

The Path to Membership

People who are interested in becoming a member or learning more should attend an Inquirers Class. They are offered after the Sunday service in Fall, Winter, and Spring. (*Please check the calendar for dates.*) Individual sessions may also be scheduled; please speak with Joyce Judd.

Before joining as a member, you must read and agree to follow the **UUFSM Bylaws**. A copy is included in the Orientation Packet, and the bylaws are in the UUFSM Reference Book and online.

New Member Welcome Ceremonies are held a few weeks after the Inquirers Classes in the Fall, Winter, and Spring. (*Please check the calendar for dates.*) We share this pledge:

*Love is the doctrine of this church,
The quest of truth is its sacrament,
And service is its prayer.*

*To dwell together in peace,
To seek knowledge in freedom,
To serve human need,*

*To the end that all souls shall grow
into harmony with the Divine -*

This, we do promise each other.

New members come forward and sign the membership book and receive gifts.

"I'm glad my children are learning about religion here."

Join a Centuries-old Tradition

Unitarianism and Universalism began in Europe during the Protestant Reformation. Both sects were brought to North America by the European settlers more than two hundred years ago. The Universalists organized in 1793; Unitarians formed an association in 1825.

Unitarians and Universalists played an important part in creating and shaping this nation. They were abolitionists and social reformers, presidents and preachers, authors and painters, scientists, inventors and engineers. They were founders of such societies as the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals and the American Red Cross.

In 1961, the Unitarians and the Universalists consolidated to form the UU Association. The Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Southern Maryland was founded in March 1993 by nine Unitarian Universalists who had moved to Southern Maryland.

"I like being part of a group that worships together, works together and plays together."

Joining the Fellowship



**Unitarian Universalist
Fellowship
of
Southern Maryland**



"Unitarian Universalism suits me spiritually, intellectually, and morally."

"The sense of community here at the Fellowship is wonderful! I feel I've found a church home."

If these statements ring true for you, then you should consider becoming a member of the Fellowship.

Why should I join?

Benefits of membership include:

- A strong sense of fellowship with everyone at UUFSM.
- Membership in the larger community of Unitarian Universalists throughout the world
- Subscription to *UU World* magazine
- The right to vote on congregational matters at meetings
- Eligibility to serve as a member of the Board of Trustees and on the Nominating Committee
- Official nametag

What are the duties of Membership?

Members are expected to come on Sundays and to contribute "time, talent, and treasure" to the Fellowship, as their circumstances permit.

The minimum annual contribution is 10 hours of time or \$100 (less than \$2 a week), which covers the membership dues we pay to the UU Association and to our local district. Many members give more time or treasure than the minimum; others are constrained by personal circumstances. All are welcome.

Members are encouraged to make the Fellowship thrive and grow by helping out when needed, by bringing friends on Sundays and telling people about the Fellowship, by joining a team or a committee, or by serving a two-year term on the Board of Trustees or Nominating Committee. Members agree to follow the By-laws.

UUFSM is a shared ministry fellowship. We encourage each other and support each other. In time of need, we bring food, offer rides, run errands, and we listen.

"I met most of my best friends at UUFSM!"

Do I have to make a "profession of faith" or say I believe in the Seven Principles?

No. Unitarian Universalism is a creedless religion. The Seven Principles are the most recent summary of UU ideals, but they (like everything else) are open for discussion. Members hold different beliefs, and we treasure that variety. We strive to learn from each other.

I still have some questions.

We'd be happy to answer them! Please talk with Joyce Judd after a service or email her at membership@uufsm.org.

I'd like to join!

Wonderful! Please turn the page to find out more.