



## **HOW TO BECOME MEMBER POLICY**

**Approved by the Board of Trustees**

**Name of Board President:** John Shirreffs

**Approval Date:** September 15, 2021

**Revision History:** None

**Purpose:** The purpose of this policy is to supplement the UUCCV by-laws by clarifying who may become a member of this Congregation, and to spell out the privileges and expectations of membership.

**Policy:** The Membership Committee in coordination with the Minister will follow the following process to welcome new members to the UUCCV Congregation.

### **Procedures:**

#### **A. Criteria for membership:**

1. Any person, regardless of race, national origin, sexual orientation, gender identification, social economic or any other protected class, who are eighteen (18) years of age or older and attending our congregation worship and events for at least 3 months may become a member.
2. Any person thirteen (13) through seventeen (17) years of age agreeing with these purposes may become a non-voting associate member.
3. Persons who are members of other UU churches and wish to join UUCCV, will go through the same process with some exceptions.

## B. Process of Becoming a member:

1. The minister or membership chair will invite regular visitors of UUCCV to the UU Orientation Session (currently called New to UU). The class is designed to give a balanced and adequate understanding of the philosophy, work, and worship of the Congregation, an overview of Unitarian Universalist history, values, traditions, and theological perspectives.
2. If a prospective member is unable to attend the orientation class, or is from another UU church, and wishes to join the congregation prior to the next class, they may do so if they meet with the minister to ensure that they fully understand the commitments required by membership.
3. The minister or membership chair will follow up with visitors who have completed the orientation (via group class or personal meeting with the minister) and who have visited regularly for at least three months to determine if they are interested in pursuing membership. The prospective member will be informed via “How to Become a member” literature that becoming a member has opportunities and responsibilities.
4. Prospective members will fill out a membership application form, affirming their desire to join the congregation.
5. The new member will take part in a public covenant in person or by Zoom by affirming alignment with the Mission and Vision of UUCCV and will be welcomed by the congregation.
6. They sign the membership book during a new member welcome service if in person. Signing the book is evidence of an agreement to support the Congregation by a balance of participation in worship life, continuing financial support, and service to UUCCV. If the new member joins virtually, the membership chair will ensure that the new member signs the book at a later time.
7. Upon joining, the new member will receive a folder with information and important UUCCV documents, including information about pledging.

## C. **Privileges and expectations of membership include, and are not limited to:**

1. A deepened sense of commitment and belonging.

2. Responsibility in supporting the Ministry of UCCV, including making an annual donation of record to the church.
3. Rites of Passage officiated by UCCV Minister are free of charge including Weddings / Ceremonies of Union, Child Dedications, or Memorial Services.
4. Election to and service on the Nominating Committee, Board of Trustees, or Committee chairing.
5. Eligibility to serve as a delegate to the UUA General Assembly or other regional assemblies.
6. Complimentary subscription to *UU World*, the magazine of the Unitarian Universalist Association.
7. Use of the UCCV church building (see building policy).

**D. Termination:**

1. A member may terminate membership at any time by notifying the Minister, the Membership Committee Chair or the Operations Assistant.
2. Failure to satisfy the specific requirements for membership as set forth herein, absent a waiver, shall be cause for termination of membership in the UCCV in accordance with the by-laws and this policy.
3. Membership may be terminated for cause by decision of the Board of Trustees if a member does not abide by our UCCV's Covenant of Right Relations.