

Congregational Membership in the Unitarian Universalist Association

Provided by:
Congregational Life
Unitarian Universalist Association
25 Beacon St.
Boston, MA 02108

Updated: September 2013

Introduction

Each year at General Assembly a colorful parade of hundreds of banners from many of our member congregations energizes the Opening Plenary. The parade is a powerful visual statement of our diversity and unity as a religious organization. In becoming a member congregation of the Unitarian Universalist Association, your congregation's strength and vision joins this living religious tradition.

As stated in the UUA Bylaws, *"The primary purpose of the Association is to serve the needs of its member congregations, organize new congregations, extend and strengthen Unitarian Universalist institutions, and implement its principles."* Consequently, we unite in this Association to provide services that individual congregations cannot provide for themselves. In addition, each affiliated congregation becomes associated with one of 20 district offices. Through our Districts and through the UUA, member congregations have access to a variety of programs and services, including resources on our web site, in

- Lifespan faith development, religious education
- Congregational growth including racial and cultural diversity
- Congregational finances
- Social action and justice making initiatives for the denomination and congregations
- Ministry and professional leadership including settlement
- Lay leadership development and support

In addition, your congregation may send delegates/participants to our annual General Assembly as well as to a variety of trainings, conferences and gatherings held at the district and Association level.

More than 1,000 congregations in the United States, Canada, and throughout the world are members of the Association. Each congregation is democratic in process, governing itself. Becoming a member congregation in the UUA unites you with our on-going history as a religious organization that combines two traditions: The Universalists, who organized in 1793, and the Unitarians, who organized in 1825. These two merged into the Unitarian Universalist Association in 1961.

Unitarian Universalism is a liberal religion with Jewish and Christian roots. We have no creed. Our principles call us to affirm the worth and dignity of human beings, to advocate freedom of belief and the search for truth and meaning. We strive to provide an inclusive and supportive community for people who believe that living our UU principles is a much-needed witness in our world. As a member of a congregation of the UUA, you commit yourself to affirming and promoting our Unitarian Universalist purposes and principles in your life and as an active member of your congregation.

Check List

Use this list to make sure your application is complete. Please include this checklist with your application.

Name of Congregation: Saint Croix UU Fellowship

- Application from the congregation
- List of charter members
- The congregation's Articles of Incorporation
- The congregation's Bylaws
- Check to the UUA for the Annual Program Fund
- Recommendation from the Regional Lead
- Recommendation from the District or Regional President
- Recommendation from a local UUMA chapter minister
- N/A Recommendation from a UUA Growth Specialist
- Copy of SCUUF Statement of Purpose and Covenant

UUA Membership Application

Date of application: 07 February 2015

On May 20, 2012, the Saint Croix UU Fellowship
Date Name of Congregation

of Saint Croix Falls, WI
City, State

was organized with 16 charter members.
Number

As of 07 February 2015, the date of this application, SCUUF has 41 members

The following are the elected officers (Please print) :

President: Eric Peterson

Address: _____

Phone/
email : _____

Secretary: David Ross

Address: _____

Phone/
email : _____

Treasurer: Mary Curran

Address: _____

Phone/
email : _____

Name and Address of Meeting Place:

201 N Adams St.,
Saint Croix Falls, WI 54024-9814

Official Mailing Address (will be used in UUA Directory):

St Croix UU Fellowship
PO Box 15
Saint Croix Falls, WI 54024-0015

Name and Address of Nearby Congregations/ Ministers:

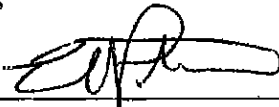
White Bear UU Church 328 Maple Street Mahtomedi, MN 55115-1925	Pilgrim House UU Fellowship 1212 Hwy 96 West Arden Hills, MN 55112-1925
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UU Society of River Falls N7010 Hwy 65 River Falls, WI 54022	Blue Hills UU Fellowship 230 West Messenger Street Rice Lake, WI 54868
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Subscribing to the principles of the Association, including the stated policy of the UUA that applying congregations welcome into membership all qualified persons "without regard to race, color, sex, affectional or sexual orientation, age, or national origin," and pledging to support the Association, it is the desire of this congregation to become a member of the Unitarian Universalist Association. We herein enclose with this application: 1) a list of charter members; 2) the Articles of incorporation with the appropriate dissolution clause; 3) the Bylaws of the congregation, and; 4) an initial contribution of \$ 1,025.00, which is not less than the suggested Fair Share of the Annual Program Fund, pro-rated for the portion of the UUA fiscal year remaining as to the date of this application.

