



August 2025

Application for Congregational Membership

Mountain Unitarian Universalists



UUA Membership Application

On May 14, 2025 the Mountain Unitarian Universalists
date name of congregation

of Oakhurst, California
City, State

was organized with 53 charter members.
number

The following are the elected officers:

President: **Deb Spurlock**

Address: [REDACTED]

Phone/email: [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

Secretary: **Judy Ball**

Address: [REDACTED]

Phone/email: [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

Treasurer: **Jennifer Spurlock**

Address: [REDACTED]

Phone/email: [REDACTED] [REDACTED]



Name and Address of Meeting Place:

Sierra Senior Center

49111 Cinder Lane, Oakhurst CA 93644

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

51167 Road 423, Oakhurst CA 93644


Name and Address of Nearby Congregations and Ministers:

Unitarian Universalist Church of Fresno

2672 East Alluvial Ave., Fresno CA 93720

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 \$72.75, 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,



President or Leader Sign Full Name & Print Last Name Spurlock 5.14.2025
Date



Secretary Sign Full Name & Print Last Name Ball 5/14/25
Date



Name	Address
Acord, Brenda	[REDACTED] [REDACTED]
Allen-Rowe, Chris	[REDACTED] [REDACTED]
Allen-Rowe, Teresa	[REDACTED] [REDACTED]
Allen, Sage	[REDACTED] [REDACTED]
Arnold, Natasha	3 [REDACTED] [REDACTED]
Arnold, Shiloh	[REDACTED] [REDACTED]
Ball, Judy	[REDACTED] [REDACTED]
Ballard, Laurie	[REDACTED] [REDACTED]
Beckler, Lori	[REDACTED] [REDACTED]
Blodgett, Amy	[REDACTED] [REDACTED]
Caetano, Charles	[REDACTED] [REDACTED]
Caetano, Donna	[REDACTED] [REDACTED]
Cantwell, Christopher	[REDACTED] [REDACTED]
Cotter, Katie	[REDACTED] [REDACTED]
Cuthbertson, Charles	[REDACTED] [REDACTED]
Cyan, Ella	[REDACTED] [REDACTED]
DeAnda, Tina	[REDACTED] [REDACTED]
Dutchovel, Neil	[REDACTED] [REDACTED]
Freeman, Robert	[REDACTED] [REDACTED]
Freeman, Shannon	[REDACTED] [REDACTED]
Gardner, DeForrest	[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

Gilt, Sheila	[REDACTED]
Gonzalez, Michele	[REDACTED]
Hewlett, Lisa	[REDACTED]
Ingalls-Lewis, Kat	[REDACTED]
Jines, Alan	[REDACTED]
Jines, Beth	[REDACTED]
Kerber, Da'Nel	[REDACTED]
Kniess, Catie	[REDACTED]
Laszlo, Celaena	[REDACTED]
Lawrence, Trina	[REDACTED]
Lewis, Charlie	[REDACTED]
Lewis, Tiffany	[REDACTED]
llamas, Fernando	[REDACTED]
Mae, Heather	[REDACTED]
Moreno, Laura	[REDACTED]
Moreno, Mariela	[REDACTED]
Odenwelder, Dallas	[REDACTED]
Orbin, Kristin	[REDACTED]
Ralls, Jean	[REDACTED]
Ramirez, Janna	[REDACTED]
Schweizer, Amanda	[REDACTED]
Sheils, Autumn	[REDACTED]

[illegible]

Mountain Unitarian Universalists

Covenant of Community

Our Promises to One Another:

- We promise to honor and respect each other's beliefs, experiences, and identities.
- We promise to speak with honesty, share openly, and communicate clearly and compassionately.
- We promise to care for ourselves, each other, and the community we are creating together.
- We promise to practice radical inclusion and friendship to all.
- We promise to offer support when we can, and to ask for help when we need it.
- We promise to be open to growth, including feedback that helps us change and thrive.
- We promise to lead with love in our decisions, service, and presence.

We strive to embody these shared behaviors:

- Be kind. Be honest. Be respectful.
- Be open-minded and inclusive.
- Be mindful of your body, mind, and spirit and practice radical self-care
- Be helpful, loving, and caring to yourself and others.
- Be a good listener and communicator.
- Act with integrity and humility.
- Follow through on commitments.
- Make space for joy, creativity, and vulnerability.

