



**April 2025**  
**Application for Congregational Membership**

**West Georgia Unitarian Universalists**

Dear Congregational Life Executive Administrator and UUA Board of Trustees:

Our journey began in 2017, inspired by a Facebook post from someone seeking a "liberal religious community" in Carrollton, Georgia, a city known for its conservative religious and political climate. From this post, a group of original members came together to explore what kind of spiritual community would be a good fit. This led to the creation of a book club where we read works such as *Dance of the Dissident Daughter*, *The Four Agreements*, and *A Chosen Faith*. After reading *A Chosen Faith*, it became clear to our group that Unitarian Universalism aligned with the values and vision we held for our community.

Although our activities were paused for a few years due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we re-established momentum in 2021 when we formed a partnership with St. Margaret's Episcopal Church, which graciously offered us a space to meet. By 2024, our congregation has grown to 37 members. We now hold services twice a month and have dedicated members leading a variety of programs, including a social book club, meditation groups, chalice circles, and newly added religious education for both adults and children. We also have four active committees: the Religious Education (RE) Committee, Small Groups Committee, Sunday Service Planning Committee, and Outreach Committee.

Our congregation is also committed to community engagement, participating in events like MLK Jr. Day and Pride celebrations, and partnering with local nonprofits such as Circles of West Georgia and Impact of West Georgia to address poverty in our area.

In a region with limited spiritual diversity, our work is vital. We offer a welcoming space for those seeking an alternative community, where individuals can nourish their spirits and put their faith into action to make both our local and global communities better. We believe that joining the UUA will provide us with the support and connections needed as we continue to grow. Our commitment is to be a lasting presence in the community for years to come.

In this spirit, I respectfully submit our application for membership in the Unitarian Universalist Association.

Warmly,

Terri E. Parmer  
Chair - Board of Trustees  
West Georgia Unitarian Universalists, Inc.

# UUA Membership Application

On May 19, 2021 the West Georgia Unitarian Universalists, Inc  
date name of congregation

of Carrollton, Georgia  
City, State

was organized with 33 charter members.  
number

The following are the elected officers:

President: Terri E. Parmer

Address:

Phone/email:

Secretary: Kimberly Williams

Address:

Phone/email:

Treasurer: Brad Wilks

Address:

Phone/email:

Name and Address of Meeting Place:

St. Margaret's Episcopal Church  
66 Newnan St.  
Carrollton, GA 30117

Official Mailing Address (if different) to be used in UUA Directory:

406 Bradley Street  
Carrollton, GA 30117

Name and Address of Nearby Congregations and Ministers:

UUA  
2650 N. Druid Hills Rd.  
Atlanta, GA 30329  
Rev. Taryn Strauss

Northwest UU Congregation  
1025 Mt. Vernon Hwy NW  
Sandy Springs, GA 30327  
Rev. Jennifer Dalton

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 \$121.00, 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,

Terri Parmen Terri Parmen 12/12/24  
President or Leader Sign Full Name & Print Last Name Date

Kimberly Williams Kimberly Williams 12/12/24  
Secretary Sign Full Name & Print Last Name Date