Respectfully submitted,

Eric Peterson



PETERSON

2-7-2015

President or Leader

Sign Full Name & Print Last Name

Date

David Ross



2/7/15

Secretary

Sign Full Name & Print Last Name

Date

Charter Members

You may submit this form or create your own based on this form. Please print.

Name of Congregation
Saint Croix Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

Name	Address
Sue Mathews *	
Ilse Ross *	
David Ross *	
Joyce Bergstrand *	
Jay Bergstrand *	
John Horwich *	
Al Kruger *	
Carol Widen *	
Wanda Brown *	
Joe Snyder*	
Betsy Peterson *	
Eric Peterson *	
Mary Curran *	
Nanette Del Monaco *	
Gary Noren *	
Mary Harding *	
Pam Horwich	
Joan Dillon	
Tim Boerger	
Melanie Boerger	
Liesel Virchow	
Linda Kelly	
Jim Kelly	
Lisa Tilman	

*Denotes 16 original founding members signing the book on May 20, 2012

Theresa Wolf
Maaren Schweim
Mary Hennesy
Bonnie McDonnell
Sarah Carpenter
Bruce Fillipi
Mary Sicora
Clara Asp
Donald Asp
Amy Puetz
Laura Turpin
Donna Mumm
Daniel Winterhalter
Barb O'Neil
Bob O'Neil
Mark Turpin

James Price

Sec. 181.0202
Wis. Stats.

2012 MAY 24 AM 9:29

State of Wisconsin
Department of Financial Institutions
Division of Corporate and Consumer Services



ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION - NONSTOCK CORPORATION

(NOTE: Do not use this form for organizing a for-profit business corporation. Use Form 2)

Executed by the undersigned for the purpose of forming a Wisconsin nonstock corporation under Ch. 181 of the Wisconsin Statutes, repealed and recreated by 1997 Wisconsin Act 79:

St. Croix Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, Inc.

Article 1. Name of the corporation: _____
(Must include "Inc." or similar word. See Instructions)

Article 2. The corporation is organized under Ch. 181 of the Wisconsin Statutes.

Article 3. Name of the initial registered agent: David Ross

Article 4. Street address of the initial registered office: (The complete address, including street and number, if assigned, and ZIP code. P O Box address may be included as part of the address, but is insufficient alone.)

14 W. Main Street, PO Box 16

Evansville, WI 53536

Article 5. Mailing address of the initial principal office: _____

34501 Vista Road, Taylors Falls, MN 55084

Article 6. (Select and mark (X) one of the statements below)

The corporation will have members. OR The corporation will not have members.

~~OPTIONAL~~ Article 7. ~~Name and address of the beneficiary of the assets of the corporation.~~

The assets of the congregation will be transferred upon dissolution to the U.U.A. With the prior written approval of the U.U.A. Board of Trustees, the congregation has the option of naming a U.U.A. affiliate organization (such as a district, camp, conference center or other congregation), as the recipient of the congregations' assets.

FILING FEE - \$35.00 SEE instructions, suggestions, and procedures on following pages.

DFI/CORP/102(R2/8/10) Use of this form is voluntary

WI - DFI CORP
FILE ID# →

5094903

1 of 3

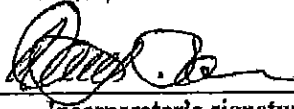
STATE OF WISCONSIN
FILED
JUN 15 2012
DEPARTMENT OF
FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS

2012 JUN 11 AM 10:29
STATE OF WISCONSIN
DEPARTMENT OF FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS

(OPTIONAL) Article 8. The purpose or purposes for which the corporation is organized:

Article 9. Name and complete address of each incorporator:

David Ross
14 W. Main Street
PO Box 16
Evansville, WI 53536



Incorporator's signature

Incorporator's signature

This document was drafted by DAVID ROSS
(Name the individual who drafted the document)

OPTIONAL - Second choice corporate name if first choice is not available: _____

INSTRUCTIONS (Ref. sec. 181.0202 Wis. Stats. for document content)