When We Fall Short: Accountability with Compassion

- We understand that growth and healing are not linear. We commit to holding each other accountable with grace. We will address concerns directly, with dignity and respect—not through gossip or public shaming.
- When conflict arises, we will speak in person when possible, and seek to listen first.
- If direct communication is not possible or has failed, we may ask for the support of an accountability team.
- We promise to speak up when someone is being hurt, and to take responsibility for our impact.
- We will recite and revisit this covenant regularly, remembering that it is a living agreement grounded in love.

Our Shared Vision:

- Together, we promise to keep growing—as individuals and as a community—rooted in care, guided by our UU values, and open to the sacred in ourselves and each other.

Articles of Incorporation of Mountain Unitarian Universalists

Article I – Name

The name of this corporation is Mountain Unitarian Universalists.

Article II – Corporate Status and Purpose

This corporation is a nonprofit religious corporation and is not organized for the private gain of any person. It is organized under the Nonprofit Religious Corporation Law of California for religious, charitable, and educational purposes.

The specific purpose of this corporation is to:

- Foster a welcoming and inclusive spiritual community rooted in Unitarian Universalist principles;
- Support personal and collective growth through worship, education, and service;
- Promote social justice, equity, and compassion in human relations.

This corporation is organized exclusively for charitable, religious, and educational purposes within the meaning of Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

Article III – Dedication of Assets

The property of this corporation is irrevocably dedicated to religious, charitable, and educational purposes. No part of the net earnings of the organization shall inure to the benefit of, or be distributable to, its members, directors, officers, or other private persons, except that the corporation shall be authorized and empowered to pay reasonable compensation for services rendered.

Upon the dissolution of the corporation, its assets shall be distributed to the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA), or its legal successor, provided it is then exempt under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. If the UUA is not then in existence or not exempt under 501(c)(3), such assets shall be distributed to a similar religious or charitable organization meeting the requirements of section 501(c)(3).

Article IV – Initial Agent for Service of Process

The name and address in the State of California of the initial agent for service of process is:

Cathleen Allen-Rowe
51167 Road 423
Oakhurst, CA 93644

Article V – Membership

This corporation shall have voting members as defined in its bylaws. The eligibility, rights, and responsibilities of members shall be as set forth in the bylaws of the corporation.

Article VI – Limitations

Notwithstanding any other provision of these Articles, the corporation shall not, except to an insubstantial degree, engage in any activities or exercise any powers that do not further its religious, charitable, or educational purposes. The corporation shall not engage in any activity not permitted to be carried on by a corporation exempt from federal income tax under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

Bylaws of Mountain Unitarian Universalists (MUU)

Adopted on May 14, 2025

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ARTICLE I: NAME AND PURPOSE

Section 1: Name

The name of this religious nonprofit organization shall be Mountain Unitarian Universalists (hereafter “MUU” or “the Church”).

Section 2: Purpose

MUU is organized exclusively for religious, charitable, and educational purposes under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Its mission is to:

- Foster a welcoming and inclusive spiritual community rooted in Unitarian Universalist principles.
- Support personal and collective growth through worship, education, and service.
- Promote social justice, equity, and compassion in human relations.

In the case of dissolution of the society, all of its property, real and personal, after paying all just claims upon it, shall be conveyed to and vested in the Unitarian Universalist Association or its legal successor, and the Board of Trustees of the society shall perform all actions necessary to effect such conveyance.

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ARTICLE II: MEMBERSHIP

Section 1: Eligibility

Membership is open to any individual who:

1. Is at least 16 years of age
2. Affirms the Unitarian Universalist principles and the mission of MUU
3. Signs the Membership Book
4. Makes an annual contribution of record by means of participation, in-kind, or financial contribution
5. Actively participates in congregational life

Section 2: Nondiscrimination

MUU does not discriminate on the basis of race, ethnicity, national origin, sex, gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, age, disability, socioeconomic status, or religious background.

Section 3: Membership Categories

- Voting Member – Meets all eligibility requirements.
- Friend of the Church – Participates in activities but has not signed the Membership Book or made a contribution of record.
- Inactive Member – A member who has not participated for one year, but may return to full status with renewed participation.

Section 4: Rights and Responsibilities

Voting Members may:

- Vote at congregational meetings
- Serve on the Board or committees
- Participate fully in church life

Members are expected to contribute according to their ability through time, skills, or finances.

