



June 2025

# **Application for Congregational Membership**

## **Unitarian Congregation of Taos**



# 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. Each affiliated congregation becomes associated with one of district or regional offices. Through these structures, 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 local 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.



# Checklist

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

Name of Congregation: Unitarian Congregation of Taos

- ☐ 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 – This will be mailed separately by certified mail to the Congregational Life address provided.
- ☐ Recommendation from the Regional Lead
- ☐ Recommendation from the District or Regional President
- ☐ Recommendation from a local UUMA chapter minister
- ☐ Covenanting Documents & Practices



# UUA Membership Application

On May 8, 2025 the Unitarian Congregation of Taos  
date name of congregation

of Taos, NM  
City, State

was organized with 30 charter members.  
number

The following are the elected officers:

President: **Emily Gillisple**

Address: [REDACTED]

Phone/email: [REDACTED]

Secretary: **Don Zablosky**

Address: [REDACTED]

Phone/email: [REDACTED]

Treasurer: **Be Scott**

Address: [REDACTED]

Phone/email: [REDACTED]



Name and Address of Meeting Place:

Bent Lodge #42 (Masonic Lodge)

124 Camino de Santiago

Taos, NM 87571

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

P.O. Box 510

Taos, NM 87571

Name and Address of Nearby Congregations and Ministers:

UU Santa Fe

107 W. Barcelona, Santa Fe, NM 87502

Rev. Gail Marriner

First Unitarian Universalist Church of Albuquerque

3701 Carlisle Blvd NE, Albuquerque, NM 87110

Rev. Angela Herrera Koren

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 \$\_\_\_\_\_, 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,



Emily Gillispie

President or Leader

Emily Gillispie GILLISPIE

Sign Full Name & Print Last Name

5/15/2025

Date

Don Zablosky

Secretary

[Signature] ZABLOSKY

Sign Full Name & Print Last Name

5/15/25

Date



# Charter Members

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

Name of Congregation: Unitarian Congregation of Taos

Name	Address
Charles Fawns	
Marsha Fawns	
Rachel Conn	
Bob Aubrecht	
Linda Aubrecht	
Shaddon Ross	
Stephanie Yoder	
Terry Yoder	
Bob Silver	
Dianne Frost	
Donna Collins	
Anne Heller	
Bea McVey	
Beverly Stough	
Anne Norvell	
Gael Minton	
Ellen Germann	
Bette Myerson	
Jim Schultz	
Nancy Schultz	
Caryle Zorumski	
Bill Zorumski	
Barbara Martinez	
Michael Martinez	
Mary Gray	



Marjorie Luckey	<div></div>
Barbara Scott	<div></div>
Linda Malm	<div></div>
Sally Savage	<div></div>
Emily Gillispie	<div></div>



# **Covenanting Document and Practices**

## **VISION, MISSION, AND COVENANT STATEMENTS**

The Vision, Mission and Covenant statements below were approved by our congregation.

### **VISION**

Our vision is that people of diverse origins, traditions, and generations join in courageous individual and collaborative quests for personal and spiritual truths, for justice and compassion for our congregation, our planet, and all life.

### **MISSION**

Our mission is to be an illuminating beacon and an active force, promoting liberal religious values and interfaith and intercultural collaboration to better our congregation, our greater Taos community, and the world beyond.

### **COVENANT**

Our covenant is to engage each other with respect, compassion, and generosity in all our endeavors.

## **HOW WE PUT OUR COVENANT STATEMENT INTO PRACTICE AT WORSHIP SERVICES**

During each worship service, the Vision, Mission, and Covenant statements are displayed on the wall behind the pulpit. Our covenant statement is read to the congregation and visitors by the lay leader as part of the Welcome portion of the order of service. It is part of how we welcome visitors, and tell the community who we are and what our values are.



New Mexico

## Secretary of State

Business Services Division

325 Don Gaspar, Suite 300 · Santa Fe, NM 87501

(800) 477-3632 · www.sos.state.nm.us

SUBMIT ORIGINAL

TYPE OR PRINT LEGIBLY

\$25 FEE

### NONPROFIT CORPORATION ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION

The undersigned, acting as incorporator(s) to form a corporation under the New Mexico Nonprofit Corporation Act, adopt the following Articles of Incorporation:

**ARTICLE ONE:** The name of the Nonprofit is:

UNITARIAN CONGREGATION OF TAOS

**ARTICLE TWO:** The period of duration is (Enter period of existence or "perpetual" if the nonprofit has no desired end date):

PERPETUAL

**ARTICLE THREE:** The purpose for which the Nonprofit is incorporated is:

We are a Church.