Submit one original and one exact copy along with the required filing fee of \$35.00 to the address listed below. Make checks payable to the "Department of Financial Institutions". Filing fee is non-refundable. Sign the document manually or otherwise allowed under sec. 181.0120(2).		
Mailing Address: Department of Financial Institutions Division of Corporate & Consumer Services P O Box 7846 Madison WI 53707-7846	Physical Address for Express Mail: Department of Financial Institutions Division of Corporate & Consumer Services 345 W. Washington Ave - 3 rd Fl. Madison WI 53703	Phone: 608-261-7577 FAX: 608-267-6813 TTY: 608-266-8818

NOTICE: This form may be used to accomplish a filing required or permitted by statute to be made with the department. Information requested may be used for secondary purposes. This document can be made available in alternate formats upon request to qualifying individuals with disabilities.

Article 1. The name must contain "corporation", "incorporated", "company", or "limited" or the abbreviation "corp.", "inc.", "co." or "ltd." or comparable words or abbreviations in another language. If you wish to provide a second choice name that you would accept if your first choice is not available, enter it in the "Optional" area on page 2.

Article 2. This statement is required by sec. 181.0202(1)(a).

Articles 3 & 4. The corporation must have a registered agent located at a registered office in Wisconsin. The address of the registered office is to describe the physical location where the registered agent maintains their business office. Set forth the street number and name, city and ZIP code in Wisconsin.

ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION
Nonstock Corporation

Attorney David Ross
14 W. Main Street
PO Box 16
Evansville, WI 53536

▲ Enter your return address within the bracket above.

Phone number during the day: (608) 882 - 4500

INSTRUCTIONS (Continued)

Articles 3 & 4. (Cont'd) P O Box addresses may be included as part of the address, but are insufficient alone. The corporation may not name itself as its own registered agent.

Article 5. The articles of incorporation must set forth the address of the corporation's principal office. "Principal office" means the office, whether in or outside Wisconsin, in which are located its principal executive offices.

Article 6. Select and check the appropriate box in article 6 to indicate if the corporation will or will not have members. A "member" means a person who has membership rights in a corporation in accordance with its articles of incorporation or bylaws.

Articles 7 & 8. These articles (or others you may wish to add) are provided for optional information that you may elect to include, such as the name and address of the initial directors, a purposes clause, tax-exempt provisions, etc. Do not include by-laws, as the department does not accept by-laws for record. Extensive additional provisions may make use of this pre-printed form impractical. If you elect to draft your own articles of incorporation, do not also submit the pre-printed form. (NOTE: Corporations expecting to apply to Internal Revenue Service for federal TAX-EXEMPT STATUS are advised to obtain and read IRS Publication 557 "Tax-Exempt Status for Your Organization" before preparing these articles of incorporation, as the articles must contain particular language and provisions to meet federal tax code requirements.)

Article 9. Enter the name and complete address of each incorporator. There may be one or more incorporators. At least one incorporator is required to sign the document, although all incorporators may sign.

No certificate of incorporation will be issued. The "FILED" endorsement applied to this document by the Department of Financial Institutions is evidence that the articles of incorporation have been accepted. One or more "Received" endorsements may appear on the document, but do not indicate its acceptance for filing.

If the document is executed in Wisconsin, sec. 182.01(3) provides that it shall not be filed unless the name of the person (individual) who drafted it is printed, typewritten or stamped thereon in a legible manner. If the document is not executed in Wisconsin, enter that remark.

[adopted May 2012]

BYLAWS

ST. CROIX UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP

NAME

The name of this religious society shall be the ST. CROIX UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP.

I. PURPOSE

Recognizing the beauty and wonder of shared worship
The richness of diversity
And the transforming power of love and service
We gather as a sacred, intentional community
To freely seek knowledge and truth
To celebrate the fullness of life
And by our actions to increase goodness and justice.
We welcome people of all beliefs, ages, classes, colors, ethnicities,
abilities, sexual orientations, and gender identities and expressions.

(with gratitude to the Unitarian Universalist Church of Flint and The Mission of First Parish in Cambridge)

II. MEMBERSHIP

- a. **Membership Requirements.** Any person who is at least sixteen (16) years of age may become a voting member of this Fellowship who is in sympathy with its purpose and program, has signed the Membership Book, and who supports the Fellowship through financial and/or personal participation. All who sign the Membership Book shall become eligible to vote thirty (30) days after they sign. It is specifically understood that membership in this congregation is not, and cannot be, predicated upon race, color, sex or sexual orientation.
- b. **Removal of Membership.** The Steering Committee shall remove a person from the membership when that person has died. The Steering Committee may remove a person from membership when that person has moved away and cannot be located or is no longer active. Such a removal shall take effect six (6) months after notice of the action has been sent to the member's last known address by conventional mail or email.
- c. **Friends.** Any person who is at least sixteen (16) years of age, who is in sympathy with the purpose and program of the Fellowship and who wishes to receive communications about and participate in Fellowship activities may become a "Friend" of the Fellowship.