## West Georgia Unitarian Universalist Charter Members

Jesse Abercrombie \_\_\_\_\_

Caleigh Allison \_\_\_\_\_

Emily Bryson \_\_\_\_\_

Kara Chambliss \_\_\_\_\_

Robin Collins \_\_\_\_\_

Annie Davis \_\_\_\_\_

LJ Davis \_\_\_\_\_

Karen Dollinger \_\_\_\_\_

Kendra Edmonds \_\_\_\_\_

Anne Ellis \_\_\_\_\_

Jane Evans \_\_\_\_\_

Kristi Galloway \_\_\_\_\_

Jean Hudson \_\_\_\_\_

Katie Keene \_\_\_\_\_

Jennifer Lehtimaki \_\_\_\_\_

John Lehtimaki \_\_\_\_\_

Brooklyn Leslie \_\_\_\_\_

Logan Leslie \_\_\_\_\_

Bex Lourenco \_\_\_\_\_

Christine Simmonds-Moore \_\_\_\_\_

Stephen Moore \_\_\_\_\_

Avery Nisbet \_\_\_\_\_

Melissa Nisbet \_\_\_\_\_

Terri Parmer \_\_\_\_\_

Lydia Roll \_\_\_\_\_

Janice Rosene \_\_\_\_\_

Joe Tarshis \_\_\_\_\_

Sue Tarshis \_\_\_\_\_

Adam Walker \_\_\_\_\_

Rachel Walker \_\_\_\_\_

Colin Wheeler \_\_\_\_\_

Brad Wilks \_\_\_\_\_

Marla Wilks \_\_\_\_\_

Josh Williams \_\_\_\_\_

Kimberly Williams \_\_\_\_\_

Rena Wilson \_\_\_\_\_

# **Bylaws of West Georgia Unitarian Universalists, Inc.**

## **Article I. Name**

The official name of this religious organization is West Georgia Unitarian Universalists, Inc. (hereinafter referred to as “WGUU” or the “Congregation”).

## **Article II. Purpose**

The purpose of WGUU is to serve as an intergenerational spiritual community open and welcoming to all exploring their individual spiritual paths and committed to improving the wellbeing of our broader community.

## **Article III. Congregational Membership in the UUA**

WGUU shall be a member of the Unitarian Universalist Association or its successors and shall be guided by the UUA’s Seven Principles.

## **Article IV. Non-Discrimination**

WGUU affirms and promotes the full participation of persons in all our activities and endeavors, including membership, programming, hiring practices, and the calling of religious professionals, without regard to race, color, gender, physical or mental challenge, affectional or sexual orientation, class or national origin.

## **Article V. Membership**

### **Section V.1 Membership Requirements - Membership in the Congregation shall require:**

- (a) West Georgia Unitarian Universalist’s Statement of Membership, signed once by the member to signify their support of the values and purposes of the West Georgia Unitarian Universalists (WGUU) and Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA), including our policy that we welcome into membership all persons sixteen (16) years of age or older without regard to race, color, ethnicity, culture, gender identification, sexual orientation, marital status, disability, and neurotype.

- (b) The above referenced Statement of Membership also asks each member to financially support the Congregation's operation with an annual contribution of record. The expectation of a financial contribution to maintain membership may be waived by the Minister and/or Board of Trustees.

## **Section V.2 Termination of Membership -**

- (a) Members may terminate their membership by making a written request to the Board Secretary.
- (b) The Board will annually purge the membership roll of those who have died.
- (c) Membership may also be terminated for breach of the Congregational Covenant and refusal to covenant, in accordance with fair and reasonable procedures approved by the Board of Trustees.
- (d) The Board may, by a two-thirds (2/3) vote, block the addition of a new member or may remove an existing member if necessary to protect the Congregation's fundamental purposes and policies or to ensure the safety of any member of the Congregation.
- (e) If a member is inactive in attendance, contribution, and participation after twelve (12) months, the Board may purge them from the membership rolls.

## **Section V.3 Removal from Participation -**

Anyone may be removed from participation if jeopardizing the safety of others or the facilities in accordance with fair and reasonable procedures adopted by the Board.

# **Article VI. Congregational Meetings**

## **Section VI.1 Annual Meeting**

The annual meeting of the Congregation will be called each calendar year no later than the last Sunday of February to elect members of the Board and vote on any other issues the Board has determined to be important.



## **Section VI.2 Special Meetings**

A special meeting of the Congregation may be called by the Board or by twenty percent (20%) of voting members, but not less than five (5) members. If at any time there are fewer than ten (10) voting members, a special meeting may be called by fifty percent (50%) of voting members. The scope of the special meeting will be limited to issues announced on the official notice.

## **Section VI.3 Notification of Meetings**

Meetings must be announced at a regular Sunday service at least thirty (30) days prior to the meeting date for an annual meeting and at least fourteen (14) days prior to the meeting date for a special meeting. The default method of notifying members not present at a regular Sunday service is email, except that any member may request a different method of contact.

## **Section VI.4 Quorum**

A quorum for all meetings of the Congregation will consist of thirty-five percent (35%) of the voting members, but not less than five (5) members. If at any time there are fewer than ten (10) voting members, a quorum will consist of fifty percent (50%) of voting members.

