

DuPage UU Church

Overview Exploring Unitarian Universalism Series

3 stand-alone sessions. They are best when taken as a series, but participants may take them out of order and at different times of the year.

All classes are held Sunday afternoons, ½ hour after end of the second service. A light lunch is provided at 12:45, with class beginning at 1:00 p.m. Lunch is usually Subway sandwiches, grapes, veggie platter, chips, plus beverages.

The first 2 classes are held on consecutive Sundays. Then we skip one or two weeks before holding the last class, Membership.

For newsletter, website, and Orders of Service:

Exploring Unitarian Universalism: For anyone interested in learning more about our liberal religion that strives to be inclusive and focuses on “deeds, not creeds.” In most cases, these classes are required for membership; they are offered 3 to 4 times each year. Learn more on our website www.DuPageUUChurch.org or contact the Membership Director, Rose Riccio, at the church office. A light lunch will be provided at 12:45, before class begins. **Childcare** is available upon request.

- **Exploring UU History** – Sunday (date) - 1:00 to 3:30 p.m. Learn about the history of the separate Unitarian and Universalist movements, from their early Christian origins through today. How did these individual religions develop, change, and eventually merge? Learn the answers to common questions: What do we “worship” on Sundays what are the elements of a worship service? How do we express our UU values? Why do we have Statements of Conscience? Facilitated by the Rev. Emmy Lou Belcher.
- **Exploring UU Beliefs and Values** – Sunday (date) - 1:00 to 3:30 p.m. This interactive class is facilitated by two longtime members. We will explore our past religions and think about our expectations from this church. We will discuss the variety of philosophies and theologies that co-exist at DuPage UU Church, examine the our principles and sources, and talk about our values. Facilitated by Kelley Trombly-Freytag and Rose Riccio.
- **The Meaning of Membership** - Sunday (date) - 1:00 to 3:30 p.m. This class is for those who are contemplating membership at DuPage UU Church or have already made the decision to become a member. You will learn about the organization of the church and the responsibilities and expectations of being a member. We will also discuss ways to become involved with others at the church - both socially and through volunteering. At the end of the class, you will have the opportunity to sign our membership book, if you wish. Facilitated by Kelley Trombly-Freytag and Rose Riccio.

*Exploring Unitarian
Universalism at
DuPage UU Church*

*Facilitator's Guide
Beliefs & Values
1 session*

Revised April, 2011

Exploring UU Beliefs and Values

Materials Needed: materials are kept in the Adult RE cabinet in a black expanding file folder, or in a large artist's carry case in front of the cabinet

- matches
- chalice
- Sign-In Sheets
- Handout:
 - Principles & Sources, UUA and children's
 - About Membership
 - About Financial Support
 - DUUC Programs
- name tags (*in expanding file*)
- index cards-4x6 (*in expanding file*)
- markers, pens, pencils (*in expanding file*)
- writing boards (*in clear tote box*)
- easel or ledge for poster
- whiteboard, glass or other surface for vinyl clings
- Poster: 4 corners - for sharing in pairs
- Vinyl cling "bricks" (Principles arch)
- Small colored stones (for Sources)
- Bowls or cups for stones
- Vase for stones
- Labels/identifiers for colored stones (6 Sources)

Refreshments: Coffee, tea, cups, sugar, creamer, napkins – other refreshments

**** OR **** Sandwiches, chips, fruit, veggies for lunch: adult participants, facilitators, babysitters, and participants' children.

Room Set-up: Chairs in a circle, chalice table in the middle. Large table at one end of room for refreshments.

Time: 2½ hours

[5 minutes to allow for stragglers]

1. **Welcome.** As participants arrive, greet them and welcome them individually. Have each participant fill out a nametag.

Facilitator A [10 minutes]

2. **Introductions.** When everyone has arrived, welcome them again and have each person introduce him/herself (names only). Explain that we'll ask more about their backgrounds in a few minutes. Then read the following statement:

“In this class, we seek to help you answer the question, “Who are You?” and “Is DuPage Unitarian Universalist Church the right place for your spiritual home?”

As Unitarian Universalists, we covenant to affirm and promote, among other things, ‘The inherent worth and dignity of every person [and] A free and responsible search for truth and meaning.’ Consistent with these principles, we do not proselytize. We have no creed to which everyone must subscribe, and you will hear a range of beliefs from members and friends of the congregation.

We hope that this diversity of beliefs will appeal to you, as it has to many others for more than 200 years in America and more than 50 years here at DuPage Unitarian Universalist Church. For us, the important question is not “What do you believe?” but “How shall we live?”

Facilitator B [5 minutes]

3. Light the Chalice

Using the following reading, explain the meaning of the chalice and that most UU meetings and services begin with lighting the chalice followed by a reading

(Paraphrased from The Flaming Chalice by Daniel Hotchkiss)

“At the beginning of Unitarian Universalist gatherings, many congregations light a flame inside a chalice. The flaming chalice combines two archetypes – a drinking vessel and a flame – and as a religious symbol has different meanings to different beholders.

