

UUFM's New Member Kit

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of McMinnville, Oregon 8/2023

WELCOME TO THE UU FELLOWSHIP OF MCMINNVILLE!

Since 2007, UUFM's members have created a thriving, liberal faith community.

This fellowship is the voice of liberal religion in McMinnville, and a place where people on a variety of spiritual paths come together to learn and grow. Since its founding, committed members have worked tirelessly to create what you experience with UUFM today: a liberal, dynamic and transforming community of faith, devoted to personal spiritual growth and to social justice in our community and beyond.

SEEKING: HIGHLY COMMITTED MEMBERS

We invite you to consider membership in our Fellowship.

Highly committed members help this faith community thrive by generously giving of their time, talent and financial resources to support the work of the fellowship. As you consider membership with UUFM, please reflect upon the level of commitment you will bring to our collective effort to sustain the fellowship's mission.

THE PATH TO MEMBERSHIP

UUFM membership represents a deeper connection to this faith community. 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 UUFM, you will be making a decision to covenant with a faith community that is searching for truth, 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 fellowship.

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

FINDING COMMUNITY

Attending the worship service on Sunday is a very special experience. However, members who are looking for community and a way to deepen their commitment to UUFM find actively engaging in fellowship programs and activities a very rewarding experience. We hope this engagement will allow you to start to feel a part of UUFM, and in turn that the folks here will become a community of friends. 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*. When you join, a member of our Membership Committee will contact you and offer assistance in helping you make the connections you seek in our community. UUFM also needs and welcomes volunteers. Volunteers help in many ways including greeting at the front door,

serving coffee, hosting the Newcomer Table, helping clean up after services, teaching in Religious Education programs, and serving on numerous committees and on our Board.

JOINING UUFM

Complete the Pathway to Membership activities and the two forms included in this packet.

Pathway to Membership: Individuals who become a part of our community *before* they become a member are much more engaged. To that end, we ask that you complete the Pathway to Membership activities before becoming a member of UUFM. We have listed options in several of the categories so that you can select the path that fits you best. Contact one of the Membership Committee members (info@macuuf.org) if you have questions about how to proceed with any of the activities.

Membership Application Form: Each individual who wishes to join must complete a New Member Information Form.

Pledge Form: Please pledge generously, within your means, by completing the Pledge Form. Members may pledge individually, or as household or family units.

Submit your completed forms to the Membership Committee at least TWO WEEKS prior to the New Member Ceremony.

NEW MEMBER CEREMONY

A brief New Member Ceremony is held periodically during UUFM's services. During the Ceremony, you will sign the Membership Book. Although no preparatory classes are required for membership, we encourage you to take the UU 101 class, particularly if the Unitarian Universalist faith is new to you.

We look forward to welcoming you as a member into UUFM's community.

BENEFITS OF MEMBERSHIP

We welcome your decision to join us and hope that your relationship with the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of McMinnville 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 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 important issues that impact the Fellowship and its future.
- You will receive all regular UUFM communications, including UU World, the journal of the Unitarian Universalist Association.

YOUR PLEDGE IS YOUR FINANCIAL PROMISE

Your pledge is part of your commitment and helps sustain the work of UUFM

A pledge is a promise to donate a certain amount of money to the fellowship during the fiscal year (July 1-June 30). It is a statement of intent; it's not a legally binding obligation. Your pledge should fit your heart and your budget!

Our policies ask that members pledge "generously within their means," but each individual and family makes their own decision on how much to give. One person described this as "Give until it feels good."

Individual pledges vary from \$2 per week to many thousands of dollars a year. We recognize and deeply embrace the financial diversity of our congregation. To make this a fellowship for all, we ask those who are able, to carry a greater financial commitment to our beloved community.

Pledges express gratitude, generosity, and commitment. In giving to UUFM, we build and sustain a community devoted to love and service, reason, and justice. UUFM's thriving and active faith community doesn't just happen. It is grounded in the reality of well-funded operations. The pledge you make upon joining UUFM is for the remainder of the current fiscal year ending June 30th. Each April, as part of our Annual Pledge Drive, UUFM asks its members and friends to make a pledge of financial support for the coming fiscal year. Pledges and contributions from UUFM members and friends account for 100% of our income. This means that each and every pledge plays a decisive role in the ability of UUFM to work towards fulfilling its mission each year. WE really are UUFM!