Section 5: Resignation and Removal

A member may resign by notifying the Board in writing. The Board may remove a member for conduct that significantly harms the congregation, by a two-thirds vote.

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ARTICLE III: BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Section 1: Structure and Composition

The Board of Directors shall consist of at least five (5) members:

- President
- Secretary
- Treasurer
- At least two At-Large Members
- Optional: Vice President

The minister shall serve as a non-voting ex officio member.

Section 2: Responsibilities

The Board shall:

- Uphold MUU's mission and ensure legal and financial integrity
- Oversee policies, operations, and long-term planning
- Present an annual budget and supervise expenditures
- Ensure compliance with nonprofit regulations

Section 3: Terms and Elections

- Board members serve two-year terms

- Members may serve no more than three consecutive terms without a one-year break
- Terms are staggered to ensure continuity

Section 4: Meetings and Quorum

- The Board meets at least monthly
- A quorum is a majority of Board members
- Meetings are announced in multiple formats once scheduled for the year

Section 5: Resignation, Removal, and Vacancies

- Any Board member may resign by written notice
- A Board member may be removed by a two-thirds vote for misconduct or failure to fulfill duties such as attending meetings regularly
- Vacancies are filled by Board appointment until the next congregational election

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ARTICLE IV: OFFICERS AND DUTIES

President

- Presides at Board and congregational meetings
- Serves as official spokesperson

Secretary

- Maintains meeting minutes and official records
- Oversees meeting notices and correspondence

Treasurer

- Oversees finances and prepares reports
- Ensures compliance with fiscal regulations

Vice President (if elected)

- Supports the President and assumes duties when needed

At-Large Members

- Represent congregational interests
- Support Board initiatives

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ARTICLE V: DECISION-MAKING

- Decisions require a majority of those present unless otherwise specified
- A two-thirds vote is required for major decisions such as hiring a minister or amending bylaws
- Proxy voting is not permitted

Annual Congregational Meeting

An annual congregational meeting shall be held between May 1 and May 15 each year.

- Notice must be given at least two weeks in advance
- A quorum shall consist of 25% of Voting Members
- Decisions are made by a majority of those present and voting, provided quorum is met

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ARTICLE VI: FINANCES

Section 1: Fiscal Year

The fiscal year shall run from July 1 to June 30.

Section 2: Budget and Oversight

- The Board shall propose an annual budget for congregational approval
- The Treasurer shall provide at least quarterly financial reports
- An annual financial review shall be conducted
- Board approval is required for any expenditure exceeding \$250

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ARTICLE VII: MINISTERS

Section 1: Role and Responsibilities

Ministers provide worship leadership, pastoral care, and represent MUU in the wider community. The Senior Minister serves as a non-voting, ex officio member of the Board.

Section 2: Ministerial Recognition

MUU may recognize as a minister any individual who is:

- Enrolled in a Master of Divinity (MDiv) program and under mentorship by a UU minister in good standing, or
- Fully ordained and in good standing with the UUA.

Section 3: Hiring a Senior Minister

The Board may appoint or hire a Senior Minister. The hiring process shall include:

- A needs and budget assessment
- A multi-stage interview process, including a public service and congregational Q&A
- Approval by a two-thirds ($\frac{2}{3}$) majority of both the Board and the voting congregation

Section 4: Hiring Additional Ministers

The Senior Minister may appoint or recommend the hiring of additional ministers. These individuals should demonstrate relevant experience or education. Ministers serving specific groups should be interviewed by members of those groups when possible.

Section 5: Termination of Ministers

The Board may recommend the termination of any minister for:

- Inability to meet the congregation's spiritual needs
- Incompatibility with MUU's evolving needs or values
- Misconduct or harm to the congregation
- Loss of standing with the UUA

Termination requires:

- A review process and opportunity for resolution
- A two-thirds ($\frac{2}{3}$) vote of the Board and, where appropriate, the voting congregation
- Immediate suspension and investigation in cases involving credible allegations of serious misconduct

Section 6: Resignation

Ministers should provide advance notice of resignation whenever possible:

