data base. Each individual (age 18 and over) who wants to join must complete her/his own set of forms.

2. **Gifts and Talents form:** Here, you have an opportunity to match your unique experiences, interests, and talents with some of the programs, committees and activities of this church. Please indicate two or three areas that interest you. This information also becomes part of our data base, and is referred to from time to time. Our program staff also reviews your interests. We encourage you to seek out groups, programs and activities which appeal to you, and to get involved as soon as possible.

3. **Pledge form:** Return of this card is required to be eligible to vote, chair committees, hold office within the Fellowship, or represent the Fellowship at UUA or Northwest UU meetings.

Please bring the following *three* completed forms to your Enrollment Ceremony. There are held quarterly after the Newcomer Orientation and Path To Membership session, (sign up at the Welcome Desk) or by appointment with the minister.

During the Ceremony, you will have a chance to meet other new members, and to sign our *Membership Record Book*. We'll also take your photo for our records. Having taken the Path to Membership class is an important step before you join.

We look forward to welcoming you into the community of the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Corvallis.

The Seven Principles

1. The inherent worth and dignity of every person
2. Justice, equality and compassion in human relations
3. Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregation
4. A free and responsible search for truth and meaning
5. The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large
6. The goal of world community with peace, liberty and justice for all
7. Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.

We covenant to provide:

- thoughtful and celebrative worship services
- religious education for all ages
- rites of passage
 - child dedication
 - coming of age
 - weddings and services of union
 - memorial services
- pastoral care and counseling
- community through social and educational
- events and service opportunities
- a variety of ongoing support and interest groups

We ask that you:

- actively pursue your own spiritual path
- contribute your time and talents to the life of the institution
- make an appropriate financial pledge in accordance with your means. Our most committed members have set a goal of 5% of their income for support of the church.



Your Pledge

It's your Financial Promise to the Fellowship

Members annually pledge to support this Fellowship with their financial and/or service resources. Unitarian Universalist congregations are self-sustaining institutions; their primary source of financial support comes from church members and other congregants who faithfully participate in the life of the church.

Generosity is a spiritual Practice.

We recognize one of the truths of all the world's great religions: that *generosity* is central to a healthy spiritual life. We believe in the ancient practice of *giving* as a spiritual exercise, used like any other meditation practice to deepen and strengthen the soul. Members of this Fellowship who give generously—to this church and elsewhere—tell of the joy and empowerment they feel when they live out of a sense of abundance. Our faith calls us to welcome the stranger at the door, to share our resources with others in need, and to care for our planet. As Unitarian

Universalists, we believe it is the right and responsibility of each local congregation to govern itself. There is no centralized authority that supports us financially, nor does it tell us what to do or what to believe. Each UU congregation is self-sustaining: our primary source of financial support comes from our members who make financial gifts to the church. As a group of people covenanted together, we believe a healthy church is the responsibility of all members. We also know that if this Fellowship and this faith are to live into the future for our children and grandchildren, we must care for this institution, and keep it strong.



Members Renew Their Pledge Annually

At the time that a new member joins the Fellowship, he or she agrees as a condition of membership to contribute generously within his or her means to the annual operating fund. The pledge you make upon joining is for the remainder of the current calendar year (ending June 30). Then, each year during our annual fund drive you will be asked, along with all other congregants, to make a *new* pledge for the *next* calendar year.

While our average household pledge currently is approximately \$1200, the current minimum pledge required to support your membership less than \$100 annually. You may arrange to substitute a certain number of hours of service if the minimum financial pledge is a hardship. (See Gifts and Talents)

Think about this: what would you expect to pay for dinner out with the family, or a subscription to premium channels? Certainly, UUFC exercises your mind, and feeds your soul and spirit. How much would you pay for such a feast? What is it worth to you? These are questions of spirit and generosity, and we ask you to carefully consider this important aspect of Membership.

For more information on how we spend our money, refer to the Joyful Sharing pamphlet.

