**PLUS: Professional Learning Units for Staff**

Nurturing new staff into well-equipped, spirit-filled professionals who serve and lead in right relationship with colleagues and congregation



**PLUS 6: Professional Organizations**

In this unit, you’ll be learning about the professional organization with which your work most closely aligns. Choose one of the following:

[Liberal Religious Educators Association (LREDA)](http://www.lreda.org/)

[Unitarian Universalist Musicians Network (UUMN)](http://www.uumn.org/)

[Association of Unitarian Universalist Administrators (AUUA)](http://auua.org/)

[Unitarian Universalist Association of Membership Professionals (UUAMP)](http://www.uuamp.org/)

**Read**

* **The most recent newsletter** posted by your professional organization. (You can navigate to each organization’s newsletter pretty easily from the homepage.)
* Your professional organization's **Code of Professional Practices or Code of Ethics.** You should be able to find a link to it pretty easily from the homepage or via the search bar. (UUAMP does not have a Code posted as of this writing. Membership staff, take a look at the code for either LREDA or UUMN.)
* **Information about Good Offices**
	+ LREDA Good Officesinfo is in the Professional Practices section.
	+ UUMN Good Officesinfo is a dropdown from the Program tab.
	+ *If you are in UUAMP or AUUA, your organization does not have Good Officers at this time. Read instead about LREDA and/or UUMN Good Offices.*
* Professional organization **resources**. Each professional organization has a variety of resources and publications on its website. Do some poking around and see what you find!

**For Your Journal**

*Your journal is just for you. You can type it. You can scribble it. You can use complete sentences or quick phrases. Responses need not be lengthy. You can type or write directly onto this document or in a spiral notebook. Writing something down for each question forces you to clarify your thoughts, helps you remember your ideas, and gives you something to return to later.*

1. Are you a member of your professional organization at the national/continental level, as well as the chapter level? If not, what is preventing you from joining? (Or has your membership lapsed?)
2. Reflect on the professional code for your organization.
	1. Write about one or two pieces of the code that you feel are especially important for you to bear in mind, and why.
	2. Is there anything that surprises or confuses you, or that you disagree with?
3. Did you know about Good Offices? Have you ever called a Good Officer? This is one of the great benefits of professional organization membership. You do not need to wait until you are in crisis to contact a Good Officer. Can you think of a situation that might merit touching base with a Good Officer?
4. What resources and publications caught your eye on your professional organization website? What might you want to come back to?

**Connect**

Make contact with someone from your professional organization. Email a chapter leader or someone in the national/continental leadership to ask a question. If you are already a member, your question could be about something that came up for you while reading the newsletter, the professional code, or the resources. Or you might contact a Good Officer about something on your mind. If you are not yet a member, your question might be something about membership – or you may simply be introducing yourself.

You might want to go back to your journal to write about what you learned from your exchange.

The PLUS Program will evolve over time, with units added, removed, and modified in response to user feedback, changing needs, and new information. Please take a minute to tell us what you think of any PLUS unit, to share your general experience with the PLUS program, or to ask to be notified when the next unit is available: [PLUS Feedback Survey](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/PLUSprogramfeedback).