**ARTICLE FOUR:**

(1) The name of the initial registered agent for the Nonprofit is (The RA must be an individual or a registered entity in NM):

Bette Kay Myerson

(2) The New Mexico street address of the Nonprofit's initial registered is (Must be a physical address):

810 Dillon Lane, Taos, NM 87571

**ARTICLE FIVE:** The names and addresses of the **three** initial board of directors are (Attach a schedule if needed):

Barbara Scott, President, PO Box 2275, Taos, NM 87571

Emily Gillispie, Vice President, 940 State Road 570, Ranchos de Taos, NM 87557

Bette Myerson, Treasurer, 810 Dillon Lane, Taos, NM 87571

**ARTICLE SIX:** The name(s) and address(es) of each incorporator is (Attach a schedule if needed):

Bette Myerson, 810 Dillon Lane, Taos, NM 87571

Executed Date:

10/8/18

*Bette Kay Myerson*

BETTE Kay MYERSON

Signature of Incorporator(s)

Printed Name(s)



New Mexico

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### NONPROFIT CORPORATION STATEMENT OF ACCEPTANCE OF APPOINTMENT BY DESIGNATED INITIAL REGISTERED AGENT

Complete Box 1 if the Registered Agent is an individual.

Complete Box 2 if the Registered Agent is a Corporation or Partnership.

Only complete the applicable box.

#### Box 1-Individual as Registered Agent

I, Bette Kay Myerson

(Registered Agent's Printed Name)

hereby acknowledge that the undersigned individual accepts the appointment as Initial Registered Agent

of Unitarian Congregation of Taos

(Nonprofit's Name)

the Nonprofit Corporation which is named in the annexed Articles of Incorporation.

By

Bette Kay Myerson  
(Registered Agent's Signature)

#### Box 2-Entity as Registered Agent

I,

(Authorized Person's Printed Name)

(Authorized Person's Title)

of

(Registered Agent/Entity's Name)

hereby acknowledge that the undersigned individual accepts the appointment as Initial Registered Agent

of

(Nonprofit's Name)

the Nonprofit Corporation which is named in the annexed Articles of Incorporation.

By

(Registered Agent's Signature)



New Mexico

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### DOCUMENT DELIVERY INSTRUCTIONS

(You MUST have one Document Delivery Instruction form for **each** filing being submitted)

Entity Name on filing: UNITARIAN CONGREGATION OF TAOS

Mail to (Business or Personal Name): UNITARIAN CONGREGATION OF TAOS

Attention (if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_

Document Mailing Address: P.O. Box 510

City: Taos State: NM Zip Code: 87571

**Please check to indicate how the documents are to be delivered**

WILL PICKUP ☐

MAIL TO ADDRESS ABOVE ☒

Please complete the information below if different from above.

Contact Name: Bette Myerson Contact Phone Number: (575) 758-3376

Contact Email: bette@taosnet.com

**IF YOU HAVE SELECTED TO PICK UP YOUR DOCUMENTS, OUR OFFICE WILL CONTACT YOU WHEN YOUR DOCUMENTS ARE COMPLETED AND READY FOR PICK UP. DOCUMENTS WILL NOT BE HELD FOR MORE THAN 5 BUSINESS DAYS. IF YOU HAVE NOT PICKED THEM UP WITHIN THAT TIME FRAME, THEY WILL BE MAILED TO THE ADDRESS LISTED ABOVE. PLEASE CONTACT OUR OFFICE AT 800-477-3632 AND NOTIFY US IF YOU ARE NOT ABLE TO PICK UP WITHIN THAT TIME FRAME.**

--Thank You

**DOCUMENTS MUST BE TYPED OR PRINTED LEGIBLY**

SOS-DDI

(revised 6/18)

# **Unitarian Congregation of Taos**

## **BY-LAWS**

**Amended 02/03/2019**

**Revised 01/31/2021**

### **1. Name**

The name of this religious Congregation shall be The Unitarian Congregation of Taos.

### **2. Purpose**

The purpose of this Congregation is to organize as a religious community which has at its heart these beliefs: a commitment to accept one another and encourage each other's spiritual growth; a recognition of the inherent worth and dignity of every person; a belief in the need for justice, equity and compassion in human relations; a commitment to a free and responsible search for truth and meaning; acceptance of the right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregation; a desire to further the goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all; and a deep and abiding respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.

### **3. Congregational Affiliation with the Unitarian Universalist Association**

This Congregation shall be affiliated with the Pacific Western Region of the Unitarian Universalist Association.

### **4. Nondiscrimination Clause**

This congregation 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.

### **5. Membership**

A member is any person who is in general sympathy with the purposes, goals, and programs of the Congregation, who makes an annual pledge or contribution of record, whether financial or in-kind (defined as a gift of value, large or small to the congregation), who signs the membership book, and has remitted all or part of their current pledge, if applicable.

