

**The Framework for Activating the President's Council
of the Unitarian Universalist Association**
(4-23-92, as amended 10-4-97)

Organizing Principles for the President's Council

To be a worthwhile enterprise for participants and the UUA, the President's Council must:

- Be conducted as a *continuing* program actively involving key lay individuals in the affairs of the institution.
- Have clear and important purposes.
- Encompass significant participatory roles and responsibilities for its members which are of real value to the UUA.
- Enlist as members those individuals who are willing and able to fulfill these roles and responsibilities.
- Be widely felt to be substantially beneficial to the UUA, its advocacy, and its fund raising.
- Fit sensitively into the structure, culture, and affairs of the UUA.
- Enlist the interest and support of UUA leadership in addition to the President, most particularly the UUA Board of Trustees.

Engagement of the Council

Before they can be enthusiastic about and assist in furthering the agenda of the UUA, Council members must be interested, informed, and then involved. This involvement of members is sought and nurtured through:

- Special assignments that rise naturally out of the needs of the UUA.
- Participation on appropriate Board of Trustee committees as proposed by the President and invited by the Board.
- Participation in formulation and execution of President's Council programs.
- Opportunities for Council members to provide collective and individual input.
 - This input must be genuinely sought, judiciously heard, and honestly reacted to -- even though not always agreed with, or possible to act upon.
 - Mechanisms may range from public forums to individual correspondence.
- Opportunities for recognition of and interaction among members through creation of smaller components and related agendas within the Council.
 - These groups will meet on geographic and thematic bases.

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Organization of the Council

- The President of the Unitarian Universalist Association, with the endorsement of its Board of Trustees, recognizing the potential for and value of galvanizing persons of vision and energy who share a sense of fiduciary responsibility for Unitarian Universalism, has established the UUA Presidents' Council.
- The mission of the President's Council shall be to help increase knowledge, understanding, advocacy, and support of the UUA. It shall address this mission by:
 - Making available to the UUA the perspectives and counsel of a group of individuals committed to stewardship of the UUA;
 - Providing a channel for expression and extension of this stewardship.
- Members of the Council shall be appointed by the President of the UUA to three-year, renewable terms. Members shall be selected based on their achievements, their expertise, and their commitment to the values of Unitarian Universalism.
- Appointed members should include UUA ministers. The membership should also encompass individuals from the UUA Board of Trustees, from UUA senior staff and from districts, as feasible.
- Identification and recruitment of future Council members should be accomplished carefully. **As** terms expire, any member whose service has not matched the expectations of the Council will be excused gracefully.
- The Council will have a minimal governance structure, which will include a chair and vice-chair, a steering committee, and other, necessary ad hoc committees. Energies will be devoted to larger tasks, not organizational detail.
- The Council should expect to be well staffed. This staff support will be a shared responsibility of the Office of the President and other departments as assigned.
- The work of the Council shall express itself through:
 - The individual activities of its members who shall be called upon by the President, and -- through the President -- the Board of Trustees and the senior administration of the UUA, to provide counsel and to assist in specified tasks;
 - The collective advice, when requested, of the Council, and its involvement and that of the committees it establishes -- in assisting in planning and execution of fund-raising and other programs.
- At least one general meeting of the membership of the President's Council shall be held each year to:
 - Hear from Council leadership/committees on the state of Council programs,
 - Hear from UUA leadership on the state of the UUA and of Unitarian Universalism,
 - Discuss and provide input on emerging issues and opportunities for the Council and the UUA
 - Recognize activities of individual members,
 - Provide stimulating interaction among members and between members and others committed to the UUA.
- In addition to committee meetings, other sessions involving subsets of the Council membership will be held with regional and programmatic focuses from time to time.