

Membership Enrollment Kit



FIRST UNITARIAN CHURCH OF PORTLAND, OREGON *Living Our Liberal Faith*

WELCOME TO FIRST UNITARIAN CHURCH OF PORTLAND!



Rev. William Sinkford
Senior Minister

Since 1866, Church Members have Created a Thriving, Liberal Faith Community

This church has been the voice of liberal religion in downtown Portland for over 150 years, and a place where people on a variety of spiritual paths come together to learn and grow.

Since its founding, generations of committed members have worked tirelessly to create what you experience at the church today: a liberal, dynamic and transforming community of faith, devoted to personal spiritual growth and to social justice in our community and beyond.

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

The Mission of the First Unitarian Church of Portland is to create a welcoming community of diverse individuals, promote love, reason and freedom of religion, to foster lifelong spiritual growth, and to act for social justice.

SEEKING: HIGHLY COMMITTED MEMBERS

We Invite You to Consider Membership in Our Church Community

Highly committed church members help this faith community thrive by generously giving of their time, talent and financial resources to support the work of the church. As you consider membership in the First Unitarian Church, please reflect upon the level of commitment you will bring to our collective effort to sustain the church's mission and its work toward social justice.

THE PATH TO MEMBERSHIP

Church membership represents a deeper connection to this faith community. Church membership is both simple and challenging. We are a welcoming faith community and our membership process is quite simple. At the same time, by making the decision to join the First Unitarian Church, you will be making a decision to covenant with a faith community that is searching for truth, actively working for social justice and whose members seek to live in loving relationship with one another. Membership also means making a financial commitment to the stability and mission of the church.

As you consider this step, we invite you to attend our introductory class: **Path to Engagement**. Details about this class can be found in the Program Guide available at the Newcomer Table, or at the church website: <http://www.firstunitarianportland.org/connection>

Our bylaws require that voting members be at least 16 years of age, that they sign the **Membership Record Book** and that they make a financial pledge that is generous within their means.

If you have questions regarding the steps to membership, please call Rev. Thomas Disrud: 503-228-6389, ext. 112.

Congregational Covenant

This covenant of the members and friends of First Unitarian Church of Portland, Oregon, encourages us to bring our best selves to our relationships with one another and to grow in spirit by deepening our connections with each other.

I promise to cultivate in myself:

- Appreciation of our commonalities and differences.
- Joy and a sense of humor.
- Trust that others have good intentions.
- Generosity of spirit and substance.
- Willingness to forgive and seek forgiveness.
- Ownership of my actions and their consequences.
- Gratitude for those who helped build our church community.
- Commitment to sustaining this church for those who will follow after.

In accordance with these values and intentions, I promise to:

- Give generously of my time, talents, and resources.
- Be kind and compassionate.
- Listen to understand rather than to judge or prove a point.
- Support and nurture others.
- Express appreciation of others' efforts.
- Talk with rather than about others.
- Be mindful and considerate in my communications and interactions.
- Respond to anger with gentleness.
- Forgive myself and others when we fail to keep these promises and begin again in love and faith

Vision Statement

First Unitarian Church is a beacon of hope for us and our community, a spiritual center in the heart of the city that helps each of us to find our moral compass, calling and challenging us to build the beloved community with an ever deepening sense of spirit, diversity and inclusion.

The church covenants to provide:

- Thoughtful and celebrative worship services
- Religious education for all ages
- Rites of passage
 - child dedication
 - coming of age
 - weddings
 - memorial services
- Pastoral care and counseling
- Community through social and educational events and service opportunities
- A variety of ongoing support and interest groups

The Seven UU Principles - we affirm & promote:

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

FINDING COMMUNITY

First Unitarian is one of the largest Unitarian Universalist churches in the country. Attending the worship service on Sunday is a very special experience. Members who are looking for community and a way to deepen their commitment to the church find actively engaging in church programs and activities a very rewarding experience. We hope this engagement will allow you to start to feel apart of First Unitarian, and in turn that the folks here will become a community of friends.

