

Considering Membership

FIRST UNITARIAN CHURCH OF PORTLAND, OREGON

8/22
Living Our Liberal Faith



WELCOME TO FIRST UNITARIAN CHURCH OF PORTLAND!



Rev. Alison Miller
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; to 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. 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.

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.

NOTE: Due to Covid-19, we are offering **virtual membership enrollment** as well as online new member informational classes with Rev. Thomas Disrud. As it is safe to do so, we will arrange for folks to sign our Membership Record book in person. To stay up to date on class dates and times, [please click here to subscribe to our weekly e-newsletter, Front Steps.](#)

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

Our 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 our 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

Our 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
- Journeying toward spiritual wholeness by working to build a diverse, multicultural Beloved Community by our actions that accountably dismantle racism and other oppressions in ourselves and our institutions

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 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.

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. 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:

Our policies ask that members pledge “generously within their means.”

We each are asked to reflect on what that amount might be. Members may pledge individually, or as a household. For questions about pledging email:

stewardship@firstunitarianportland.org

If you have questions about the membership forms please contact Rev. Tom Disrud at tdisrud@firstunitarianportland.org

ENROLLMENT CEREMONY

NOTE: Due to Covid-19, we are now offering the option of joining *virtually*.

To join virtually just email your completed packet to Erin Tafuri, Stewardship and Database Manager at:

etafuri@firstunitarianportland.org

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

Someone from our Membership Committee will be in contact after we have processed your paperwork.

As it is safe to do so, we will arrange for folks to sign our Membership handbook in person.

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 who make and fulfill a pledge each year 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 magazine*, 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 Your Gift

When you pledge a gift you help fund our staff, programs, services and community work.

For those new to pledging, you'll want to know that a pledged gift is a promised amount you plan to give over the coming calendar year (2024) to support the church and our work. Your pledge can be adjusted if needed, should your circumstances change.

Our annual budget of over 2 million “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 gifts account for the largest percentage of our operating budget, some 70%. This means that each and every pledged gift plays a decisive role in the ability of First Unitarian to continue its work.

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.”

Wondering What to Pledge?							
Some find this tool helpful, but your pledge should match your heart and your budget!							
Annual Income	Supporter		Sustainer		Leader		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 **email these completed forms**, including the **Pledge Form** on the next page, to Erin Tafuri, Stewardship Manager at: etafuri@firstunitarianportland.org

(Minimum age for Membership: 16)

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

Date Joined : ____/____/____ (We will contact you to sign the membership book when it is safe to do so again.)

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
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

Your occupation, position, and name of employer _____

What was your previous religious association or upbringing, if any? _____

How did you learn about this church? _____

What brings you here? _____

About how long have you been attending our 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 or strengthening your connection to First Unitarian, please email Rev. Tom Disrud at tdisrud@firstunitarianportland.org. Thank you and welcome!

ENROLLMENT FORM #2 - INTERESTS & TALENTS



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.

Name: _____

Activities (by number) you are interested in: _____

Talents you are willing to offer (by number) _____

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

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 Group [] 929
- Help Facilitate 10-month Wellspring Group [] 1009
- Join spiritual growth "Wellspring" Group [] 1010

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
- Social Justice (Other/General) [] 1008

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 below is for the **REMAINDER** of the current calendar year ending **December 31, 2024**.

You can also pledge online for 2024 at: tinyurl.com/firstupdx2024

Questions? Email Erin at stewardship@firstunitarianportland.org

Personal Information:

Full Name Person 1 _____

Full Name Person 2 _____

Cell Phone _____ Home _____

Email _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Pledge a Gift of Support to Fund Our Ministry, Services, Programs and Staff for 2024

Annual Amount (Present - December 2024)

\$ _____

Would you like to make your pledge a “Sustainer Pledge” going forward?

☐ Opt-in: pledge will RENEW automatically next year and be ongoing until you cancel it with us.

Payment Schedule (choose one)

☐ Monthly ☐ Quarterly ☐ One-time Annual Comments: _____

Payment Method (choose one)

☐ **Direct Debit - church initiated auto-withdrawal (VOIDED check needed)**

I hereby authorize First Unitarian to process debit entries on my account on the 20th of the each month for monthly payments and the 15th of March, June, Sept. and Dec. for Quarterly payments.

☐ **Bank Bill Pay** (Congregant initiated through their bank account)

☐ **Check** (Please write “pledge” in the memo)

☐ **IRA or Donor Advised Funds**

☐ **Stock** (call Erin at ext. 212)

☐ “I the congregant” will pay online using Vanco: tinyurl.com/giveFirstUpdx

Pledged in Good Faith (signature)

_____ **Date** _____

To join *virtually* just email your completed packet to
Erin Tafuri, Stewardship and Database Manager at:
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"