

Expectations of Membership

Membership in Mission Peak Unitarian Universalist Congregation

Membership is an important step for people who have decided that they want to make Mission Peak their spiritual home. Although our congregation has many friends who find that they enjoy simply attending our worship services and benefiting from our programs, our members are people who have decided to take the extra step of committed support to the health and work of this community. Although our New to UU classes include people who are just curious about Mission Peak and Unitarian Universalism, we also want to make sure that those who are interested in membership have enough information to make an informed decision.

We Appreciate Seeing You

The ongoing life and health of this spiritual community is maintained and enriched by the presence of its members. We know that you have other important commitments as well, but we miss you when you are gone. We hope that you will see membership as a commitment to attend as often as you are able. The success of our worship services, classes and other activities depends as much upon the people who attend as it does upon the speaker. It makes a difference when you are present.

We Are Committed to Serving Our Members

We call ourselves a “spiritual community” and we feel the strength of that commitment to you. The services that we provide – rites of passage such as weddings, memorials and child dedications, opportunities for continuing education and spiritual growth, and short-term pastoral counseling services – are available to our members free or have only a small charge. Our vision is to provide a place where your spirit is nourished in relevant and significant ways, and where you find the resources you need to continue to grow.

The Challenge of a Diverse Movement

Unitarian Universalist congregations may seem different from many traditional religious communities, in that we enjoy and actually encourage a diversity of perspectives. An atmosphere of respect and mutual affirmation attracts people who are searching for new possibilities in their faith journeys. We each bear the responsibility for creating a community where trust, vulnerability and authenticity are possible. It is important that each member help to welcome newcomers into our midst and to support their search for a religious home. As important as it is to say from the pulpit that we strive to be welcoming, it is even more critical that people actually feel welcomed when they are here. Now that you are no longer the newcomers, we hope that you will be intentionally welcoming to the people you meet here, and share an open mind and open heart with the community.

Sharing Our Gifts

We expect members to share with us their gifts of time and money. With the gift of time, we help sustain the congregation in ways that use our talents and interests, for example, teaching religious education, providing pastoral care, participating in worship, working for justice, volunteering for a committee or interest group, taking a position of leadership, helping make our meeting location into a worshipful space each Sunday.

With the gift of money, we ask you to spend some time in serious thought about what would be an appropriate level of financial support to Mission Peak. As a new member, you will be asked to make a pledge of financial support. You will meet with a Mission Peak member who will explain our finances, answer your questions, and ask for your pledge. Every Mission Peak member is asked to renew their pledge during our annual canvass each Spring.

Serving Our Community

Each of us is encouraged to put our faith into action. Our congregation creates opportunities to help to build a better world. We appreciate your input and enthusiasm to help extend our outreach into the wider world. Both individually and together, Unitarian Universalists work to make their faith real and more than a one-day-a-week expression of our values, for example, practicing our principles in daily life, voting at congregational meetings, getting involved in justice work both inside and outside of our congregation.

Connection with Our Wider Movement

Part of your financial support to Mission Peak goes to support the broader movement of Unitarian Universalism, made up of more than 1000 congregations in the U.S. and additional outreach worldwide. Our participation helps to offer a liberal religious alternative to those in need of our message and good work. After joining, you will receive *UU World* magazine to help you stay connected with the world-wide movement of religious liberals. We hope that you will also participate in regional and national denominational events, all of which help us to feel part of something much larger than our individual lives.

Steps to Becoming a Member

Participate. Get involved in our programs and contribute your unique talents to our congregation.

Join a Small Group (optional). Meet others who also seek a caring spiritual community.

Attend the New to UU classes. Learn about Unitarian Universalism, its purposes and principles.

Sign our membership book. Participate in an Ingathering ceremony on Sunday morning.

Make a pledge of support. Support the programs and operations of this congregation.