## **Section VI.5 Voting**

- (a) A simple majority of the votes cast at any meeting where a quorum is or was initially present will be sufficient to either approve or disapprove any matter submitted for determination by vote, except for calling or dismissing of a Minister, amending these bylaws, dissolving the Congregation, acquiring or selling real estate, taking on debt in excess of five hundred dollars (\$500.00), or binding the Congregation to a contract longer than three (3) years. Approval in cases of these exceptions will require the vote of seventy-five percent (75%) of the votes cast.
- (b) Upon the request of any voting member, the exact vote tally on any matter shall be recorded in the minutes of the Congregational meeting. Upon the request of any voting member, the vote on any matter shall be by written ballot.
- (c) Absentee ballots shall be on such forms as may be stipulated by the Board and shall be processed for consideration in such a manner as may be prescribed by

the Board. If the Board decides absentee ballots are not to be allowed for a given meeting, such decision must be included in the notice of the meeting.

- (d) Proxy votes shall be available to members who cannot attend a given meeting for reasons of incapacitation or travel. All proxies shall be in writing and specifically state the issue and how the proxy is to be voted.
- (e) All new members must wait thirty (30) days after signing the membership book before being able to vote.
- (f) The Board may, by two-thirds ( $\frac{2}{3}$ ) vote, temporarily suspend the voting privileges of a member if there is a conflict of interest or if there is a safety risk to another member.

## **Article VII. Governing Structure**

### **Section VII.1 Composition of the Board and Election Provision**

The Board of Trustees shall consist of five (5) members elected at the annual meeting of the Congregation. Voting members in good standing who have been members of the Congregation for at least six (6) months are eligible to be elected to the Board.

The Treasurer shall be elected by the Board of Trustees at the beginning of each fiscal year. The Treasurer may also be a Board member, but it is not required. Voting members in good standing who have been members for at least twelve (12) months are eligible to be elected Treasurer.

### **Section VII.2 Term Length**

All Board members shall be elected for a two (2) year term. The terms shall be staggered to ensure there are at least two (2) sitting Board members retained from the previous Board.

### **Section VII.3 Responsibilities of the Board**

The Board is the principal policy-forming and administrative body of the Congregation, responsible for all operations. The Board has full authority and responsibility, except as limited by these bylaws, to act on the business and programs of the Congregation. Any Board member may represent WGUU on appropriate occasions and perform all duties incident to the office and such other duties as may be requested by the membership or Minister from time to time. The authority of the Board is at all times subject to the prime authority of the Congregation.

## **Section VII.4 Officers**

- (a) The Board shall elect any Board member to serve as Chair and Secretary. The Board may also elect any member within the Congregation to an office such as the Treasurer.

### **(b) Officer Responsibilities**

#### **(i) Common Responsibilities**

Officers shall be elected by the Board to work with Federal, State and/or Financial Institutions as needed.

#### **(ii) Responsibilities of the Chair**

The Chair of the Board shall preside at all meetings of the Congregation and the Board. In the absence of the Chair, the Board shall appoint another Board member to preside.

#### **(iii) Responsibilities of the Secretary**

The Secretary of the Board shall keep minutes of all Board and Congregational meetings and shall keep accurate records of the membership roll of the Congregation.

#### **(iv) Responsibilities of the Treasurer**

The Treasurer shall be deemed the Financial Officer and is authorized to execute legal documents in that capacity. Primary duties and responsibilities are to manage the Congregational finances with integrity and transparency to ensure the financial health and sustainability of the Congregation.

## **Section VII.5 Board Meetings**

- (a) **Frequency and Notice** - The Board shall meet at least once each quarter year.
- (b) **Quorum** - A Board meeting quorum shall consist of a majority of voting Board members.
- (c) **Decision Making and Voting** - Decisions of the Board shall be made by consensus of all Board members present at a meeting. If however, a consensus cannot be reached, the Chair shall so declare and action shall be taken by a majority vote of the Board members present.