The chalice and the flame were brought together in 1941 as a symbol for the Unitarian Service Committee during World War II as it assisted Eastern Europeans who were escaping from Nazi persecution. Eventually, the flame and chalice became a symbol for the Unitarian Universalist movement. The flaming chalice has its roots in the work of justice, freedom and peace.

Along with the Lighting of the chalice, a reading is selected. Generally a reading that reflects the mood or theme of the gathering. A reading is typically selected from a UU source, a previous UU theologian, or just someone we know that reflects UU values.

Light the Chalice and share a reading from “Singing the Living Tradition.”

We come to this time and this place:

To rediscover the wondrous gift of the free religious community;

To renew our faith in the holiness, goodness and beauty of life;

To reaffirm the way of the open mind and full heart;

To rekindle the flame of memory and hope, and

To reclaim the vision of an earth made fair, with all her people one.

David C. Pohl (A UU minister)

Facilitator A [see breakdown below - 35 minutes **total** time]

begin at 20 minutes

4. Where did you come from/Why are you here? Sharing in Pairs

Give each participant an index card (4x6) with markers accessible to all. (Facilitators: demonstrate the following instructions on a whiteboard or use poster, visible to all participants, so they can refresh their memories about what they are to write/draw.)

NOTE: If the group is very larger (greater than 12 people) then consider skipping (b) and simply ask each participant to explain his/her own cards to the group.

(a) 5 minutes: Have participants fill out their cards with words or pictures, as follows:

- Upper left: the religious community into which you were born
- Upper right: A religious value from your personal history that has less meaning to you now
- Lower left: A religious value that you cherish (from any religious tradition)
- Lower right: One religious value with which you are struggling or want to explore

(b) 10 minutes total: Facilitator, split participants into groups of three. Have them discuss their cards with their smaller group. At 5 minutes, remind them that they have 5 minutes left to make sure everyone in the smaller group is given a chance to share.

(c) 20 minutes: Regroup.

First, mention the time available for this entire exercise and estimate how much each person has in order to finish in time. (If we just say “20 minutes for this” some participants have been known to take the entire 20 minutes.)

- Ask each participant to explain to the larger group his/her card and the words or symbols he/she used.
- **ONLY AFTER** everyone has had a chance to speak and **ONLY IF** time permits, ask participants to explain what made him/her come to a UU church.

Facilitator B [20 minutes]

begin at 55 minutes

5. UU Sources:

- (a) Set out bowls or cups of different colored stones. Label each color with a different source.
- (b) Distribute **Handout - Sources and Principles, UUA and children's versions.**
- (c) Explain: *The Unitarian Universalist Association has identified 6 significant sources that have inspired our growth and development. We're going to consider each of these sources and ask you to try to determine the level of influence each one has played in your spiritual journey so far.*
- (d) Ask participants to take turns reading the Sources aloud.
- (e) Ask if there are any questions about the Sources. Tell participants that, during this exercise, they will be choosing stones from the bowls.
- (f) State: *These stones represent our 6 sources. Each bowl is labeled and contains a different color stone. Think about each source listed on your handout. Consider how each one has influenced your search for truth and meaning. Some sources may have been a strong influence, others may not have influenced you at all.*
- (g) Ask participants to take stones from any/all of the sources that have had an influence in their spiritual journey so far.
 - Take 3 or 4 stones if the source has been very significant, 1-2 stones if it has been slightly significant, no stones if it has not been at all significant.
 - Take from all bowls or only one bowl depending on which sources have been influential in your life so far.
 - After you've made your selection, return to your seat. We'll talk about your choices in a minute.
 - **NOTE:** participants may use their handout to write the number & color of stones they chose.

There isn't a right or wrong way to do this. They are welcome to ask more questions before making their selections.
- (h) Ask participants to tell us about one or two of their selections. (We don't want participants to tell us about every single choice, unless the group is extremely small. If someone starts telling us why he/she did not take from a bowl, steer that person into telling us about the choices he or she did make, rather than the ones not chosen - *note: this always happens!*)
- (i) After discussion, ask participants to drop their stones into the glass vase; this gives a strong visual indication of the many different beliefs/philosophies that co-exist here.

BREAK at 1 hour, 15 minutes - 10 minutes

Facilitator A [15 minutes]

begin at 1 hour, 25 minutes

6. The Seven Principles

- (a) Distribute **Handout - Sources and Principles, UUA and children's versions.**
- (b) Use the **SCRIPT** at end, beginning on Page 9 - The Seven Principles as an Arch
- (c) Use the vinyl cling "bricks" put them in place as you mention each principle.

The script should take 5 to 10 minutes to read, leaving plenty of time for open discussion at the end.

Facilitator B [25 minutes – *or adjust for size of group and time considerations*]

begin at 1 hour, 40 minutes

7. Values Exercise (Watch the time on this; it can easily run over if you let it. Skip some questions if the discussion runs too long. Also for some people, it may become tiring to be on their feet for a long time but they may be reluctant to say so. Provide a chair for anyone who seems fatigued or is disabled.)

