

MEMBERSHIP POLICY  
OF THE  
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION OF ROCKVILLE  
Dated May 16, 2017

The Board of Trustees institutes this Membership Policy to clarify who may become a member of this Congregation, to explain the process of joining and maintaining membership, and to list some of the major privileges and expectations of membership.

A. MEMBERSHIP

1. All persons, regardless of race, national origin, or sexual orientation, or any other protected class, who are sixteen (16) years of age or older and engage in worship and in the work of the Congregation, and who have signed the Membership Roll of the Congregation, shall be MEMBERS of the Congregation. Signing of the Membership Roll evidences an agreement to support the Congregation by a balance of participation in worship life, continuing financial support, and service to UUCR programs.
2. Prospective members are invited to participate in an orientation meeting, or other such consultation conducted by the Congregation designed to give a balanced and adequate understanding of the philosophy, work, and worship program of the Congregation, an overview of Unitarian Universalist history, values, traditions, and theological perspectives, as well as opportunities and responsibilities involved in membership. After such an orientation, the Membership Roll is signed in the presence of the Minister(s) and/or Director of Membership as a public covenant affirming alignment with the Mission and Vision of the Congregation.
  - a. Those who have previously been members of a Unitarian Universalist congregation may be invited to join UUCR after meeting with the Minister(s), in lieu of participation in a newcomer's orientation.
3. Privileges and expectations of membership include, and are not limited to:
  - a. A deepened sense of commitment and belonging
  - b. Responsibility in crafting the Mission, Vision, and Ministry of UUCR
  - c. Blessings of Membership in Beloved Community
  - d. Sunday morning Religious Education classes for children and youth
  - e. Use of UUCR facilities at a special rate as laid out in the Rental & Building Use Policy
  - f. Rites of Passage officiated by UUCR Ministers for:
    - i. Weddings / Ceremonies of Union
    - ii. Child Dedications
    - iii. Memorial Services
    - iv. Scattering of Ashes in our Memorial Garden
  - g. Purchase of name plates on our Memory Board

- h. Election to and service on the Nominating Committee, Board of Trustees
- i. Chairing congregational committees, and membership on select committees such as the Finance and Personnel Committees, other Board Committees, and specially convened committees of the Board (such as Ministerial Search Committees)
- j. Eligibility to serve as a delegate to General Assembly or other regional assemblies
- k. Complimentary subscription to *UUWorld*, the magazine of the Unitarian Universalist Association

## B. VOTING MEMBERS

All members who have fulfilled each of the following three requirements shall be VOTING MEMBERS entitled to vote in any meetings of the congregation. These members are reported to the Unitarian Universalist Association.

1. Members who have signed the Membership Roll at least three (3) months prior to any regular or special meeting of the congregation, with the following exceptions:
  - a. Voting to call or discharge a Minister may be restricted to members of twelve (12) months or longer, as stipulated in UUCR Bylaws.
  - b. Voting to purchase any real property or to transfer the real property located at 100 Welsh Park Drive may be restricted to members of twelve (12) months or longer, as stipulated in UUCR Bylaws.
  - c. Voting on the election of members to the Nominating Committee or of the Board of Trustees, or on any proposed amendment of the Articles of Incorporation, is restricted to adult members, as stipulated in UUCR Bylaws, except to the extent that voting at an earlier age on these matters may hereafter be permitted by law.
2. Members who have made a current financial pledge and/or a contribution of record for the current fiscal year. Pledging allows the Congregation to plan ahead and maintain its annual budget. Waivers of this requirement may be granted on a yearly basis by the Minister(s).
3. Members who support the congregation by their participation and service.

An exception to the above are Emeritus members, defined to mean any members who, through length of previous membership or service, are granted continuing membership without the requirement of a financial pledge, service, or participation. Such status is conferred by the Board of Trustees.

C. NONVOTING MEMBERS

1. The following shall be NONVOTING MEMBERS of the congregation, who are not reported to the UUA:
  - a. Those who do not meet the requirements of a voting member.
  - b. Youth members, defined to mean any member under age sixteen (16), and those sixteen (16) to eighteen (18) years of age who have not joined in their own right, as described above.
  - c. Inactive members, defined as those who are unable to participate, because of temporary long-term absence or illness. Their membership may be held in abeyance at the discretion of the Director of Membership or Minister(s) until such time as they return to active participation in the life of the congregation, at which point they shall revert to their prior status.

D. CONGREGANTS

1. All congregants with an ongoing engagement in the life of UUCR shall fall under one of the following categories of belonging:
  - a. Voting Members
  - b. Nonvoting Members
  - c. Nonmember Congregants – we recognize those who attend activities regularly and offer their time, talent, and treasure, but who have not yet signed the membership book.

E. TERMINATION

1. A member may terminate membership at any time by so notifying the Director of Membership or Church Administrator of his/her resignation in writing.
2. Failure to satisfy the specific requirements for membership as set forth herein, absent a waiver, shall be cause for termination of membership in UUCR in accordance with the Membership Roll Review Policy.
3. Membership may be terminated for cause by decision of the Board of Trustees, in accordance with the Conflict Resolution Policy.