- III. CHURCH YEAR AND FISCAL YEAR** The Fellowship shall operate with both a Church Year and a fiscal year of July 1 to June 30.

IV. CONGREGATIONAL MEETINGS

- d. Annual Meeting.** An Annual Meeting of the Congregation shall be held on the fourth Sunday of March of each year. At this meeting, the members of the Steering Committee, any Officers and any committees required to be elected shall be elected for the following Church Year, a budget for the ensuing fiscal year shall be presented by the Steering Committee for discussion, changed if necessary and adopted by the Congregation, and any other appropriate business transacted. The time, place, and agenda of the Annual Meeting shall be as designated by the Steering Committee, and all such information shall be published in writing and made available to the Church Membership in such manner and through such procedure as shall be recommended by the Steering Committee.
- e. Special Meetings.** Special Congregational Meetings may be called by the Steering Committee or by the receipt of a written petition requesting such a meeting signed by at least fifteen percent (15%) of all voting members. The Secretary of the Fellowship shall call such a meeting. A call for a Special Congregational Meeting, either by the Steering Committee or by petition, shall state the purpose of the meeting. No other business may be transacted at such a meeting.
- f. Meeting Notice.** Notice of a congregational meeting shall be published in the official church newsletter or communicated by email at least fourteen (14) days before the date of the meeting, and shall be read during Fellowship services on at least two Sundays during the four weeks immediately preceding the meeting. The notice shall state the business to be transacted.
- g. Quorum.** Twenty percent (20%) of the voting membership shall constitute a quorum, except that a forty percent (40%) quorum shall be necessary in order to make decisions about the calling or dismissal of a minister, the purchase or sale of capital property, the commitment of the Fellowship to an obligation extending beyond the end of the next fiscal year (e.g., a long-term lease), or the incurrence of a debt which will not be repaid by the end of the next fiscal year (e.g., a mortgage).
- h. Voting.** A simple majority of those votes cast shall be sufficient to either approve or disapprove matters submitted for determination by vote. Proxy votes shall be available only to members who cannot attend a given meeting for reasons of incapacitation or travel. All proxies shall be in writing, signed by the member, and specifically state the issue and how the proxy is to be voted. Proxies must be conveyed to the Fellowship secretary before the meeting is called to order.

V. **GOVERNING STRUCTURE.**

- a. **Steering Committee.** The Steering Committee shall serve as the Board of Directors for state law incorporation purposes. The Steering Committee shall consist of between 3 and 6 members, each of whom shall serve a one-year term. The Steering Committee members shall select from among themselves someone to serve as Moderator, as Secretary and as Treasurer. The same person may serve as Secretary and Treasurer. Steering Committee members may succeed themselves.
- b. **Responsibilities of the Steering Committee.** The Steering Committee, subject to the prime authority of the congregation, is the principal policy forming and administrative body of the Fellowship. The Steering Committee has full authority and responsibility, except as limited by these bylaws, to act on the business and programs of the Fellowship. The Steering Committee shall administer and manage the business of the Fellowship. At each annual congregational meeting, the Steering Committee shall submit an operating budget for the coming fiscal year. The budgeted expenses may not exceed the anticipated income. Once a budget is approved, the Steering Committee may authorize and expend the funds as budgeted. The Steering Committee may reallocate funds, as long as the reallocation does not exceed twenty percent (20%) of the approved budget. The membership must approve any expenditure or obligation for indebtedness that exceeds \$5,000.00. The membership must also approve the purchase, sale, or mortgage of real property, or any obligation whose term extends beyond the end of the next fiscal year.
- c. **Vacancies.** Vacancies on the Steering Committee occurring between Annual Congregational Meetings shall be filled by majority vote of the Steering Committee. Those persons who fill a vacancy shall serve until the end of the current fiscal year, but they are eligible to be re-elected for the same position.
- d. **Steering Committee Meeting.** The Steering Committee shall hold a minimum of five (5) meetings between annual congregational meetings. The first of these meetings shall be in July. A majority of the voting members of the Steering Committee shall constitute a quorum. Decisions of the Steering Committee shall be made by consensus of all members present at a meeting. The Fellowship is committed to operating by consensus. If, however, a consensus cannot be reached, the Moderator shall so declare and actions shall be taken by majority vote of the Steering Committee members present. Steering Committee meetings are open to all members of the Fellowship. Fellowship members who are not Steering Committee members may speak at Steering Committee meetings, but may not make motions or vote at Steering Committee meetings. Accurate typed minutes shall be kept of any and all regular or special meetings of the Steering Committee. A record set of final approved minutes shall be kept in a bound and indexed form at a place determined by the Steering