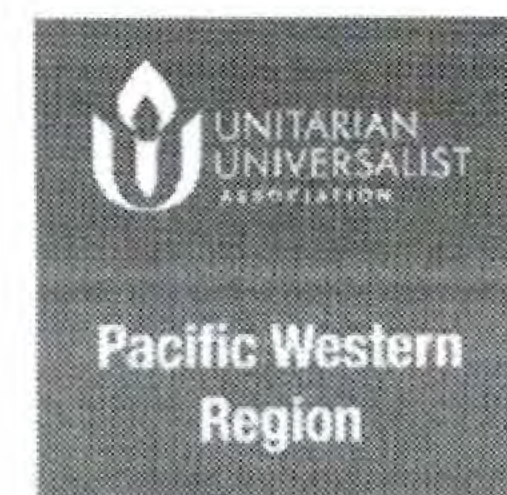
- 1 month for Senior Ministers
- 2 weeks for Support Ministers

Ministers are encouraged to assist in the transition process.

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ARTICLE VIII: AMENDMENTS

These bylaws may be amended at any annual or special meeting of the corporation by a vote of three-fourths ($\frac{3}{4}$) of the voting members present. Notice of the meeting, stating the purpose including the proposed amendment, shall be given in accordance with these bylaws.



May 14, 2025

Dear Board of Trustees of the Unitarian Universalist Association and President Sofia Betancourt,

As President of the Board of Directors of the Pacific Western Region, I have been asked to recommend Mountain Unitarian Universalists for full membership as a congregation of the Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations.

When considering this recommendation, two general criteria are important for me. First, the congregation should have the basics of a functioning religious organization. Are they conducting worship and providing other opportunities for spiritual growth? Is there a covenant to ground the organization in Unitarian Universalist values? Is there a governance process in place? Second, the congregation should be engaged with the local community. Is the congregation living its Unitarian Universalist values outside its walls, within the surrounding community?

Based on my conversations with their primary contact in the Pacific Western Region (Rev. Summer Albayati) and the Regional Lead (Rev. Sunshine Jeremiah Wolfe), both criteria are clearly met. And it has happened quite quickly. Their strong presence in their community, being a safe space for marginalized groups during these challenging times certainly had a lot to do with it.

So, it brings me joy to strongly recommend the Mountain Unitarian Universalists for full membership in the Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations.

In Service,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Keith Strohmaier".

Keith Strohmaier

Board President, Pacific Western Region



May 13, 2025

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

As Regional Lead of the Pacific Western Region of the UUA, I recommend Mountain Unitarian Universalists for full membership as a congregation of the Unitarian Universalist Association. I make this recommendation based on conversations with their current primary contact in Pacific Western Region (Summer Albayati), reviewing their records within our region, and speaking with their current pastor and Board of Trustees.

A small group of four folks from the local Methodist church decided to create a Unitarian Universalist community in their very conservative part of California. What they thought would be a multi-year process of becoming a congregation rapidly unfolded in just a few short months into a congregation of 52 adult members and 9 children. They are clear in their mission and covenant, focused on relationship building first, and embody a passion for social justice work relevant to their town and region. They have a relationship with the nearest UU congregation in Fresno and are developing relationships with PWR.

I was especially impressed by their articulation of being an intentionally inclusive community with a focus on responding to and challenging oppression- especially disability injustice, racism, homophobia, transphobia, sexism, and classism. They embody this work in their activism, the(y)ology, and as a diverse community themselves.

They have been thoughtful about taking this action to become a congregation. I know that we will benefit as a denomination from their full participation, and I look forward to building the future of Unitarian Universalism with them in the coming years.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Rev. Sunshine J. Wolfe".

Rev. Sunshine Jeremiah Wolfe

Regional Lead, Pacific Western Region



May 13, 2025

Amy Kent
Congregational Life Executive Administrator
Based in Northeast Ohio

Dear Amy,

It is a great joy for me to write this letter to recognize the Mountain Unitarian Universalists in Oakhurst, CA. In a short amount of time, they've developed a loving Unitarian Universalist community with social justice action and community care at the core of their identity. In a very conservative and easily isolating area, the foothills of the Sierra Mountains, Mountain Unitarian Universalists has gained traction, excitement and vitality. They are a group on the move and already are a blessing to their community.

Please welcome them with open arms and with all the recognition and support the UUA can provide.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Tim Kutzmark", written over the word "Sincerely,".

Rev. Tim Kutzmark

2672 E Alluvial Ave
Fresno, CA 93720
(559) 322-6146
uufresno.org