



Olympia Unitarian Universalist
Congregation

New Member Guide

Congratulations on becoming a member!

Here are some answers to frequently asked questions.

Welcome to Membership at OUUC!

How do I find the church directory?

You have two ways to access the directory:

1) by logging into your [Realm](#) account 2) by using the Connect-Our Church Community app on your smartphone or tablet. (See the [Realm Quick Start Guide](#).) Please use the method that works best for you. Those eligible to be listed include members, friends (those who have made a financial pledge), and those who have been involved at OUUC for at least six months and have requested to be included.



Now that I'm a member, how do I connect more deeply with the congregation?

Please take some time to consider the answers to a few questions: What are you looking for in our religious community? How have you found meaningful ways to connect? How will you continue to learn and grow and develop your spiritual practice at OUUC? What actions can you take to contribute to the life of this congregation and to the health of the surrounding community? Consider talking about

these questions with the [Community Life Coordinator](#). The Coordinator looks forward to a conversation about how you can connect with others at OUUC, and about how you can contribute your skills, energy and ideas to the life of this community.

How do I stay informed?

One of the best ways to stay informed is to check the website: ouuc.org. On the website you will find information on [Sunday worship](#), [Religious Education](#), [Faith in Action initiatives](#), [volunteer opportunities](#) and more. You will find documents, publications, forms, tutorials, guides and other resources. The [Weekly Update email](#) will keep you informed about the latest news. You can also find out more by reading our Sunday printed announcements, [Commons e-zine](#), and displays in the Commons.

How do I make a financial pledge?

You can make a financial pledge at any time by stopping by the church office. You can also pledge [online](#).

How much do I give?

This is our congregation; it is our joy and our responsibility. Please give thoughtful and serious consideration to the many contributions OUUC makes to your life and that of your family, the significance of UU values in your life, and our vital work in the larger community and the world. We then ask you to make a generous but realistic financial commitment that reflects the importance of our congregation in helping you live your values.

How do I pay my pledge?

You can pay your pledge in a number of ways. You can pay by cash or check (through the mail, by dropping by the office, or by placing it in the offering basket on Sunday morning). You can pay your pledge by setting up an automatic fund transfer in your [Realm](#) account. You can text OUUC \$____ (amount of donation) to 73256. You can also pay your pledge online on the website [Giving](#) page.

What if I need to change my pledge?

If your circumstances change your pledge can be revised. Please contact the [Church Administrator](#).

Can I “earmark” a pledge for a specific purpose?

All pledge donations benefit the general fund. There are opportunities throughout the year to give to special fundraisers.

What about non-monetary gifts to the church?

Yes, OUUC accepts stock transfers, IRA qualified charitable contributions and other gifts of property. Please contact the [Church Administrator](#) for more information.

Are meetings of the Board of Trustees open to the membership?

Yes, meetings of the Board of Trustees are open. There may be occasions when the Board goes into Executive session.

Now that I am a member I have a vote. What will I be voting for?

The congregation meets twice a year – in April for the Annual Meeting and in December for budget approval. Other meetings are called as needed. Members may vote to elect members to the Board of Trustees, approve the budget, borrow money, sell or buy property or adopt Faith in Action resolutions.

Can I use the building? For what kinds of things?

Members have free use of the building (30 days after signing the membership book) for life-passage events (weddings, memorials). Members hosting events for non-congregational groups will be charged room use and impact fees.

Can I do a clothing drive (or other event or fundraiser) for a charity?

All fundraisers need to be approved and scheduled through the church office, and sponsored by one of OUUC’s ministries.

I want to donate some furniture or supplies. Can I?

Please check with a staff member before donating any items to the church.



Who do I ask about....?

Worship – [The Reverend Mary Gear](#), Minister

Religious Education (adults and children) – [Sara Lewis](#), Lifespan Director of Religious Education

Administration (mailing lists, donations, building use, calendar) – [Darlene Sarkela](#), Administrator

Music and Choir – [Troy Fisher](#), Music Director

Volunteer Opportunities and Social Groups – [Community Life Coordinator](#)

Mission – [Board of Trustees](#)

Faith in Action Initiatives – [The Reverend Carol McKinley](#), Faith in Action Ministry

Pastoral Care – [The Reverend Mary Gear](#)

Caring Friends is an opt-in email list that lets OUUC members ask for help in a time of need, and offer help in a time of need. Contact the [Community Life Coordinator](#) to be added.