VIII. Membership

A. Pathways to Membership

a. First time or One-time Visitor

Visitors are encouraged to sign our Visitor book in the vestibule or Visitor card found in the pews. Visitor cards may be turned in to the ushers or placed in the weekly offering plate.

Greeters invite visitors to wear a Visitor name tag.

Visitors who have signed the Visitor book or given a completed Visitor card to the usher will receive a newsletter for the next 3 months.

b. a Friend of the church is:

☐ an individual who participates regularly in the Life of the church, regardless of whether that person was once a Member; or
☐ someone who either was a member and who continues to participate regularly; or
☐ someone who has taken a new UU class

Friends of the church are encouraged to:

a. Add their name(s) to the church database by contacting the Office Administrator at admin@augustauu.org
b. Participate in the life of the church by attending open classes and church wide events
c. Enroll any children in the family in our Religious Exploration program by contacting the Coordinator at sundaymorningREcoordinator@augustauu.org
d. Consider joining the choir by contacting our choir director at musicdirector@augustauu.org
e. Consider joining one of the Small Group Ministry circles by contacting our Small Group Ministry Coordinator at sgmcoordinator@augustauu.org.
f. Consider attending the Peaceful Heart Sangha by contacting its coordinator at martysoule@gmail.com or 685-9270.
g. Membership

When a Friend or Visitor would like to discuss the benefits and responsibilities of membership in the church, he or she may schedule a meeting with the Minister, Reverend Carie Johnsen, at revcariejohnsen@gmail.com or 632-3663.

Current church bylaws require Members to:

a. Be at least thirteen years of age,
b. Be active in church life,
c. Make an annual financial contribution to the church, and
d. Sign the membership book

c. Becoming a Member
Signing the membership book - Any Visitor or Friend who is ready to become a member is asked to schedule a meeting to sign “the book” with the Minister or a member of the membership committee.

Making a pledge – Signing your first pledge card is an important part of the membership journey. Making a fiscal commitment to the congregation where you chose to worship is just one way to engage in stewardship at UUCC. Annual dues to the Unitarian Universalist Association and the New England District ($82) per member per year are paid by UUCC.

Creating Community – Deepen your connections and sense of belonging by getting involved in the life of the congregation. Talk to a member of the membership committee, the Religious Exploration staff, or the Minister to explore where you want to begin building relationships and nurturing a sense of meaning and purpose.

B. Annual Process for Updating Membership List
In November, the Board Clerk and Minister initiate an established process to ensure that the official list correctly reflects our membership numbers. The process is intended to ensure that an accurate membership number is submitted to our national Unitarian Universalist Association, as well as to provide our accurate per-member financial contribution to support our national Association.

The following steps ensure that the list is up to date and accurate.
C. The Minister and Office Administrator review the current membership list and identify individuals who have been active at church in the past year. Active means an individual is known to have participated in church life and/or made a pledge or financial contribution to the church in the past three fiscal years. This first review is completed within two weeks. This first review results in a list of people who are apparently inactive.
D. The culled list is reviewed by the Small Group Ministry Coordinator and Membership Committee to identify any members known by them to have been active in the last year.
E. After all groups/individuals have reviewed the list and identified active members, the Membership Committee contacts each apparently non-active member by phone or letter. The information gathered from these phone calls is reported to the Minister and the Board Clerk.
F. The Board Clerk sends a letter to any apparently non-active member who did not respond to Membership Committee calls. The letter requests a response within thirty days to clarify status.
G. The Board Clerk and Minister coordinate with the Office Administrator to update the membership list.
H. The Minister reports any names removed from the membership role via this process to the Board of Trustees and the UUA.