- (d) **Open Meetings** - Board meetings are open to all members of the Congregation. All members may speak, but only Board members may make motions or vote.
- (e) **Minutes** - Complete and accurately typed minutes shall be kept of all meetings of the Board, excluding executive sessions. All meeting minutes shall be approved by a majority vote of at least a quorum of Board members at the next Board meeting. A digital copy of provisional and final approved minutes shall be kept electronically and made available to all members of the Congregation.
- (f) **Executive Session** - The Board may meet in executive session for discussion and fact-finding, but no official action or vote may be taken while in executive session or otherwise outside of an official Board meeting. Only Board members and invitees of the Board shall be allowed to attend an executive session.

## **Section VII.6 Other Board Provisions**

- (a) **Vacancies** - The Board may appoint any voting member of the Congregation to fill vacancies on the Board. If the Office of the Chair becomes vacant, the appointee must be a present member of the Board.
- (b) **Removal of Board Members** -
  - (i) Three (3) absences from Board meetings during any twelve (12) month period by a board member shall be tantamount to resignation.
  - (ii) Board members may be removed for breach of trust or gross misconduct by two-thirds ( $\frac{2}{3}$ ) vote of the Board or a majority vote of voting members present at a special Congregational meeting.
- (c) **Committees** - The Board may appoint standing or temporary committees as it deems necessary. All committees shall report to the Board.

## **Article VIII. The Minister**

At least once per year, the Board shall consider the readiness of the Congregation to search for a Minister. Those meetings will be announced in advance and members of the Congregation will be encouraged to offer their perspective. If the Board determines that the Congregation is now ready to close to ready to conduct that search, the Board and the Congregation will form a ministerial search committee, establish provisions for a ministerial relations committee, and propose amendments to these bylaws governing

the Minister's employment, responsibilities, authority, and relationship to the Congregation.

## **Article IX. Other Staff**

The Board is authorized to evaluate personnel needs and to hire independent contractors or employees as it sees fit. All professional and support staff shall be responsible to the Board.

## **Article X. Fiscal Year**

### **Section X.1 Fiscal Year**

The fiscal year shall be April 1st to March 31st.

### **Section X.2 Budget Process**

At each annual Congregational meeting, the Board shall submit an operating budget for the coming fiscal year. The budgeted expenses may not exceed the anticipated income plus available reserves. A budget is adopted by a simple majority vote of the voting members present at the meeting. Once the budget is approved, the Board may authorize and expend the funds as budgeted. The Board may reallocate funds, as long as the reallocation does not exceed ten percent (10%) of the approved budget.

### **Section X.3 Financial Indebtedness**

The Congregation shall not take on debt greater than five hundred dollars (\$500.00) without an authorizing vote of seventy-five percent (75%) of the voting members present at a Congregational meeting.

### **Section X.4 Funds and Property**

All funds and property received by or coming into the custody of the Congregation belong to and are trust funds and property of WGUU, to be held and expended only for the purposes authorized and only in accordance with the regulations and/or written agreements prescribed or accepted by the Board.

### **Section X.5 Social and Environmental Impact Statement**

In keeping with Unitarian Universalist Association guidelines, the Board will take into consideration the social and environmental impact of how funds are spent.

## **Section X.6 Execution of Instruments**

Checks and other orders on the funds or credit of the Congregation, and all contracts and instruments in writing by the Congregation, shall be valid and binding upon the Congregation only when executed by such officers as shall be designated and authorized by the Board.

## **Section X.7 Financial Reporting and Audit**

The Board shall maintain an accounting of the financial record of the Congregation, which shall be open for inspection by any member. At the end of each fiscal year, the Board shall publish a financial report to be made available to all members. This annual financial report shall be audited by a person who is designated by the Board but cannot by a member of the Board.

## **Article XI. Dissolution Clause**

Any action to dissolve WGUU must be approved by seventy-five percent (75%) vote of voting members of the Congregation present at a meeting called specifically to consider such action, for which meeting written notice has been issued to all members eligible to vote in accordance with these bylaws. If the Congregation, at its own option, shall cease to exist, all property real or personal shall be transferred to the Unitarian Universalist Association or its successors.

## **Article XII. Other Financial, Legal and Insurance Provisions**

### **Section XII.1 Indemnification**

WGUU shall indemnify any person who is or was an employee, agent, representative, member of the Board of Trustees, or any committee volunteer of the Congregation against any liability asserted against such person and incurred in the course and scope of her or his duties or functions within the Congregation to the maximum extent allowable by law, provided the person acted in good faith and did not engage in an act or omission that was intentionally, willfully, or wantonly negligent, or done with conscious indifference or reckless disregard for the safety of others. The provisions of this article shall not be deemed exclusive of any other rights to which such person may be entitled under any bylaw, agreement, insurance policy, vote of members, or otherwise.