UUFM's Covenant

From our desire to nurture our beloved community and to be accountable to each other and to something greater, we covenant:

- To Listen to every voice for good intent and the possibility each one of us has to offer
- To Honor the diversity of our beliefs and all the ways we are different
- To Share generously our gifts and strengths
- To Engage with each other in a joyful spirit of respect, equality, trust and cooperation
- To Accept responsibility for our words and actions and when we fall short, to begin again in love and trust

UUFM's Vision

We are joyous, open-hearted, spiritual explorers courageously loving all life. Led by the collective wisdom of our fellowship, we are building an inviting and compassionate home filled with music, laughter and wonder.

UUFM's Mission

- Create a thriving sanctuary that welcomes everyone
- Engage all generations in spiritual dialogue and growth
- Work with our local community to build a just and harmonious world

PATHWAY TO MEMBERSHIP

We are thrilled that you are interested in becoming a member of UUFM. We have found that the individuals who become a part of our community *before* they become a member are much more engaged. To that end, we ask that you complete the following before becoming a member of UUFM. We have listed options in several of the categories so that you can select the path that fits you best. Contact one of the Membership Committee members (info@macuuf.org) if you have questions about how to proceed with any of the activities.

The actions below reflect UUFM's mission to:

- Create a thriving sanctuary that welcomes everyone
- Engage all generations in spiritual dialogue and growth
- Work with our local community to build a just and harmonious world

Create a Thriving Sanctuary That Welcomes Everyone

_____ Volunteer in ***two or more*** of the following capacities during a traditional Sunday service: be a greeter, bring a flower bouquet, make coffee, bring treats for coffee hour, wash the coffee mugs, play music at a service, set up and take down the sound system and/or hearing assistance devices, hand out and pick up hymnals, tell a Story for All Ages, assist in a session of children's Religious Exploration.

Notes:

Engage All Generations in Spiritual Dialogue and Growth

_____ Attend a ***minimum of two*** UUFM traditional services

Notes:

_____ Attend a ***minimum of two*** UUFM simplified services

Notes:

_____ Attend/participate in ***at least one*** of the following: UU 101 class, UUFM Mom's Group, UUFM Men's Group, UUFM book study, intergenerational activity, interview a long-time UUFM member

Notes:

Work with Our Local Community to Build a Just and Harmonious World

_____ Do ***at least one*** of the following: Attend a UUFM Social and Environmental Justice committee meeting, participate in a UUFM SEJ sponsored activity, complete a "UU Action of the Week" (<https://www.uuvoicesoregon.org/action-of-the-week>)

Notes:

Once you have completed these activities, please contact the Membership Committee (membership@macuuf.org) to arrange a time to meet.

NEW MEMBER APPLICATION

Name: _____

Address: _____

Home phone: _____ Cell phone: _____

Email: _____

How did you learn about UUFM? _____

What brings you here? _____

About how long have you been attending UUFM services? _____

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

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

The fellowship maintains a paper contact sheet and distributes copies to those who appear on it. Would you like to be included on this sheet? ____ Yes ____ No

The responsibility of membership is that we ask you to become involved in UUFM in some way that is meaningful for you. We ask that you consider doing the following:

1. That you find a small group here that feeds your soul
2. That you join in the work of a committee or a regular task (many hands make quick work)
3. That you support UUFM as you are able with your financial gifts.

Applicant's Signature

Date

Generosity as a Spiritual Practice

Please join us in pledging for the REMAINDER of the fiscal year

Annual Pledges and contributions from UUFM members and friends account for the majority of UUFM's income each year, meaning that each and every pledge plays a decisive role in the ability of UUFM to work towards fulfilling its mission each year. Making and fulfilling an annual pledge deepens our faith and sustains UUFM for the benefit of us all and the wider community we serve. Our pledges express gratitude, generosity, and commitment to our work in the world.

Did you already pledge for this fiscal year? ____ Yes ____ No
(If yes, just write in your name and leave the rest of the form blank.)

Name(s): _____

Mailing Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Email: _____ Phone Number: _____

Total Pledge Amount for REMAINDER of the Fiscal Year (June 30th): \$ _____

Payment Frequency (please choose ONE option):

____ Monthly ____ Quarterly ____ Annually

Monthly withdrawals from your bank account can be made. Please contact the treasurer for the bank routing number.

I am unable to pledge at this time: _____ (initial)

Signed in Good Faith (signature):

_____ **Date** _____

Your donations to UUFM are tax deductible. Thank you for supporting the vision of UUFM!

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of McMinnville, PO Box 163, McMinnville, OR 97128