

Benefits of Membership

1. **Spiritual Home** – A deep sense of belonging within this community, giving you a place to celebrate life's joys and to mourn life's sorrows, and a nurturing place to grow yourself and raise your children within a framework of our Principles.
2. **Challenge** - Worshipping with this community will challenge you to be the most ethical and caring person you can be. Here you are expected to be your deeper self and to strive to live according to the UU principles.
3. **Personal Growth** - Living in community teaches us more about ourselves and others. As well, there are opportunities for self-development when taking on interesting roles in our congregation.
4. **Acceptance** - Here you will be known and accepted as a "soul in progress" rather than just a co-worker, client, or neighbour.
5. **Going Deeper** – Small groups like TLC's (Theme Listening Circles) allow for deeper sharing of one's self in relationship with others, as well as deeper exploration of the themes.
6. **Work for Change** - You'll become part of a dynamic community of faith and action, bringing positive change to the world. Join others who speak for social and environmental justice, freedom of thought, and the worth and dignity of every human being.
7. **Rites of Passage** - You may mark rites of passage, performed by the minister. (eg: Weddings, Child Dedications, Celebrations of Life)
8. **Voting Privileges** - Vote at congregational Meetings twice a year to make decisions about the budget and other important issues.
9. **Canadian Unitarian Council (CUC)** - Receive the "Canadian Unitarian" magazine. Members can be delegates to national and international UU conferences.
10. **Church Directory** – Be included, if you wish, in our Directory of Members and Friends (restricted distribution) to make communication within the community a simple matter.

Responsibilities of Membership

Consider the responsibilities of membership before you make a commitment to join this vital tradition. Members readily and generously give of their time, talents, and financial resources to support this community - because they want to and because this is their chosen religious home. This spirit of generosity and commitment develops over time and is the result of active participation in our programs and worship services.

1. Responsibility to Participate

Participation is the key to a satisfying and meaningful experience as a member of this congregation. Those who are most involved get the most out of this community. Here are some suggestions for getting involved and creating the belonging you seek:

Attend Worship Services - Sundays are the best opportunity to see other members to find out how they're doing and share your own news. If you don't come you lose touch.

Adult Programs - offer a relaxed way to meet other members with common interests. UU Courses and TLC's (Theme Listening Circles) are especially good for encouraging discussion and connections.

Making Music – Our music director offers three church choirs to sing with, plus musical events to be enjoyed by all.

Special Events – Souper Sunday lunches, holiday dinners, UUphonia Cabaret, and the Service Auction are activities that give you a chance to mingle with people from all over the congregation.

Social & Environmental Action Programs – The Refugee Committee, the Pride Parade, and promoting reconciliation between indigenous and non-indigenous people are great ways to help others, and to get to know other UUs. Bring your ideas to the Social Justice or Green Sanctuary Committees.

Volunteering - help at special events, facilitate a course, usher at Sunday services, serve coffee, work with the Physical Plant committee, or the Board of Trustees. Offer to help with the children or youth. Working alongside others makes conversation easier.

2. Responsibility to be Respectful of Oneself and Others

This Congregation values healthy honest relationships. Policies such as *Being an All-Ages Community*, and *the Conflict Resolution Process* help to guide us.

3. Financial Responsibility

One of the great truths of all the world's major religions is that generosity is central to a healthy spiritual life. Members (as individuals or families) are expected to contribute to our annual stewardship drive by making a financial commitment, according to their means. This is our primary means for raising the funds needed to sustain the mission of our congregation. We ask that each member make at least one identified financial contribution each year.

Here's How to Become a Member:

- We encourage you to attend a session of *Introduction to UUism*. Check the website or Enews announcements for upcoming dates, or email membership@unitarianscalgary.org.
- Please apply online at unitarianscalgary.org, under “about us” or leave your completed Application Form in the Membership slot in the office.
- Your application will be presented at the next meeting of the Board of Trustees. On passage of a motion affirming your application, and your subsequent signing of the Membership Book, you will become a Member of the Calgary Unitarians.
- Unless you direct otherwise, your name and contact information will appear in the printed Directory of Members and Friends (restricted distribution) and you will receive a copy of the Directory. You will also receive a copy of the New Member Handbook.
- You will be invited to the next New Member Recognition (optional) at a Sunday worship service, and to a welcome breakfast with other new members.
- Please attach your pledge form, or pledge online under “pledges and donations” or if you wish to speak with a member of the Stewardship Committee, please indicate that on your application.

*We are pleased that you wish to join
our beloved community*

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BECOMING A MEMBER



*We come together in beloved community,
guided by our Unitarian Universalist principles and sources,
to grow in wisdom, welcome and deepen relationships, and
act for a just and sustainable world*