Clear a space in the room so participants can stand along an imaginary line. Place a chair in the center to keep people from choosing the mid-point of an issue.

Explain: *Imagine a line running across the room. We will describe several different value sets. If you agree 100% with Statement A, then stand at Point A. If you agree 100% with Statement B, then stand at Point B. If you fall somewhere in between, figure out approximately where you should stand on the line depending on how closely you agree with either statement. Do not choose the middle -- that's why we've placed a chair there. The choices are subjective. There isn't a right or wrong choice.*

Follow each item with a discussion about why people are where they are and the differences and commonalities in viewpoints.

1	A: For me, the most valuable aspect of this church is the worship service on Sunday mornings. B: For me, the most meaningful aspect of this church is the opportunity to make friends or work with others on something important.
2	A: I am interested in exploring what might happen to me at/after the end of my life. B: I am interested in exploring life as I know it on this earth.
3	A: I have greater confidence in things that can be proved scientifically. B: I rely on faith in something other than science when things cannot be explained.
4	A: I am uncomfortable with some traditional religious words like <i>worship, God, spiritual, and holy.</i> B: I don't mind traditional religious words, even if I don't embrace that tradition.

5	<p>A. I feel most peaceful, connected, or grounded when I meditate, pray, or spend time contemplating the bigger questions of life.</p> <p>B. I feel most peaceful, connected, or grounded when I am interacting with others, either doing important work or just having fun.</p>
6.	<p><i>optional, if time permits:</i></p> <p>A. In order to decide if this is the right place for me, I need to understand the history of Unitarian Universalism and how our philosophies and theologies developed.</p> <p>B. It doesn't matter how Unitarian Universalism came to be what it is today in order to decide if this is the right place for me</p>

Facilitator A [10 minutes]

begin at 2 hours, 5 minutes

8. Expectations from DuPage UU Church.

Distribute index cards and pens/pencils. Ask participants to take a few minutes to think about their expectations from this church. What do they hope to gain from attending and participating in activities at our church? This is for their personal use. If they wish to share their expectations, they can do so at the next session.

Facilitator A [10 minutes]

begin at 2 hours, 15 minutes

9. Invitation to return for Meaning of Membership (contact the Membership Director during the week to discuss)

Handouts: 1) About Membership 2) About Financial Support 3) DUUC Programs

Facilitator B [5 minutes]

10. Close with a reading and extinguish the chalice.

#515 Richard M. Fewkes

For the sun and the dawn which we did not create;
 For the moon and the evening which we did not make;
 For food which we plant but cannot grow;
 For friends and loved ones we have not earned and cannot buy;
 For this gathered company which welcomes us as we are,
 from wherever we have come;
 For all our free churches that keep us human and
 encourage us in our quest for beauty, truth and love;
 For all things which come to us as gifts of being
 from sources beyond ourselves;
 Gifts of life and love and friendship,
 We lift up our hearts in thanks this day.
 Go in peace.

SCRIPT: The Seven Principles as an Arch (*or use folded Script in columns, not attached*)

(Before beginning, have each participant read one of the Principles out loud.)

BEGIN: We ask you to imagine the Seven Principles as an arch. One side focuses on the individual; exactly opposite is an emphasis on the whole.

(As each principle is discussed, place the "brick" in the appropriate spot.)

(1 & 7) .

(place 1st "brick") We will begin, on the left side, with our first principle "**The inherent worth and dignity of every person.**" Here, emphasis is on the individual, separate, alone, and unique.

(place 7th "brick" on the other side) Opposite this, we will place our seventh principle "**Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part..**" So, here we express our understanding of the universe as one great unity, a complete, interconnected whole.

On one side, *(point to 1)* the individual, balanced on the other *(point to 7)* by our acknowledgment that nothing and no one is truly separate and alone. These are two apparently opposing ideas, yet as people of faith, we have entered into a covenant to affirm and promote them both equally.

(2nd & 6th) .

(place 2nd "brick"). Our second principle, "**justice, equity and compassion in human relations,**" grows from the first.

(point to #1) - If every person has inherent worth and dignity, then it is reasonable that we must treat them fairly *(point to #2)*.

The emphasis on the individual (*#1*) leads us to an emphasis on *relations* between individuals (*#2*).

(place 6th "brick") Balancing the second principle on the other side is our sixth principle "**the goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all.**"

(point to #2) - The same ethical concern that calls for justice, equity, and compassion for *individuals* leads us to look at the whole *(point to #6)* and lifts up the broad vision of world community and peace.

It is not possible to have justice for all (*#6*) unless there is equity for each (*#2*); nor can there be justice for each unless there is peace and liberty for all (*#6*).

(3rd & 5th) .

(*place 3rd "brick"*) With the third principle, we affirm and promote **acceptance of each other as individuals**.