## **Section XII.2 Real Property**

At any meeting of the Board or any Congregational meeting where the sale, encumbrance, or acquisition by WGUU of real property or improvements thereon is to be discussed, notice of the same shall be published at least thirty (30) days prior to said meeting and announced at least at the two (2) consecutive Sunday services immediately preceding the meeting. Any action requiring the sale, encumbrance, or acquisition by WGUU of real property shall require a seventy-five percent (75%) vote of those voting members present and voting at a Congregational meeting with such action in its call.

## **Section XII.3 Other Legal and Public Relations Provisions**

- (a) **Open Records** - All records of the Congregation other than those of a personal nature shall be made available for inspection by any member during reasonable office hours.
- (b) **Bonding** - Any Board member or other authorized signatory may be bonded at the expense of the Congregation in an amount determined by the Board.
- (c) **Protection of Non-Profit Status** - No action shall be taken by the Congregation, the Board, or any Board member, Officer or employee of the Congregation nor shall they allow any activity or use of WGUU property which shall endanger the nonprofit status or charitable, tax exempt status of the Congregation or its property. Nothing in these bylaws shall be construed to allow a violation of this section.
- (d) **Representation** - The Chair, or any other member of the Congregation who is specifically authorized by the Congregation or the Board, may represent the entire Congregation in any public or private meeting.
- (e) **Public Statements** - Public statements in the name of WGUU on social or other public issues will be made only after a vote of the membership and must include the vote of individuals for and against. This does not limit the right of individuals or groups within the Congregation to make statements in their own name(s).

- (f) **Prime Authority** - The ultimate and prime authority for the actions of the Congregation resides in its members.

### **Article XIII. 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. Proxy votes shall be permissible for interested persons who cannot attend the called meeting due to incapacitation, travel, or public health safety precautions. All proxies shall be in writing and specifically state how the proxy is to be voted on the issue of the adoption of these bylaws as published and distributed.

### **Article XIV. Amendments**

These bylaws may be amended at any Congregational meeting by a seventy-five percent (75%) vote of the members eligible to vote at the meeting at which such matter is considered, provided however, that the text of any proposed changes has been published and provided to all voting members of record at least thirty (30) days prior to such meeting. The Board may submit to the members any proposed amendments which the Board has approved by a majority vote of Board members. In addition, the Board shall submit to the Congregation any amendment received by the Board which shall have been proposed by a petition signed by at least ten percent (10%) of the members of the Congregation.





December 1, 2024

To the Board of Trustees of the Unitarian Universalist Association and President Sofia Betancourt:

As the Regional Lead for the Southern Region, I wholeheartedly recommend that West Georgia Unitarian Universalists of Carrollton, Georgia be recognized as a member congregation of our Unitarian Universalist Association.

The West Georgia Unitarian Universalists have undertaken a thorough and thoughtful process of discernment regarding their ministries, their conceptualization of Beloved Community, and their pathway toward being the most effective institutional incarnation of Unitarian Universalism in their local context. They have faithfully engaged in co-creation of our shared Faith at the national level through their own understanding of Love at the Center, and this discernment is apparent in their covenant and founding documentation. They possess an excellent awareness of covenantal relationship not only with the members in their community, but also their responsibilities toward and with other Unitarian Universalist congregations and communities. They have shown good faithfulness in their working relationship as well, consulting closely with Field Staff Member Nancy Combs-Morgan throughout their journey of becoming.

I believe their process of discernment and becoming has led them to clarity on their place within our UUA, and we would be proud to have them represent us in the world and to call them a member congregation. I look forward to many more years of working with the West Georgia Unitarian Universalists as they grow their ministries and deepen their relationships to one another and to Unitarian Universalism.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'N Briscoe'.