We can focus upon abundance when we truly learn to trust, to “have faith,” in our values and in one another as persons who share a commitment to stay together and share in those struggles. Then we know that there will be enough for all as we share our scarce resources and generate abundance.
- The Rev. Dr. Gretchen Woods

**You May Use Automatic Withdrawal for Your Monthly Pledge Payment
...or Your Credit or Debit Card**

You will be completing a Pledge Form. Please consider using automatic withdrawal from your checking account. For Automatic Withdrawal, simply submit a voided check with your form. Since there is no fee for this transaction— and it saves time in our accounting department— more of your dollar goes to work for the church with this method of payment. Or, you may indicate your credit or debit card number (please note that 2.55% of all credit card transactions goes to the bank, not to the church; consequently this amount will be added to your charges.) You may also write a check weekly, monthly or annually.

IMPORTANT: In order for us to keep a record of your pledge, please submit *each* pledge contribution clearly labeled with your name. Cash placed in the weekly offering basket is impossible for us appropriately credit— unless you place the cash in an envelope with your name on it. Statements are issued throughout the year to let you know where you stand regarding your pledge. If you have questions about your pledge, please call the church office, 541-752-5218, during normal business hours.

- Members may pledge individually, or as households or family units. The choice is up to you.
- The other enrollment forms in this kit must be completed by each individual who wishes to join.

Monthly Pledging Guideline for Members:

Here are some examples using your household income, and showing giving categories stated on a monthly basis. Please note that these are only a guideline to help you assess your giving potential.

- The **Supporter** is 2% of your annual income. *“The church is a significant part of my life and promotes my spiritual growth.”*
- The **Sustainer** is 3% to 4% of your annual income. *“The church is central to my identity and I am committed to the present and future growth of the church.”*
- The **Benefactor** is a “Liberal Tithe” of 5% of your annual income. *“The church has transformed me and I believe that a liberal tithe will allow the church to transform others.”*
- The **Supporter** is 2% of your annual income. *“The church is a significant part of my life and promotes my spiritual growth.”*

Annual Income	Supporter (2%)	Sustainer (3-4%)	Benefactor (5%)
\$10,000	\$17 per month	\$25 - 33 per month	\$42 per month
20,000	\$33	\$50 - 67	\$83
35,000	\$58	\$87 - 117	\$146
\$50,000	\$83	\$125 - 67	\$208
\$65,000	\$108	\$162-217	\$271
\$80,000	\$133	\$200-267	\$333
\$100,000	\$166	\$250-333	\$417

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP OF CORVALLIS

To be completed by EACH prospective member. **(Minimum age for Membership: 18)**

(This information is confidential and will not be shared outside of UUFC)

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

Date you signed Membership Record Book: _____

Your Name: _____ Birth date: _____ M or F? ____

Address: _____

Home phone: (____) _____ Home e-mail: _____

Cell phone: (____) _____ Preferred e-mail: _____

Married or committed? ____ Partner's Name: _____

Is your partner also a member? ____

Your occupation _____ Work phone: (____) _____

Are your children registered in our Religious Exploration Program? _____

Children: Name	Birth Date	Age	Name	Birth Date	Age
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

How did you learn about this fellowship? _____

What brings you here? _____

About how long have you been attending the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Corvallis? _____

What was your previous church connection, if any? _____

What can we do for you? _____

How can we help you find what you need here?

Might you be interested in the young adults (18–35) group? _____

Is there anything in particular you want us to know about you? _____

If you have any questions regarding membership, pledging, or strengthening your connection to UUFC, please

call the Community Coordinator at the Church Office: 541-752-5218. Thank you and welcome!

(To be completed by EACH new MEMBER.)

NAME: _____

WHAT ACTIVITIES ARE YOU CURRENTLY ENGAGED IN AT UUFC? _____

Please review the following four sections. Check as many as you like; you do not need to check one in each section.

A. ADMINISTRATION

I aspire to use these gifts at UUFC...

___ DIRECT SERVICE (I like working behind the scenes to support the work of others. I am good at helping wherever needed.)

___ HANDS ON (I like to work with different kinds of tools to help maintain the building and grounds. I am good with things: maintaining them, building them, moving them.)