Committee to be safe from loss or damage. All recorded minutes shall be formally approved by a majority vote of at least a quorum of the Steering Committee, and shall be signed by the Secretary certifying that such minutes are as approved by the Steering Committee.

VI. COMMITTEES

- a. Committees.** The Congregation by motion at the Annual Meeting or the Steering Committee at any time may establish committees as desired. The motion to establish such a committee shall specify the purpose for the work of such committee. Only voting members of the Fellowship shall chair a committee. Both members and friends of the Fellowship may serve on all Fellowship Committees.
- b. Nominating Committee.** There shall be a Nominating Committee consisting of the Steering Committee which shall meet prior to the Annual Meeting and place in nomination at the Annual Meeting candidates for all vacant Steering Committee positions.

VII. OFFICER AND COMMITTEE RESPONSIBILITIES

- a. Moderator.** The Moderator shall be the presiding officer of the Steering Committee. The Moderator shall vote only to break a tie vote of the Steering Committee. The Moderator shall also chair the Annual and other congregational meetings. The Moderator shall also oversee the Fellowship's stewardship solicitations to raise pledges and funds to meet the congregation's approved budget.
- b. Secretary.** The Secretary shall keep minutes of the Steering Committee meetings and of the Annual and other congregational meetings.
- c. Treasurer.** The Treasurer shall be responsible for managing the receipts of the Fellowship, paying the bills of the Fellowship, and maintaining the books of the Fellowship. The Treasurer shall serve as Moderator in the Moderator's absence.
- d. Sunday Services.** The Sunday Services Committee, if one shall be established, shall oversee the Sunday Service programs.
- e. Fellowship.** The Fellowship Committee, if one shall be established, shall be responsible for organizing fellowship activities (such as Go Fourth Sundays, Circle Suppers, outings, etc.) throughout the year. The Fellowship Committee shall also serve as the Caring Committee to provide care and support to members and friends who may be ill or suffering.
- f. Communications.** The Communications Committee, if one shall be established, shall be responsible for managing the membership directory and email communications to members, including managing the

Fellowship's Facebook page. The Communications Committee shall also oversee the Fellowship's "advertising" in local newspapers or other media.

- g. **Outreach.** The Outreach Committee, if one shall be established, shall be responsible for proposing and managing social justice and community benefit activities to be supported and undertaken by the Fellowship. Any such activity must first be approved by the Steering Committee before the Fellowship can commit or embark on the activity.

VIII. DISSOLUTION Should this Fellowship cease to function and the membership vote to disband (which vote shall require a vote of two-thirds (2/3) of eligible Voting Members of the Fellowship present at a meeting called to specifically consider such action, for which meeting written notice has been issued to all Members eligible to vote in accordance with the provisions of these bylaws), any accrued assets of the Fellowship will be assigned to the Unitarian Universalist Association if any remain after payment of debts.

IX. INITIAL ADOPTION OF BYLAWS The initial adoption of these bylaws shall be by majority vote of those persons attending a meeting called and held for such purpose, without regard to any voting qualifications or requirements provided for in these bylaws.

X. AMENDMENT OF THE BYLAWS These bylaws may be amended at any Congregational meeting by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the members of the Fellowship eligible to vote at the meeting at which such matter is considered, provided, however, that the text of any proposed changes has been published in the Fellowship newsletter, mailed, or emailed to all members of record at least thirty (30) days prior to such meeting. The Steering Committee may submit to the congregation any proposed amendment which the Steering Committee has approved for such submission by a majority vote of its members. In addition, the Steering Committee shall submit to the Congregation any amendment received by the Steering Committee which shall have been proposed by a petition signed by at least ten percent (10%) of the members of the Fellowship eligible to vote.