This large church has an almost endless array of opportunities: numerous choral and hand bell choirs, social justice action groups, spirit circles, and special interest groups, which focus on such things as poetry, writing, etc., as well as a wide variety of *Good Times* events created just for fun and fellowship.

We encourage new members to actively seek out groups, programs, and activities that appeal to them and get involved as soon as possible. Contact information is listed for each group,

program, and activity in our **Making Connections Guide** and **Program Guide** (which we highly suggest you pick up at the Newcomer table or the Adult programs table in Fuller Hall or on our church website). Additionally, you can approach the volunteers standing behind the numerous activity or social justice action tables in Fuller Hall after each Sunday service. When you join the church, a member of our Membership Committee will contact you and offer assistance in helping you make the connections you seek in our church community.

The church also needs and welcomes volunteers. Volunteers help in the office during the week, support Sunday services by ushering, greeting at the Welcome Desk, serving coffee, hosting the Newcomer Table, staffing our Beacon Bookstore, and serving on numerous church committees and on our Board of Trustees. Teachers are also needed for children or adults through our Religious Education programs.

JOINING THE CHURCH

Complete the Three Forms Included in this Packet

New Member Information Form:

This information becomes part of your permanent record. Each individual (age 16 and over) who wishes to join must complete a New Member Information Form.

Interest and Talents Form:

Let us get to know you. Again, we ask that each individual joining the church complete an Interest and Talents form. Please choose one, two or three areas that particularly interest you. This information becomes part of our database and can be referred to as church needs arise.

The Membership Committee members and church program staff also review your interests.

Pledge Form:

Please pledge generously, within your means, by completing the New Member Pledge Form. Members may pledge individually, or as household or family units. See Pledging information on the previous page and review information on the pledge form.

Please bring completed forms to the Enrollment Ceremony. If you have questions about any of the forms, there will be church members at the Enrollment Ceremony who can assist you.

ENROLLMENT CEREMONY

A brief Enrollment Ceremony is held between services on the **first Sunday of every month at 10:30 a.m. in the Eliot Center's Channing Room (A101)**, or as otherwise announced in the Sunday Order of Service. During the summer months, the Enrollment Ceremony is held at 11:15 a.m.

During the Ceremony, you will sign the Membership Record Book and have a chance to meet other new members. We'll also take a

group photo to post on our website and share important information about membership. Although no preparatory classes are required for membership, we encourage you to take the **Path to Engagement class**, particularly if the Unitarian Universalist faith is new to you.

We look forward to welcoming you as a member into our community at First Unitarian Church.

BENEFITS OF MEMBERSHIP

We welcome your decision to join us and hope that your relationship with First Unitarian Church will be spiritually, intellectually and emotionally rewarding. In community we have the power and the 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.
- Our church is run democratically and members are eligible to vote on the church's annual budget, whom to call as ministers, and other important issues.
- You will receive all regular church communications, including the church's weekly electronic newsletter *The Front Steps*, as well as *UU World*, the journal of the Unitarian Universalist Association.
- You will receive a discount on all church classes and workshops.

YOUR PLEDGE IS YOUR FINANCIAL PROMISE

Your Pledge is Part of Your Commitment and Helps Sustain the Work of the First Unitarian Church

Each autumn, as part of our Annual Fund Drive (AFD), First Unitarian asks its members and friends to make a pledge of financial support for the coming calendar year. A pledge is a promise to donate a certain amount of money to the church during the calendar year. It is a statement of intent; it's not a legally binding obligation.

Our annual budget is about \$2.3 million, which “keeps the lights on” for our block-sized downtown campus, supports our staff and pays for the rich array of programs we offer. Pledges and contributions account for the largest percentage of our operating budget, almost 70%. This means that each and every pledge plays a decisive role in the ability of First Unitarian to work towards fulfilling its mission each year. WE really are the church.