Natalie Briscoe

Lead for the Southern Region





December 4, 2024

To the Board of Trustees of the Unitarian Universalist Association and President Sofia Betancourt:

As a Congregational Life Consultant for the Southern Region, I want to add my hearty recommendation for the West Georgia Unitarian Universalists of Carrollton, Georgia to be granted member status as a congregation of our Unitarian Universalist Association.

As a Congregational Life Consultant, I have worked closely with the wonderful leaders of the West Georgia Unitarian Universalists over the last year. Actually, with thoughtful discernment they have sought our Southern Region support, for well over two years. When our team asked them to go deeper in their UU Identity, they carefully engaged in a variety of efforts and programs, including a deep dive into the meaning of UU membership. I have consistently been moved by their questions, their commitment, and drive to succeed in being a caring and justice seeking UU congregation.

When I recommended that they connect with other UU congregations and their leaders in Georgia, they then took part in a leadership training in Atlanta. Also, over the last eight months, after I asked them to reach out to the Georgia Mountain UU leaders for fellowship, learning, and connection, they did so in multiple ways. This demonstration of a commitment to learn and grow included a field trip to Dahlonega, GA this last August, where their Board President and another WGUU leader, met with the leaders at GMUU.

They continue to demonstrate thoughtful intentionality to grow into their UU congregational identity, including a deep dive into their by-laws.

It would be my honor and joy to continue working with this group of creative, warm, committed and thoughtful Unitarian Universalist leaders, and it would be a delight to be a part of their celebration upon receiving official UUA congregational recognition.

Sincerely,

*Nancy Combs-Morgan*

Nancy Combs-Morgan, Congregational Life Consultant, [ncombsmorgan@uua.org](mailto:ncombsmorgan@uua.org)





November 21, 2024

Board of Trustees of the UUA  
24 Farnsworth Street  
Boston, MA 02210

Re: UUA application for West Georgia Unitarian Universalists

To Whom it May Concern,

The Board of Trustees at Georgia Mountains Unitarian Universalist Church is pleased to share this letter of recommendation for the West Georgia Unitarian Universalists (WGUU) as they seek membership within the Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations. Over the last year we have had the pleasure of sharing fellowship, resources, and support to this congregation in their discernment of and work towards becoming an affiliated congregation within the UUA. It is clear from their swift and determined progress that they are serious about their commitment to the established processes and principles of the UUA. In each conversation and visit we have shared with them, they have expressed tremendous excitement over connecting with neighboring UU congregations. WGUU is led by exceptionally driven and heart-centered individuals who understand the value of formal affiliation with the UUA.

These leaders have been thoughtful in both communication with us, and in expressing their support for one another and their larger community. As a congregation who has seen success and stability in a rural area of Georgia, we were honored to have been matched with WGUU as their mentor congregation and believe in their vision of promoting liberal religion and Unitarian Universalist values in the western part of our state. We look forward to a long and happy friendship with WGUU as they continue the visionary justice work and community building they began only a few years ago.

Yours in the faith,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Rev. Charlotte Arsenault" with a stylized flourish at the end.

Rev. Charlotte Arsenault  
Minister, Georgia Mountains Unitarian Universalist Church

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Robin Kottman" with a stylized flourish at the end.

Robin Kottman  
President of the Board of Trustees at Georgia Mountains Unitarian Universalist Church

706.864.0661 | [WWW.GMUUC.ORG](http://WWW.GMUUC.ORG)

3155 Morrison Moore Pkwy E  
Dahlonega, Ga 30533

## **West Georgia Unitarian Universalists Board of Trustees Covenant**

- Hold each other in loving acceptance.
- Be direct and kind in speaking our truths.
- Serve the congregation and foster a wider beloved community.
- Make decisions with love and humility, assess their impact and revise as needed.

# West Georgia Unitarian Universalists

## Mission and Vision Statements

**Mission:** WGUU endeavors to create an inclusive community fostering spiritual growth, compassion, and justice.

**Vision:** To support this mission, we will:

- Provide welcoming gatherings that offer opportunities for joy, renewal, and spiritual growth.
- Grow meaningful, supportive connections among members of our congregation.
- Serve the larger community by working towards equity, inclusion, justice, and self-determination for those who have been historically marginalized.
- Promote awareness and understanding of Unitarian Universalism in the West Georgia community.
- Develop religious exploration programs for all ages.
- Build resources for the establishment of congregational space, leadership programs, and membership in the UUA.