APPROVED MAY 20, 2012

BY THE FOLLOWING PERSONS (INITIAL ADOPTERS) PRESENT AND VOTING IN FAVOR:

ST. CROIX U U FELLOWSHIP
P.O. BOX 16
ST. CROIX FALLS, WI 54024

12-7188/2750

1575

DATE *February 7, 2015*

PAY TO THE
ORDER OF

UUA Annual Program Fund \$ *1,025.00*

One thousand twenty-five and ^{no} ~~no~~ hundred DOLLARS



BankMutual

St. Croix Falls, WI 54024

bankmutual.com



MEMO

EP CHURCH ID: 562692 Mary K. OorLumant

⑆ 275071330⑆ 752⑆ 5020264⑆ 1575



February 6, 2015
Jim Key, Chair
UUA Board of Trustees
24 Farnsworth Street
Boston MA 02210-1409

Dear Members of the Board:

We write to recommend that you accept the application of the St. Croix Unitarian Universalist Fellowship in St. Croix Falls, Wisconsin, to become a new congregation of the Unitarian Universalist Association.

The St Croix UU Fellowship is a wonderful example of the path we hope for our emerging congregations to take towards membership in our association—steady and intentional development based on a vision for their future, thoughtful planning, knowing when to say “Yes!” to opportunity, and—of course—huge amounts of work. Let’s not forget that—it has taken them a large amount of work in a relatively short number of years to get to the point they are ready to become a member congregation of our association.

Strategically for the association, this is a great place for us to have a new congregation. The St Croix River Valley is an area of great growth in the large Twin Cities area. To have a congregation there—and one with the strength and energy to take a dynamic and mission-oriented approach to its work—is a great contribution. And, it increases yet further the strength of our Unitarian Universalist movement in a metro area where we are strong.

Our MidAmerica Region joins enthusiastically in recommending them to be received into membership in our association.

Thank you,
Ian S. Evison
Congregational Life Consultant and Staff Lead, MidAmerica Region



MidAmerica Region
2355 Fairview Avenue #312
Roseville MN 55113

Mr. Jim Key, Moderator
UUA Board of Trustees
24 Farnsworth Street
Boston, MA 02210-1409

January 20, 2015

Re: Endorsement of St. Croix UU Fellowship (St. Croix Falls, WI) Application for UUA Membership

Dear Moderator Key:

As President of the MidAmerica Region, UUA, I offer my enthusiastic endorsement of the application of the St. Croix Unitarian Universalist Fellowship in St. Croix Falls, Wisconsin, to become a member congregation of our Unitarian Universalist Association. We in MidAmerica look forward to celebrating with the congregation as it takes this step forward!

Located to the northeast of the Minneapolis/St. Paul metropolitan area, on the St. Croix River (the boundary between Wisconsin and Minnesota), this congregation serves Unitarian Universalists in both of these states and extends our vibrant Twin Cities UU community further into the St. Croix River valley. As an intentional and welcoming UU community, this group works actively to embody UUism in their area, and they have done so in an innovative manner. As their website explains, they meet for services the first three Sundays of each month, but on the fourth Sunday, they often schedule a "Go Forth" event where they gather as a Fellowship in a planned activity. I call your attention to the congregation's website, and encourage you and other interested members of the UUA Board to "visit" them at <http://www.scuuf.org/> to get a sense of their affirming hospitality and their dedication to service.

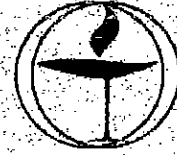
The MidAmerica Region hopes that the UUA will accept this application for membership in our Association, and we look forward to celebrating their affiliation in the near future. We are confident that St. Croix's membership will strengthen both our UUA and our MidAmerica Region.

On behalf of the Board and Staff of the MidAmerica Region, I thank you for considering St. Croix UU Fellowship's application. If I can assist you further, please feel free to contact me at bsasso@juno.com or 618-529-7808 (home).

