

The Path to Membership at UCS

Here are five easy steps to becoming a Member:

1) Attend the **Pathways to Membership Class**. This class is highly recommended, as you will learn about Unitarian Universalism and our congregation. You will meet our ministers, staff, and lay leaders and learn about our membership expectations. The Pathways class is offered four times per year on a Sunday afternoon.

Pathways Classes in 2007-2008: July 15th, October 14th, January 13th & April 13th

2) **Sign the Membership Book**. You can sign the Membership Book at any time – as long as it is witnessed by one of our ministers or Board President.

3) **Fill out a Pledge Card**. Our congregation and its ministries are supported by our members and friends of the congregation. This funding occurs primarily through our annual pledge drive in March. Pledges are good faith estimates of how much our members expect to contribute on record to the congregation during the church year (July 1 – June 30). They are statements of sincere intent but not legally binding contracts.

We ask our members to set a pledge goal of at least 2.5% of household income, a goal that has been adopted by members of our Board of Trustees and Canvass Committee, and members of our staff and leadership.

We understand that each of our financial situations is different. If 2.5% is not realistic now, we ask our membership to consider a plan to achieve this level of giving in the near future. If a member is unable to give financial support or if financial circumstances change considerably, a waiver can be attained from the ministers. However, please realize that our annual budget is approximately \$500,000, and we have approximately 500 adult members, which makes the average cost per member \$1,000.

Pledges can be paid by automatic electronic withdrawal, stocks or other securities, or checks in the offertory plate or by mail. However, cash contributions cannot apply toward your pledge, as we have no way of tracking them.

4) Attend **New Member Sunday**. Twice a year, we welcome our newest members and honor their decision to join our congregation. We celebrate with a special ceremony during the 10:30 am service, and enjoy cake and conversation at Social Hour.

5) **Get Involved!** One of the best ways to meet people and feel like you belong is to get involved. Our congregation's ministry is also shared among its ministers and its members. Part of your membership commitment is **volunteering your time and talent**. Members are asked to volunteer at least four (4) times per year. Our members will tell you that their volunteer roles helped them grow as individuals and in relationship with the larger community.