This acceptance is reflected in the *larger* community through the fifth principle (*place 5th "brick"*), as **the right of conscience and freedom to speak and act publicly**.

Parallel to (*point to #3*) **the encouragement of spiritual growth within our congregation** is the (*point to #5*) **affirmation of the democratic process**.

(*point to these as they are named -- note: not 1 & 7 yet*):

The 2nd, 3rd, 5th and 6th principles, in one way or another, each address how we are to be *in relation* to one another. They point us toward specific moral and ethical values.

(*now point at 1 & 7 when they are named*)

They seem to grow directly out of the relationship between (*point to #1 & #7*) the first and last principles - each one pulling at the other, each one challenging the absoluteness of the other.

(4th) .

And in the center, right where these two opposing forces meet, is the principle that is not paired with any other. (*place 4th "brick"*)

Here we find our fourth principle, "*a free and responsible search for truth and meaning*." It holds the position known in architecture as the keystone.

Even with a strong base, even with two good pillars, an arch cannot ultimately stand without this stone, the keystone, which connects the two sides, holds them aloft, and literally provides the support – an almost mysterious, invisible structural support. Without it, the whole thing would simply collapse.

Placing our fourth principle here suggests that meaning is not to be found just anywhere -- not only in the individual or only within the whole, but right in the middle of the tension between our existence as separate individuals of worth and dignity and as interdependent parts of the whole.

In our Unitarian Universalist principles, the fourth principle can be seen as the one that holds everything else together. Without it, we could not be with one another, in covenant – not in our congregations, and not in the world in which we live.

(invite questions/comments/discussion)

From the By-laws of the Unitarian Universalist Association, Article II

Principles

We, the member congregations of the Unitarian Universalist Association, covenant to affirm and promote:

UUA Version

1. The inherent worth and dignity of every person;
2. Justice, equity and compassion in human relations;
3. Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations;
4. A free and responsible search for truth and meaning;
5. The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large;
6. The goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all;
7. Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.

Children's Version

1. Every person is important and valuable
2. All people should be treated fairly
3. Our church is a place where we accept one another and learn together
4. Each person is free to search for what is true and right
5. All people have the right to speak out and vote on things that matter to them
6. We work for a peaceful, fair and free world
7. We take care of the earth, the home we share with all living things

From the By-laws of the Unitarian Universalist Association, Article II

Sources The Living Tradition* we share draws from many sources:

Source of Wonder and Mystery:

1. 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;

Children's version: The sense of wonder we all share

Source of Inspiring People:

2. 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;

Children's version: Women and men of long ago and today whose lives remind us to be courageously loving

Source of World Religions:

3. Wisdom from the world's religions which inspires us in our ethical and spiritual life;

Children's version: Ethical and spiritual wisdom of the world's religions

Source of Judeo-Christian Traditions:

4. Jewish and Christian teachings which call us to respond to God's love by loving our neighbors as ourselves;

Children's version: Jewish and Christian teachings which tell us to love all others as we love ourselves

Source of Reason and Science

5. 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.

Children's version: The use of reason and the discoveries of science

Source of Our Sacred Earth

6. 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.

Children's version: The harmony of nature and the sacred circle of life

*Unitarian Universalism is often referred to by its members as a *living tradition*, and the principles and purposes have been modified over time to reflect changes in spiritual beliefs among the membership.

What Membership Means

To become a member of this church is to articulate a commitment to the Unitarian Universalist tradition, to offer your support to the activities of the church, and to become entitled to certain privileges.

► **Commitment** When joining this church you take responsibility for developing your own religious affirmations. Our tradition emphasizes reason, respect for others, freedom of inquiry, and service to the world. While our ideas and interpretations often differ, we expect these basic values in our relations with one another.

► **Support** Our church exists only through the support of its members. We will ask you to evaluate how much you want and can afford to give the church financially, and to make a pledge for that amount so we can budget effectively. We also ask for your support in another important way. The running of the church and its many activities are accomplished primarily through the volunteer efforts of its members. You are encouraged to participate at the level that feels most comfortable for you.

► **Privileges** As a member, you will be entitled to have input into the church decision-making process. 45 days after you join, you are eligible to vote at the annual meeting and at any other duly called congregational meetings. You will be eligible to serve as an officer of the church. You will receive the church newsletter, the denominational journal, *UU World*, a church directory, and other publications. The services of the minister for counseling, weddings, funerals, or other rites of passage, will be available without further charge.

About Membership

at the



**DuPage
Unitarian
Universalist
Church**

Welcome to the DuPage Unitarian Universalist Church. We are pleased that you are interested in finding out more about membership in our church community. Anyone thirteen years or older may become a member by signing a membership card and making a financial contribution of record. This pamphlet will give you more information about the process of joining this church.

Steps Toward Membership

► Visiting

Almost everyone comes to the church first as a visitor, not entirely knowing what to expect. This is an important part of your religious journey -- it is natural to be unsure, and no question is stupid or excessive. We will try to help you feel at home and provide you with material to read and answers to your questions.

You are welcome to visit committee meetings and other groups that interest you and join us for social events. The minister will be pleased to schedule time for an individual discussion if that would be helpful to you.

Steps to Membership:

1. Attend *Exploring UU History*.
 2. Attend *Exploring UU Beliefs and Values*.
 3. Attend *The Meaning of Membership*.
 4. Sign the membership book.
 5. Pledge financial support.
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1. Exploring UU History

We will review the history of the separate Unitarian and Universalist movements and their merger. We will explain the purpose of the UUA and how it benefits our church. We will answer questions like: "What do we 'worship' on Sundays?" and "Do UUs Pray?"

2. Exploring UU Beliefs and Values

We will think about our expectations from this church and the variety of beliefs that exist here. We will also examine our Principles and Sources and discuss the different philosophies and theologies that co-exist here.

3. The Meaning of Membership

For those who are contemplating membership at DuPage UU Church or have already made the decision to join. We will explain the structure and organization of the church, review membership requirements, and discuss volunteer opportunities and ways to become connected to others at the church.

Those who have decided to become members will be invited to sign the Membership Book

4. Sign the Membership Book

When you have made the decision to become a member, you are invited to sign our membership book; this may occur at the conclusion of the classes or by making an appointment with either the minister or the membership director.

5. Pledge Financial Support

A pledge is a member's promise of financial support to this religious community. Becoming a member of this church and making a pledge of support is saying "I am more than a guest. I am vested in the future of this church." A pledge card will be included with other new member information you will receive when you sign your membership card. The Canvass Committee is available to discuss the process in depth.

Your first pledge will be made for the remaining months of our church year, ending on June 1st. After your initial pledge, you will be contacted for our annual canvass in the spring, when all members are asked to renew their pledges of support.

Involvement

Being a part of our church community provides an opportunity to explore and share your personal gifts. We want to help you find activities that match your interests and fit your needs. The membership director, volunteer coordinator and Member Relations Committee are all available to assist you in connecting to others in the church.

Regular attendance at Sunday service is one of the best ways to learn what's going on and become familiar with the many people that make up our church. Participating in a religious education class or joining a Chalice Circle are two ways to explore spiritual matters and begin building relationships with others at the church.

Voting.

Our church is governed by a Constitution, a copy of which is available upon request. You are eligible to vote 45 days after you join. We urge you to fully participate in the democratic process by voting at all congregational meetings and paying attention to communications from the Board of Trustees.

Recognition of New Members

Twice a year, we recognize our new members in a short ceremony during one of the Sunday services. We will ask you and other new members to come forward to be acknowledged and welcomed by the congregation. Participation in this service is not a requirement for membership, but we enjoy having the opportunity to officially welcome our new fellow members.

About **Financial Support**

at the



**DuPage
Unitarian
Universalist
Church**

This church is the community of ourselves;

Its energy and resources are

Our energy and resources.

Its wealth is what we share.

As we contribute to the

life of this community,

we affirm our own lives within it.

Do you want to talk it over?

If you have questions about pledging, or wish to discuss your pledge with someone, please contact the church office for the names and contact information of any of the following:

Minister

Vice President
of Administration

Canvass Chair

Controller

Treasurer

Fair Share Giving Guidelines				
Annual Income	Percentage	Annual Pledge	Monthly Pledge	
< \$29,000	1.0%	\$290	\$24	
\$30,000	2.0%	\$600	\$50	
\$50,000	3.0%	\$1,500	\$125	
\$75,000	4.0%	\$3,000	\$250	
\$100,000	4.5%	\$4,500	\$375	
\$150,000	5.0%	\$7,500	\$625	
\$300,000	6.0%	\$18,000	\$1,500	
\$500,000	7.0%	\$35,000	\$2,917	

Fair Share Giving. This chart of suggested giving levels is scaled by income. It was developed by the Unitarian Universalist Association to provide guidelines for members as they make decisions about their financial contributions. Be assured, you will never be asked to reveal your income. But we hope you will consider your resources when you determine the amount of your commitment.

Q: How is the church supported?

The members and friends of the DuPage Unitarian Universalist Church are its most significant source of operating funds. Every year, usually in the spring, we conduct a canvass, during which each of us makes a commitment of a contribution for the coming year. This pledge enables us to set up a reasonable budget for church programming and maintenance.

Q: Does the church have any endowments or other income?

A: We have established a permanent endowment fund, so that our gifts may help to support the church for future generations. In addition, the church raises some money from interest on the operating funds, building rental, a few fund-raising events, and the free-will offering on Sunday morning. These are smaller but vital resources, and we depend on them, too.

Q: I am not a member. How can I support the church?

A: The church has a number of pledging friends, and you may request a pledge card at any time without becoming a member. If you visit with us regularly, you may be asked to make a pledge of support for the coming fiscal year. If you decide to become a member of the church, you will be asked to make a pledge for the remainder of the current year.

You may also support the church by contributing to the Sunday Offering.

Q: What is the Sunday Offering?

A: We pass the collection basket as part of our worship service. This reminds us that the right to attend and support the church of our own choice is a precious freedom, and it gives our guests the opportunity to help us in the work of our congregation. If you identify your contribution, by writing a check or enclosing money in an envelope with your name, we will make a record of it, and it is tax deductible.

Q: Why do some members pass the basket without contributing?

A. All of our members pledge support every year. Some pay their pledge weekly, monthly, or quarterly. Many members mail their checks directly to the office or use automatic bank transfers. So you may not see them put their contribution into the basket on Sunday.

Q: What are the Special Collections for?

A. Our Public Ministry Committee reviews suggestions for Special Collections. Each year, this committee approves community groups that will receive one Sunday's offerings. All monies contributed during a Special Collection will go to the designated organization, unless they are clearly marked for DUUC.

Q: Who decides how much I should give?

A: Only you can decide the appropriate amount for your contribution, by considering your own financial resources and obligations and the value you place on the church. Just as every person's theology is a personal and individual decision, so is your willingness to support the work of the church.

Q: How much should a member pledge?

All members are required to make an annual pledge to retain membership privileges such as the right to vote at congregational meetings.

However, we do not exclude anyone because of an inability to pay. Some of our dearest members are on fixed incomes and cannot give as much as they would wish. We rely upon our members with greater resources to support our programs at a more generous level.

Fair Share Giving. This pamphlet includes a chart of suggested giving levels. The UUA's "Fair Share Guidelines" suggest higher percentages for those with greater resources. It may be useful to consult this chart when deciding how much to pledge.

Expenses. It may help to be aware that membership creates certain expenses for the congregation and responsibilities for the members. We pay dues to the Unitarian Universalist Association, the Central Midwest District, and the Chicago Area Unitarian Universalist Council, all of which are paid per member. Other expenses include printing and mailing the newsletter, providing adult and youth religious education, paying our minister and other staff, turning on the lights and heat, safety inspections, and insurance. The cost of running the church and providing programming is approximately \$1,600 per member per year (about \$2,400 per household).

More details about the expense of the church programs, services, operations, and staff are available in the church budget.

Committees, Groups, Events
DuPage Unitarian Universalist Church

For contact information on these groups please call the church office at 630-505-9408, or check our website www.DuPageUUChurch.org

Adult Enrichment Helps plan and guide adult programs to enhance the spiritual, intellectual, and personal growth of our adult church community. Recruits and coordinates teachers. Publicizes classes to the church community. *Subcommittee: Forums*

Audio/Visual Videotapes services; provides assisted-listening system for hearing-challenged; monitors and adjusts sound levels during services and other events; handles the projection of images for children's story time and other presentations during services; broadcasts to other rooms during overflow services/events; assists with presentations by other committees and groups.

Auction (Annual Goods and Services Auction)

Major fundraising event for the year. Help is needed prior to and during the auction to: solicit donations from members and local retailers, publicize the event, sell tickets, decorate, arrange catering, food service and dessert table, set up/clean up, handle data entry and cash collection, tend bar, manage the youth auction. *(Note: many social events are offered for sale at the auction; these social events then take place throughout the year, often in members' homes.)*

Bridge Communities A non-profit organization that provides transitional housing and a stable, supportive environment for homeless families who are working on improving or developing the skills necessary to live independently. Bridge Communities partners with local churches and community organizations which provide volunteer mentors and essential financial support.

Buildings & Grounds Responsible for repair and maintenance of the church: lighting, plumbing, floors, walls, heating, air-conditioning, etc. Volunteers with handyman skills are needed for the monthly work sessions for building upkeep. Also organizes church cleanups and window cleaning twice each year.

Canvass Committee Responsible for obtaining annual pledges from members. Organizes volunteers to contact members toward responsible pledging. Manages activities and celebrations relating to the annual canvass. Tracks progress toward our overall pledge goal.

Committees, Groups, Events
DuPage Unitarian Universalist Church

Chalice Circles Groups of 6 to 8 individuals who meet regularly for discussion and sharing. Meetings typically occur in participants' homes Purpose is to build community and trust in a more intimate setting than can be achieved on Sundays at church. (often confused with Circle Suppers)

Childcare Coordinator Arranges for childcare so parents can attend services, adult classes, and other all-church events.

Committee on Ministries - *elected members*

Works with the minister, committees, and the congregation. Purpose is to monitor, assess, support, affirm, and advance programs that encourage and strengthen the shared ministry of the church. Serves as a confidential advisory group to minister.

Denominational Affairs - Acts as liaison between DUUC members & various organizations within the denomination. Publicizes regional and national UU events. Prepares delegates for GA (*General Assembly*); assists delegates in sharing knowledge and study issues from GA.

Fellowship - Plans large all-inclusive social events. Coordinates activities necessary for these events: set-up, clean-up, food purchases and preparation, on-site cooking, decorating, publicity, ticket sales. See *Page 6 for some events that have been held in the past.*

FIRE - Middle school youth group meets once a month (usually at DUUC) for fun and community-building. Activities have included movie night, game night, talent night, and a summer beach party. Adults are needed to chaperone and coordinate some of the activities.

Forums – *subcommittee of Adult Enrichment*

Held most Sundays at 9:30 in Founder's Room. Forums are presentation/discussion groups on a wide variety of social/political relevance. Help needed in securing speakers and presenters, and publicizing forums to both church members and the greater community.

Grounds Maintenance – Creates and maintains the church gardens and plantings. Volunteers are needed for watering, weeding, and planting.

Committees, Groups, Events
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Green Sanctuary - A UU Seventh Principal Project

A Green Sanctuary is a congregation that lives out its commitment to the Earth by creating a sustainable lifestyle for its members as individuals and as a faith community. Sustainable living is about choosing to live in a way that nurtures life, builds relationships, and rejects material consumption as the sole determinant of happiness.

Interweave - Serves as a support group for the church's gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, intersex and allied members. Coordinates with organizations dealing with gender issues. Works to ensure DUUC remains a "Welcoming Congregation" (see page 7).

Hospitality - *subcommittee of Member Relations*

Coordinates volunteers to prepare coffee on Sunday mornings and refreshments for memorial services.

Library/ Bookstore - Coordinates volunteers to service the library and bookstore on Sunday morning and other times. Reviews/ determines the books that should be made available. Manages the annual book sale. Help is needed to staff the library/bookstore after Sunday services.

Marketing - Develops guidelines for marketing materials and the use of the church logo. Handles PR. Manages the design and technical aspects of the church's website.

Member Relations - Welcomes new members; assists all members in connecting with the church community; coordinates member recognition ceremonies and celebrations; manages the church photo directory. *Subcommittees: Hospitality, TLC, Volunteer Coordinator.*

Music - Works with the Music Director, Choir Director, Minister, and Sunday Services Committee to plan and provide music for services and other events. Includes Adult Choir, Children's Chorus, LAF Choir (formerly known as Youth Choir), Youth Instrumental Ensemble, Chimes Ensemble.

Nominating - *closed meetings—members are elected*

Identifies slate of nominees and handles administrative issues of election. Responsible for leadership development.

Committees, Groups, Events
DuPage Unitarian Universalist Church

Pastoral Ministry Associates (PMA) – *Closed meetings;*
Members are recruited and report directly to the minister. Trained laypersons who partner with the minister to provide members and their families with companionship and support in times of crisis or life changes that challenge their ability to cope. PMA works with serious and/or confidential problems such as severe illness, ongoing care of a loved one, death of a loved one, or job loss. *Note: the support provided by PMA is different than that provided by TLC*

Reproductive Justice - A group begun in 2010 to continue the work of the Reproductive Health Task Force. The task force shepherded the reproductive health rights issue through the Statement of Conscience process.

Social Action Committee - Keeps the congregation informed about issues of political/social significance; manages and coordinates social action programs.

Sunday Services - Collaborates with the minister, committees, and the congregation to create worship experiences so those who attend services can explore and develop their inner lives. Provides programming for all Sundays when minister is not in attendance. Manages the service logistics; arranges for speakers, stewards, and flowers; coordinates summer services.

TLC (Tender Loving Care) - *subcommittee of Member Relations*
Coordinates volunteers to provide rides or meals to our members when needed. Responds to requests from members for such services and contacts members when a need has been identified. Sends handwritten notes to members with joys or sorrows.

UU Women's Association
Engages in fellowship and enrichment with women of the church. Meets regularly for discussion of current events and articles in UU World. Holds cookie sales on the first Sunday of each month after services; provides fundraising support to selected organizations.

Visitor Relations - Coordinates Sunday greeters to welcome visitors to DUUC; provides educational materials about the church; collects information on visitors, tracks visitor attendance, contacts visitors to follow up on their experience at DUUC and answer questions.

Committees, Groups, Events
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Public Ministry Committee (PMC). This committee helps advance social witness in the name of the church, demonstrating our shared values in the larger community. Among other activities, Public Ministry accepts and decides upon proposals for (a) Sunday special collections and (b) Statements of Conscience.

PADS - Once a month volunteers from the DuPage UU Church staff an overnight housing facility at a local church where we provide food (dinner, breakfast, and a bag lunch), sleeping space, and support activities for our guests. Many volunteers are needed every month to provide food and/or for approximately 2 hour shifts, beginning at 5:30 pm and ending 7:30 am.

Youth Religious Education (R.E.) - Works with the DRE (*Director of Religious Education*) to establish curriculum. Plans and implements special programs. Recruits teachers for youth R.E. and advisors/mentors for the High School Youth Group, TAG (*Transition, Affirmation and Graduation*), and COA (*Coming of Age*) programs. Supports/coordinates attendance at local Cons by the HS Youth Group; periodically hosts a Mini-Conference at DUUC, requiring overnight and daytime help from adult members. Plans and implements:

- Family Game Night
- R.E. Sunday Service
- Winter Family Retreat
- Winter Holiday Pageant

Some Special Interest/Affinity Groups

- Conscious Aging
- Conversation and Crafting (*currently on Tuesday eves*)
- Genealogy
- Humanist Group
- Jewish Heritage Group (*usually hosts 2 events per year*)
- Men's Growth Group
- SALSA [Serious About Local Social Action] - *a small group that engages in community service projects*
- Women's Circle

Committees, Groups, Events
DuPage Unitarian Universalist Church

Fellowship Events:

- **Big Sib** – Teens sign up to be an anonymous friend to a youth. Similar to Mystery Pals (see below).
- **Birthday Bash**
- **Breakfast Potluck** on Ingathering Sunday in September.
- **Cinco de Mayo Potluck**
- **Circle Suppers** – Sign-ups are usually twice a year, in the fall and winter, but may change from year to year. A circle supper is a type of potluck held in participants' homes. Some people sign up to be hosts and the other participants are assigned a dish to bring (salad, appetizer, side dish, dessert). The suppers go in rounds, so participants will dine with new people each time. (Note: often confused with Chalice Circles)
- **Halloween Party**
- **Mystery Pals** – Adults sign up to be an anonymous friend to a youth. During a three-week period, adult sends notes or emails and small, inexpensive gifts to a youth. At the end of the program, the youth is introduced to the adult.
- **Pancake Breakfast** - held before the June annual meeting. Help is needed for: set up/clean up, food purchasing and prep, on site cooking of sausages and pancakes on outdoor griddles.
- **St. Patrick's Day Corned Beef & Cabbage Dinner** - This is an auction offering hosted by Fellowship. Diners bid for a spot at this popular event. Open spots continue to be sold until the day of the dinner.

What Does it Mean to be a WELCOMING CONGREGATION?

Congregations that publicly and successfully welcome bisexual, gay, lesbian, and transgender people have the following qualities:

- Include and address the needs of b/g/l/t persons at every level of congregational life, welcoming not only their presence, but the gifts and particularities of their lives as well.
- Assume the presence of b/g/l/t people and celebrate this diversity by having inclusive language and content in their worship.
- Fully incorporate the experiences of b/g/l/t persons throughout all programs, including religious education.
- Include affirmation and nondiscrimination clauses in the by-laws and other official documents affecting all dimensions of congregational life.
- Engage in outreach into the b/g/l/t community in their advertising and by actively supporting b/g/l/t affirmative groups.
- Offer congregational and ministerial support for union and memorial services for b/g/l/t persons, and for celebrations of...family definitions.
- Celebrate the lives of all people and welcome same-sex couples, recognizing their committed relationships, and equally affirm displays of caring and affection without regard to sexual orientation.
- Seek to nurture ongoing dialogue between bisexual, gay, lesbian, transgender, and heterosexual persons and to create deeper trust and sharing.
- Encourage the presence of a chapter of Interweave.
- Affirm and celebrate b/g/l/t issues and history during the church year.
- Attend to legislative developments and work to promote justice, freedom, and equality in the larger society.
- Speak out when the rights of bisexual, gay, lesbian, and transgender people are at stake.
- Celebrate the lives of all people and their ways of expressing their love for each other.

Committees, Groups, Events
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<p><u>REPORTS TO THE BOARD</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Personnel Coordinator • Architectural Task Force • Capital Campaign T. F. • Intern Lay Committee • COM (Committee on Ministries) • Nominating 	<p><u>BOARD OF TRUSTEES</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • President • 4 VPs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community • Spirituality • Outreach • Administration • Treasurer • Controller • Clerk • Trustee 	<p><u>CONTRACTED • STAFF • HIRED</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minister • DRE (Director of Youth Religious Education) • Youth Coordinator • Membership Director • Office Administrator • Music Director • Choir Director • Bookkeeper • Nursery Care
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pastoral Ministry • Endowment • Intern 		

<p>***** PROGRAMS *****</p>		
<p><u>VP Church Community (Fellowship/Friends)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fellowship (Parties/Social) • Member Relations • TLC (food & rides) • Hospitality • Interweave • Chalice Circles • Visitor Relations • Sunday Greeters 	<p><u>VP Spirituality (Personal Enrichment)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adult Enrichment • Forums • Adult Retreat • Youth Religious Education • Sunday Services • Stewards • Flowers • Music • Choir • Ensemble • Library/Bookstore 	<p><u>VP Outreach (Outside our Walls)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public Ministry (elected) • Social Action <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PADS • Bridge Communities • Green Sanctuary • Reproductive Justice • Denominational Affairs • Marketing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Website • PR
<p>***** VP Administration (Infrastructure) *****</p>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facilities Enhancement • Building Maintenance • Grounds Maintenance • Audio/Visual • Budget • Investment • Carvass • Fundraising - Auction • Childcare 		