Our policies ask that members pledge “generously within their means.” We each are asked to reflect on what that amount might be. One person described this as “Give until it feels good.”

If information is what you need,
we hope you find it here.

Beyond the numbers and
percentages, your pledge
should make you feel good.

Giving Guide							
Annual Income	Beginner		Supporter		Deepening		Visionary
	2%	5%	6%	7%	8%	10%	12%
\$10,000	\$200	\$500	\$600	\$700	\$800	\$1,000	\$1,200
\$20,000	\$400	\$1,000	\$1,200	\$1,400	\$1,600	\$2,000	\$2,400
\$30,000	\$600	\$1,500	\$1,800	\$2,100	\$2,400	\$3,000	\$3,600
\$40,000	\$800	\$2,000	\$2,400	\$2,800	\$3,200	\$4,000	\$4,800
\$50,000	\$1,000	\$2,500	\$3,000	\$3,500	\$4,000	\$5,000	\$6,000
\$60,000	\$1,000	\$2,500	\$3,000	\$3,500	\$4,000	\$5,000	\$6,000
\$75,000	\$1,500	\$3,750	\$4,500	\$5,250	\$6,000	\$7,500	\$9,000
\$100,000	\$2,000	\$5,000	\$6,000	\$7,000	\$8,000	\$10,000	\$12,000
\$150,000	\$3,000	\$7,500	\$9,000	\$10,500	\$12,000	\$15,000	\$18,000
\$200,000	\$4,000	\$10,000	\$12,000	\$14,000	\$16,000	\$20,000	\$24,000

ENROLLMENT FORM #1 - NEW MEMBER INFORMATION



To be completed by EACH prospective member of First Unitarian Church of Portland.

Please **bring these completed forms**, including the **Pledge Form** on the next page, to the Enrollment Ceremony held on the first Sunday of the month. There, you will be invited to sign the **Membership Record Book**, which is one of the church bylaw requirements for membership.
(Minimum age for Membership: 16)

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

Date you signed Membership Book: _____ / _____ / _____

First Name _____ Middle _____ Last Name _____

Address _____

STREET

CITY

STATE

ZIP

Cell phone _____ Home phone _____

E-mail _____ *Date of Birth: _____ / _____ / _____

*Preferred pronouns: he/him/his she/her/hers they/them/their Other: _____

* For internal purposes only. We are committed to universal acceptance and only ask these questions for a better understanding of who our congregants are.

First Unitarian encourages the use of preferred pronouns on nametags for everyone. However if you strongly object you can indicate that here: Do not include my pronouns on my name tag

Married? Committed? Partner's Name _____ Is your partner also a member? _____

Are your **children registered in our Learning Community** (Religious Education Program)? If so please list:

Children:	Name	Date of Birth	Grade	Name	Date of Birth	Grade
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_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

Your occupation, position, and name of employer _____

What was your previous church connection, if any? _____

How did you learn about this church? _____

What brings you here? _____

About how long have you been attending First Unitarian Church? _____

What can we do for you? _____

How can we help you find what you need here? _____

Is there anything else you want us to know about you? _____

If you have any questions regarding membership, pledging, or strengthening your connection to First Unitarian, please call Rev. Thomas Disrud at the church office: 503-228-6389, ext. 112. Thank you and welcome!



What are your Interests? What are your Talents? How might you get involved in First Unitarian Church?

There are many ways to connect with others, become engaged in community and be of service at First Church.

Please **List** the activities (**by number**) that you would like to pursue, with your first choice (if you have one) listed first. The Membership Committee will contact you to assist you becoming involved according to your interests.

