

Becoming a Member Orientation 2010-11

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PURPOSE

The purpose of Becoming a Member Orientation is to offer, on a monthly basis, an opportunity to lay out the membership path for people who have been attending worship for awhile and feel ready to formalize their relationship with their faith and First Unitarian Universalist Church of San Diego. It's recommended that one attends worship services for at least 6 months before becoming a member.

OUTLINE

1. What a voting member is
2. Responsibilities of Membership
3. The Privileges of Membership
4. Expectations of Membership
5. The Steps of Membership

1) What a voting member is

The 2010 church constitution stipulates there are two categories of membership; a Voting Member and a Youth Member. For our purposes, we are looking at helping people become Voting Members of this congregation.

Voting Member

1. At least 18 years old
2. Has signed a Bond of Union (see attached)
3. Has made a pledge to the current or upcoming operating fund of the church [or it is documented that they] have received a waiver from a minister or board president.
4. Makes a financial contribution of record

Youth Member (a non-voting member between the ages of 15 and 18 years old)

2) Responsibilities of Membership

Please refer to the Membership Magazine, page two. The basic responsibilities of membership are 1) sign a Bond of Union and 2) make a pledge. Beyond the basic responsibilities is the depth of meaning in membership which includes the following responsibilities as listed in the magazine. These can be further explored in the “Expectations of Membership” which is attached.

- Members Participate
- Members Learn and Grow
- Members Engage in Right Relationship
- Members Share Ministry
- Members Take Financial Responsibility

3) The Privileges of Membership

Please refer to the Membership Magazine, page three

1. A vote in all congregational meetings (60 days after becoming a member and having made a contribution of record)
2. Eligibility for congregational offices
3. Subscription to the weekly church bulletin The Window, the monthly First Words and Home Connections in addition to other church publications
4. Subscription to the quarterly magazine The UU World
5. Priority standing in the “wait list” for the renowned UU Cooperative Preschool
6. Weddings, memorial services, and other rites, conducted on site by one of our ministers without fee (*after membership of at least two years*)
7. Use of the worship hall without fee for immediate family weddings or memorial services (*after membership of at least two years*)
8. Services of the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) headquartered in Boston
9. Services of the Pacific Southwest District of the UUA
10. Invitations to and information on inspiring conferences, retreats, summer institutes, leadership training, and other events offered by the UUA and UUA affiliates

4) Expectations of Membership

Please refer to the working document attached. These expectations are more specific than the “responsibilities” and are divided into three general areas:

- Develop your identity as a Unitarian Universalist
- Nurture a Spiritual Practice
- Cultivate Relationships within this Congregation

5) Steps to membership – South Bay:

Please refer to the back of the Membership Magazine. Note – the South Bay version has been slightly modified to be more accessible to South Bay residents and attendees.

Step 1

Complete and turn in a New Member Information Sheet, inserted in the center of the Membership Magazine and is also available in the church office, in the welcome area or by contacting Suzette at suzette@firstuusandiego.org . You can also get this form by attending the **Becoming a Member Orientation** – which is the first Sunday of every month following each worship service at our Hillcrest location and once a month as scheduled in the South Bay. This orientation reviews all aspects of membership from pledging to participation and is highly recommended.

Step 2

Meet with the South Bay Worship Coordinator (Mar) or a lay leader (Michanne) to have a “Get To Know You” conversation. This is an informal chat so that we can get to know you, answer your questions and explain the privileges and responsibilities of membership. This half hour conversation can be arranged to fit your schedule, and can be in Hillcrest or the South Bay, following Sunday worship or at another time that is mutually convenient. You will receive a complete New Member Information Packet at during this meeting.

Step 3

Following the “Get To Know You” conversation, you’ll arrange to attend two meetings held back to back on the same day. The first meeting is with a lay leader who is also a generosity volunteer. He or she will help you complete your pledge form (if this has not yet been submitted) and other paperwork. After all the paperwork is completed, there is a private pastoral meeting with one of our ministers in which the “Bond of Union” is signed. This meeting can take place at our Hillcrest location or can be as scheduled in the South Bay, following Sunday worship.