___ PUBLIC RELATIONS (I like to facilitate communication through websites, press releases, and other means. Looking for ways to market and publicize things comes naturally to me.)

___ TECH SUPPORT (I know my way around a computer. Friends and family seem to come to me for help with their computers.)

___ STEWARDSHIP (I am committed to a vision of generosity in my life, and I like to share this vision with others. I like to help with stewardship campaigns and fundraisers.)

___ FINANCE (I have a knack for understanding money—investments, accounting, etc.)

B. LEADERSHIP

I aspire to use these gifts at UUFC...

___ VISION (I am good at developing long-term strategies or plans. People tell me I'm a "big picture" person.)

___ ADVOCACY (I have a need to express my strong convictions through organized action. I like to raise people's awareness about justice and peace.)

___ COORDINATION (I'm good at delegating tasks to others on my team. I enjoy helping others see a project through to its completion)

___ TEAM BUILDING (I know how to help a team 'gel.' I enjoy helping all members make important contributions that use their personal strengths and talents.

___ RECRUITMENT (I like to find out people's personal strengths and talents and help them find places where they can plug in.)

C. PEOPLE SKILLS

I aspire to use these gifts at UUFC...

____ HOSPITALITY (I am good at meeting new people and helping them feel welcome. . People tell me I'm skilled at setting new people at ease in familiar surroundings.)

____ APPRECIATION (I like to write thank you notes and make phone calls to let people know how much they're appreciated.)

____ COMMUNITY BUILDING (I like to help people connect and build new relationships. I find it exciting when people reach out to each other and discover what they have in common.)

____ COMPASSION (I am sensitive and helpful to people who are hurting. I patiently and compassionately support people going through difficult experiences. People tell me I'm a good listener.)

____ MENTORING (I like to help others grow and develop. It excites me when I see someone learn how to take their personal strengths and talents to the next level.)

____ CONFLICT RESOLUTION (I am passionate about UUFC's Right Relations Covenant*. I can listen to all sides of a disagreement fairly and help people who disagree grow closer to one another.)

D. INSPIRATION

I aspire to use these gifts at UUFC...

____ TEACHING (I enjoy studying, understanding, and communicating ideas. I excel at developing appropriate teaching materials and presenting them effectively.)

____ MUSICIAN (I have musical abilities—either vocal or instrumental—that I would like to share with the congregation.)

____ OTHER PERFORMING ARTS (I have an artistic ability—in drama, storytelling, dance, etc. - that I would like to share with the congregation.)

____ VISUAL ARTIST (I have talents in the visual arts—photography, drawing, painting, collage, sculpting, etc.—that I would like to share with the congregation.)

____ GRAPHIC ARTIST (I am good at using computer software to create graphics, manipulate photos, or even create multimedia presentation.)

____ OTHER (Please list any other talents you have that you would be willing to share with us)

Experience tells us that getting involved in a small group activity **right now** is very important to enriching your membership. For this reason, we like to engage each new member by requesting that you help with **coffee service** and/or handing out the **Order of Service** one or two Sundays right off the bat. Someone will call you to put you on the schedule. No experience is necessary.

***Right Relations Covenant Summary** As a member of this Fellowship, I will strive to create a welcoming, respectful, and vibrant religious community where each person can search for truth and meaning in an environment that builds connections, renews spirit, and inspires action. I further commit to thoughtful, active participation in the life of this religious community caring and respectful relationships with one another and with visitors; cooperative support for the minister, staff, and volunteers; and individual and collective contributions to the wider community.

Name _____

Address _____

Date _____ Email _____

Preferred Phone number _____

Operating Pledge for July 1, 2010 to June 30, 2011 \$ _____

Other (for _____) \$ _____

_____ I would like to make an electronic contribution monthly. Please send me an authorization form.

I would like to talk with someone about:

_____ My contribution to the UUFC operating budget

_____ Planned giving

_____ UUFC endowment funds

_____ UUFC building expansion

_____ I have arranged for the UUFC to receive a donation from me upon my death

_____ I cannot pledge now. I will contribute when I can

_____ Please take my name off the mailing list

Other concerns: