

# *MEMBERSHIP*



# First Unitarian Society of Minneapolis

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## ***Unitarian Universalism and First Unitarian Society (FUS) of Minneapolis***

FUS is affiliated with the Unitarian Universalist Association. Unitarian Universalism emerged from two religious denominations: Unitarian and Universalist. Both religions started in Europe hundreds of years ago. These denominations consolidated in 1961 to form the Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations.

### ***Unitarian Universalism – from the UUA website***

“The Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) is a religious organization that combines two traditions: the Universalists, who organized in 1793, and the Unitarians, who organized in 1825. They consolidated into the UUA in 1961.

Both groups trace their roots in North America to the early Massachusetts settlers and to the founders of the Republic. Overseas, their heritages reach back centuries to pioneers in England, Poland, and Transylvania.

Each of the 1,041 congregations in the United States, Canada, and overseas are democratic in polity and operation; they govern themselves. They unite in the Association to provide services that individual congregations cannot provide for themselves. Each congregation is associated with one of the UUA’s 19 districts.

Unitarian Universalism is a liberal religion with Jewish-Christian roots. It has no creed. It affirms the worth of human beings, freedom of belief and the search for advancing truth, and tries to provide a warm, open, supportive community for people who believe that ethical living is the supreme witness of religion.”

### ***UU Purposes and Principles***

- The inherent worth and dignity of every person;
- Justice, equity and compassion in human relations;
- Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations;
- 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.

### ***UU Sources of our Living Tradition***

- Direct experience of that transcending mystery and wonder, affirmed in all cultures, which moves us to a renewal of the spirit and an openness to the forces which create and uphold life;
- Words and deeds of prophetic women and men which challenge us to confront powers and structures of evil with justice, compassion, and the transforming power of love;
- Wisdom from the world's religions which inspires us in our ethical and spiritual life;
- Jewish and Christian teachings which call us to respond to God's love by loving our neighbors as ourselves;
- Humanist teachings which counsel us to heed the guidance of reason and the results of science, and warn us against idolatries of the mind and spirit;
- Spiritual teachings of earth-centered traditions which celebrate the sacred circle of life and instruct us to live in harmony with the rhythms of nature.

## ***Membership: Why does one take this step of commitment?***

***“When you find a church which expresses the outlook and values you yourself hold as vital, you are depriving yourself and those values of needed strength if you fail to identify yourself with that church.” – The Rev. A. Powell Davies***

### ***Joining First Unitarian Society of Minneapolis means essentially three things:***

- ❖ You commit yourself to the importance of an organized religious fellowship. Ideas and ideals must have a vehicle and embodiment in the world. People who think and work together for the values in which they believe have a better chance of achieving them in their lives and in the world than people who do not.
- ❖ You accept the responsibilities that go with membership in any human community. Within the limits of your ability and in line with your personal choice, you are ready to give energy, time, money and your best thought to the ideas you cherish.
- ❖ You are in fundamental sympathy with the principles of freedom and reason in religion and life. This is the basis of our creedless congregation.

***The First Unitarian Society of Minneapolis, established in 1881 and affiliated with the Unitarian Universalist Association, is an ethical and liberal religious community dedicated to promoting the ongoing search for truth and meaning. We aspire to:***

- ❖ Live joyfully and ethically, in loving, reverent relationship with humanity and nature;
- ❖ Pursue wisdom through reason, science, art and the stories of civilization;
- ❖ Make the change we need for a more just, compassionate and peaceful world;
- ❖ Support one another’s journey toward meaning and connection in the here and now.





## ***Steps to Membership***

1. Prior to someone becoming a member we believe it is important to feel that this community matches their values and they are in sympathy with our mission. We recommend that you:
  - Have met our minister and experienced a number of his sermons
  - Have attended a number of services and participated in some of the many activities
  - Have attended a newcomer orientation session and have viewed a short video of UU History\*
2. When you are ready we ask that you meet with the Director of Congregational Life to sign a membership card, record a pledge of financial support\*\* and sign the membership book.

## ***Becoming a Member***

You may become a member whenever you are ready to do so. We formally welcome new members at quarterly intervals. On new member Sundays we will host you and your family and friends for breakfast and formally recognize you during a short ceremony during the Sunday service.

## ***What comes next?***

We hope that you will:

- Attend services regularly and participate in opportunities for fellowship and service
- Give of your time in accordance with your interests and abilities
- Financially support the Society as generously as you are able and at a level that makes sense to you
- Meet with Director of Congregational Life and other program staff to explore avenues to volunteer and engage

\*Individuals who have been a member of a UU congregation in the past may forego the UU history component, but it is recommended that they attend a newcomer orientation session to learn about FUS, meet leaders and staff and understand our governance model, etc.

\*\*Members whose circumstances do not permit a minimum annual contribution may annually request, and the board may at its discretion grant, a waiver.