

## **COMPADRES—CONNECTING AT UUCA**

The word “compadre” means friend, companion, buddy, or amigo.

The purpose of our new UUCA Compadres Program is to help new members connect to our church community, to form a bond that will last a lifetime.

Patterning our program after other churches we, offer a Compadre to each new member/family. Some will find this a good fit for them, and others will not.

Compadres will be assigned according to several criteria such as: geographic closeness, age, gender, personality, interests, profession, which service someone usually attends, family with children, couple, or single individual, etc.

Compadre and new member will make a 6 month commitment with varying activities—sharing information about UUCA activities, sitting with each other during Sunday service during first month, meeting during coffee hour, introductions to other members, invitations to social activities at church, meeting socially outside the church—lunch, play date for the kids(or adults), etc. Exactly what you two decide to do will be up to you.

We hope this connection help the new member become comfortable at UUCA, to become as involved as they want. Our ultimate goal is that our efforts will decrease the number of folk who go out the revolving door of membership.

Compadres are not be expected to be steeped in UU history or to carry on deep discussions of spirituality unless they feel comfortable doing so. But a Compadre can guide the new member to sources in our Covenant Group program, another member, or books in our library.

Each Compadre volunteer will be in communication with me to provide feedback half way through and at the end of 6 months.

## Compadre's Responsibilities

A Compadre serves as a friend or guide, helping a New Member to acclimate to the UUCA and feel more at home and connected to our spiritual community. There are seven key touch points(\*\*) with the new member in their first six months.

Week 1-2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• **Call and introduce yourself: Provide your contact information (phone, e-mail); learn method of preferred communication, i.e. phone, e-mail, day and time</li> <li>• **Set up time to meet in fellowship hall after service OR meet before a service and sit together</li> </ul>
Month 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• **Meet outside of Church, such as lunch after service, playtime with kids, coffee outside, etc.</li> <li>• **Invite them to a Church activity or event</li> </ul>
Month 3-6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• **Introduce to another member or family at UUCA</li> <li>• **Arrange a social activity that includes others, for example lunch after service</li> <li>• Has New Member gotten involved in any activity? If not, but there is an interest, arrange for a leader to contact the New Member</li> <li>• Ask if new member has any concerns, questions, or feedback</li> <li>• During these months, look for New Member at services. <u>Call if not seeing them.</u> Tell them you've missed seeing them. Ask if everything is OK. Provide feedback to Membership Coordinator. If New Member is having difficulties, such as illness, family death, please refer to Pastoral Care</li> </ul>
Month 6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• **Call to ask how they are doing? Feeling connected? Involved in any activities? And so forth....</li> <li>• Remember to be aware of how they may feel about being involved in the Church so soon. Some people may not want to be so active yet.</li> <li>• It is very important to Membership of UUCA to inform Membership Coordinator that the New Member is no longer attending the church.</li> </ul>