## **WEST GEORGIA UNITARIAN UNIVERSALISTS CHALICE GROUP COVENANT**

We will listen and speak honestly from the heart.

We will speak personally, using "I" statements.

We will actively engage in deep listening.

We will try not to judge others by what they say.

We will allow space for everyone who wishes to speak.

We will respect the confidentiality of what is shared here.

## **West Georgia Unitarian Universalists Congregational Covenant**

We gather with open hearts to welcome all who seek to find and create meaning in their lives.

We gather with humility to explore the mystery of spirit we experience in and around us.

We gather with respect to listen to the perspectives and wisdom of others.

We gather with courage to share our own sense and understanding.

We gather with gratitude to celebrate the joys and wonders of our lives.

We gather with compassion to meet the sorrows of our world.

We gather with love to build greater peace within ourselves and our community.

Sunday, November 17th, 2024

## **Prelude    Gracias a la Vida**

When the music starts please find your seats.

## **Ringling of Chimes - Bowl**

## **Welcome**

## **Lighting of the Chalice**

## **Hymn #67   We Sing Now Together**

Please rise in body or in spirit.

## **WGUU Covenant   Responsive Reading**

We gather with open hearts to welcome all who seek  
to find and create meaning in their lives.

We gather with humility to explore the mystery of spirit  
we experience in and around us.

We gather with respect to listen to the perspectives and  
wisdom of others.

We gather with courage *to share our own sense and  
understanding.*

We gather with gratitude to celebrate the joys and wonders  
of our lives.

We gather with compassion *to meet the sorrows of our world.*

We gather with love to build greater peace within ourselves  
and our community.

## **Joys, Concerns, & Milestones**

## **Hymn #118                      This Little Light of Mine**

## **Offering   Hymn # 402 -   From You I Receive**

Remain seated



## **Hymn   # 76   For Flowers that Bloom About Our Feet**

Please rise in body or in spirit.

## **Time of Reflection**

## **Today's Message   - Gratitude**

**Discussion** - What spoke to you from the readings?

- Are you as grateful as you would like to be? - In what ways do  
you practice gratitude? - What gets in the way of experiencing  
gratitude? - Have you found ways to be grateful for things that  
turned out differently than expected or desired?

## **Gratitude Sharing**

## **Hymn   # 21   For the Beauty of the Earth**

Please rise in body or in spirit

## **Extinguishing of the Chalice**

\*\*\*\*\*

## **Announcements & Transition to Social Time**

\*\*\*\*\*

*With humility, and awareness of the insufficiency of this gesture, we acknowledge  
that we meet and reside on the traditional territories of the Muscogee people, the  
original inhabitants and stewards of this land. We remember the injustices that  
removed them from this land, and acknowledge that we benefit from those injustices.  
We remind ourselves of this as a step towards creating more justice for indigenous  
people throughout the world.*

\*\*\*\*\*



## Our Mission Statement:

WGUU endeavors to create an inclusive community fostering spiritual growth, compassion, and justice.



## Upcoming Events

**Sunday Services Committee Meeting** Monday, Nov. 18th @ 5:00pm @ The Tarshis Residence

**\*\*Wednesday Chalice Circle** Wed. Nov. 20th @ 5:15pm @ Conf. Room

**Brews and Views** Saturday, Nov. 23rd @ 5:00pm @ TBD

**Adult RE** Sunday, Nov. 24th @ 5:00pm @ Parish Hall

**Tuesday Chalice Circle** Tuesday, Nov. 26th @ 12:30pm @ Iona Center

**Worship Service** Sunday, Dec. 1st @ 5:00pm @ Parish Hall

**Board Meeting** Sunday, Dec. 8th @ 6:00pm @ Callahan Conf Rm

**Monday Meditation** Monday, Dec 9th @ 5:30pm @ Iona Center

**Social Justice Book Club** Monday, Dec. 9th @ 6:15pm @ Iona Center

# West Georgia Unitarian Universalists

11/17/2024

*Gratitude*

**Sunday Services Planning Committee**

WEST GEORGIA UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST  
Carrollton, Georgia  
WGUU.ORG