Name: _____

Activities (**by number**) you are interested in: _____

Activities (**by number**) you are already involved in: _____

Sunday Morning Support and Hospitality

Obtain/provide flowers for Sanctuary or Chapel	901
Host welcome tables before or after services	902
Serve as an usher (training provided)	903
Help with coffee service	906
Help in the bookstore	907

Church Office and Clerical Support

Clerical and reception assistance	951
General (on-going) office support	950
Specific (short term) programs or projects	957

House and Grounds Support

General Maintenance or Gardening	970
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Religious Education (R.E.) for Children/Youth

Teach children* (ages 4–12)	910
Teach youth* (ages 13–17)	911
Provide R.E. office support (weekdays)	915

*These positions require application and screening

Adult Religious Education and Programs

Assist with Class Registrations	900
Organize/Coordinate Special Events & Speakers	917
Teach Adult Class	918
Help Administer Class or Retreat	919
Volunteer in Adult Programs Office	922
Friends of the Library or the Labyrinth	920
Covenant Groups (Small Group Ministry)	921
Meditation/Contemplative Practice Groups	929

Community Building

Good Times Committee (Coord Social Events)	916
The Alliance	913
Women's Circle	908
Men's Community	930
Caregiver Support Group	936
Knitting Group	937
Poetry Group	938
Bed and Breakfast Program (home hosting)	935

Caring Community

Food for elderly/shut-ins/the ill, etc.	925
Transportation for elderly, the ill, etc.	926
Lay Ministry Program (Requires training)	928

Organization and Leadership

Group facilitation	996
Leadership Training	998
Board and Committees	999
Denominational Affairs (UUA Outreach Group)	1005

Music and Arts

Participate in Choir	939
Participate in Handbell Choir	940
Other Musical Skills	941
Art Wall Coordination (art gallery in Fuller Hall)	948

Social Justice

Environmental Issues: Community for Earth	981
LGBTQ Issues: Unitarian Pride Group	985
Human Rights: UU Service Committee	988
Peace Issues: Peace Action Group	989
Racial Justice Issues: Ending the New Jim Crow	979
Economic Justice Issues: Economic Justice Action Group	993
AIDS issues: Africa Connections	982
Committee on Hunger and Homelessness	983
Quilts of Love Group	984
Mental Health Issues: Mental Health Action Group	987
Cuban Issues, education/engagement: Cuba AyUUda	1000
Animal Rights Issues: UU Animal Ministry	1004

Your Talents

We hope that all members will serve the church by sharing their gifts and talents. Please check any of the following areas in which you have expertise that you would be willing to share:

Financial	962
Legal	964
Fundraising/Stewardship	965
Marketing	967
Organizational Development	997
Photography/Videography	947
Website Maintenance/Design	955
Social Media/Online Community Support	961
Computer/Tech Skills	1006
IT Training	1007
Other not listed	969



Generosity as a Spiritual Practice

The pledge you make upon joining First Unitarian is for the remainder of the current calendar year ending December 31.

Pledge Online at: <http://bit.ly/1stpdx2020>

Already pledged for this church year? Online Other _____

Personal Information:

Full Name Person 1 _____

Full Name Person 2 _____

Cell Phone _____ Home _____

Email _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Total Pledge for the REMAINDER of the current calendar year:

\$ _____

“Sustainer Pledge” *Ongoing until you cancel your pledge with the church.*

Opt-In: Pledge will RENEW each year automatically.

Payment Schedule (choose one)

Monthly Quarterly Annually Comments: _____

Payment Method (choose one)

Automatic Checking Withdrawal (VOIDED check needed for the church to initiate)

I hereby authorize First Unitarian to process debit entries on my account on the 20th of the each month for monthly payments and the 20th of March, June, Sept. and Dec. for Quarterly payments.

Bank Bill Pay (Congregant initiated through bank account)

Check or Cash (Please write “pledge” in the memo or your name on the envelope)

Stock (call Zaida at ext. 212)

Pay Online with Credit/Debit at: bit.ly/1stpdxpaypledge

Pledged in Good Faith (signature)

_____ **Date** _____

Email completed form to Erin,
etafuri@firstunitarianportland.org
OR mail to the address below:



*First Unitarian Church of Portland
1034 SW 13th Ave
Portland, OR 97205*

“Living Our Liberal Faith”