Sincerely,

(signed) Bill Sasso

Rev. William C. Sasso
President



January 22, 2015

Mr. Jim Key, Moderator
UUA Board of Trustees
24 Farnsworth Street
Boston, MA 02210-1409

Dear Moderator Key:

I write as a Consulting Parish Minister in final fellowship with the UUA to recommend that you accept the application of the Saint Croix Unitarian-Universalist Fellowship (SCUUF) to become a new congregation of the Unitarian Universalist Association. I have been providing occasional pulpit supply and general ministerial assistance to the Fellowship Steering Committee during the 2014-2015 church year. This emerging congregation provides a welcoming presence to those who seek a liberal religious home in Taylors Falls, MN -St. Croix Falls, WI and throughout the St. Croix River Valley areas of both states.

A congregational leadership search committee contacted me on June 17, 2014 to help support their goal of moving toward quarter-time professional ministry. Discussions with the Steering Committee in September 2014 and again on January 18, 2015 give me confidence that this emerging congregation is serious and focused about developing the organizational structure and financial resources to sustain their religious community. They have committed to do the necessary work and clearly are following through with that commitment to frame a Mission (Purpose), Vision, and Covenant that reflect their commitment to UU values and principles. Foundational to its progress was the year my colleague Jim Foti spent with SCUUF through the Mid-America UUA VISIONS FOR MINISTRY in 2013-2014. He provided initial institutional guidance through "once a month ministry" that included workshops on such topics as pastoral care, right relations policies, and membership and he became the first face of our UU professional ministry to the congregation.

The Fellowship has made impressive progress in sustaining Sunday worship and community outreach while reviewing and proposing amendments to its initial bylaws with an eye toward meeting requirements to become a new congregation of the UUA. It is taking a strategic view to form a committee structure of size and scope appropriate for a new congregation that will be effective now and as the congregation grows. The Steering Committee has done outreach to members and friends of SCUUF through a series of Forums to gain input and buy-in for their vision and proposal for congregational association with the UUA and the Mid-America Region of the UUA.

I encourage the UUA to welcome this new congregation and to support its important efforts to grow our presence in an underserved geographic area. SCUUF will embody our UU values and provide a hopeful religious home for those who long to be part of our liberal faith.

In our shared faith,

Rev. Lyn Burton

**Saint Croix Unitarian Universalist Fellowship
New Member Covenant
November 2014**

The Saint Croix Unitarian Universalist Fellowship (SCUUF) established, in its inaugural annual meeting, and as its guiding principles and conditions of membership, the Seven Principles of the Unitarian Universalist Association:

THE SEVEN PRINCIPLES

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

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

In addition, the SCUUF established a Purpose, as a statement of our guiding principles and reasons for existence as a liberal religious fellowship in the Saint Croix Valley and our place in the world at large:

**St. Croix Unitarian Universalist
Fellowship Purpose
Adopted May 2012**

*Recognizing the richness of diversity
The beauty and wonder of shared worship
And the transforming power of love and service,
We gather as a sacred, intentional community
To freely seek knowledge and truth
To celebrate the fullness of life
And by our actions to increase goodness and justice.*

We welcome people of all beliefs, ages, classes, colors, ethnicities, abilities, sexual orientations, and gender identities and expressions.

As an organization, we value and attempt to adhere to these Seven Principles and the SCUUF Fellowship Purpose. We strive to attract those of like minds to membership into the Fellowship, and covenant with new members our help and resources, and welcome their considerable and unique resources to further these Principles and Purpose.

It is important to formalize and publically acknowledge the covenants and commitments to new and existing members of the Fellowship from time to time, and as we welcome new members into the SCUUF Fellowship. We do so with the following ceremonial liturgy at the time of formal membership acceptance and acknowledgment:

New Member Covenant (new members recite in unison):

We enter this fellowship with hope and possibility in our hearts,
Pledging to participate in and support
The mission of this Fellowship.

We covenant to remain true to
The spirit of love
That flows through this community
And guides us.

We seek your welcome
As we join you in this Fellowship.

Congregational Response (congregation responds in unison):

We welcome you as once we were welcomed ourselves.
We seek to be open and inclusive;
Respecting your inherent dignity,
Your ideas and your vision,
In times when it is easy,
and in times when it is difficult.

We seek to be supportive,
Not only when you reach out in courage to us,
but also when you need us to reach out to you.

In return we ask that you recognize our humanity;
We will not always live up to our ideals.
And, when we fall short
We invite you to stay in relationship with us
And help us more fully bring alive the spirit of love.

We welcome you as an equal member
of this congregation,
of this Fellowship,
and of our shared spiritual journey.