A Voting Member is any Member who has attained the age of sixteen (16) years and has been a Member of the Church for at least thirty (30) days. Only Voting Members may vote at congregational meetings.

A Pledging Friend is any person who is in general sympathy with the purposes, goals, and programs of the Church, and who makes a pledge or contribution of record thereto, but who chooses not to sign the membership book.

An inactive member is one who has not participated, nor contributed services or funds, during the current and two preceding church years.

## **6. Annual and/or Regular Meetings**

The Congregation will hold regular meetings at the time or times established by the Board of Trustees, provided that at least one meeting of the Congregation will be held annually during the first quarter of the calendar year. The agenda for regular meetings will be set by the President of the Congregation.

### **Quorum**

Twenty (20) percent of the membership shall constitute a quorum with respect to all congregational meetings.

### **Special Congregational Meetings**

Except as otherwise provided in these bylaws, Special Congregational Meetings shall be called by the Board whenever deemed necessary by the Board, or by written request stating the specific purposes of the Meeting, signed by at least ten percent (10%) of the Voting Members, and delivered to any member of the Board. No other business may be transacted at such a meeting.

### **Method of Notification**

The call for all Congregational Meetings shall be made by mailing a notice to all members at their last known address at least ten, and not more than sixty, days before the meeting. The notice may also be given by email. The call shall include a copy of the proposed agenda.

### **Voting**

A simple majority of those votes cast shall be sufficient to either approve or disapprove matters submitted for determination by vote, except for those votes taken relating to the election of a full-time or part-time Minister as described in these bylaws. A full-time or part-time Minister of the Church shall be selected by a 2/3's majority of those members voting in person or by absentee ballot at a Congregational meeting called for such purpose.

## **7. Governing Structure**

A congregational board shall administer and manage the business of the congregation. The Board shall consist of as many as six (6) but not fewer than four (4) members who shall be elected, as vacancies occur, by a simple majority at the annual business meeting of the membership, for a term of two (2) years. If a vacancy occurs in the middle of the year and needs to be filled before the annual meeting, the Board may vote in the new member until they are formally elected at the next annual meeting. The Board shall select who shall serve as president, vice-president, secretary, treasurer, and who shall assume other responsibilities, such as coordinating with specific committees or programs. The Board may appoint to the Board one or more persons with extensive experience, such as a past President, as ex-officio non-voting members. To serve on the board, a person must be a voting member of the congregation, as defined in Item 5.

In the absence of the president, the vice president shall serve as the presiding officer of the Board, unless the Board decides to choose a past president to serve as president.

No member may serve more than two (2) consecutive terms without being off the board for at least one (1) year. Exceptions to this policy must be approved by the Board.

The Board shall be the head administrative body of the Congregation and, on behalf of the Congregation, shall be vested with the care and administration of the real and personal property of the Congregation, and shall conduct its business affairs. It shall keep the Congregation informed of its actions.

## **8. Fiscal Matters**

The fiscal year shall end December 31<sup>st</sup>.

**Congregational Funds:** All funds and property received by or coming into the custody of the Congregation belong to and are trust funds and the property of The Unitarian Congregation of Taos, 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 of Trustees of the Congregation. The annual budget will be approved by the membership at the annual meeting.

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

## **9. Dissolution Clause**

Should the Congregation cease to function and the membership vote to disband, any assets of the Congregation shall be transferred as follows: 50% to the Pacific Western Region of the Unitarian Universalist Association for its general purposes, and 50% to the organizations supported by the Congregation as designated by the Charitable Giving Committee, with final approval of the Board, at the time of dissolution. Such transfer will be made in full compliance with whatever laws are applicable.

## **10. Indemnification**

A duly elected or appointed officer, trustee, employee, or agent of the Congregation shall not be personally liable to the Congregation or to its Members for monetary damages for breach of fiduciary duty, except for liability resulting from: (1) any breach of duty or loyalty to the Congregation or its members, or (2) acts or omissions not in good faith or which involve intentional misconduct or a knowing violation of the law. The Congregation shall indemnify any person and his/her estate and personal representative through the maintenance of appropriate legal instruments against all liability and expense incurred by reason of the person being or having been duly elected or appointed as an officer, trustee, employee, or agent of the Congregation.

## **11. Amendments**

These bylaws, so far as allowed by law, may be amended or replaced at the annual meeting or at a special congregational meeting by a majority vote of those present and voting. Notice of proposed changes shall be contained in the notice of the meeting.



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 the Unitarian Congregation of Taos 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? Is the congregation financially stable? 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.

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

In Service,

Keith Strohmaier

Board President of the Pacific Western Region

P.O. Box 567, Brighton CO 80601 | P (720) 778-6682 [uua.org/pwr](http://uua.org/pwr)



April 25, 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 strongly recommend the Unitarian Congregation of Taos in New Mexico 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 Board of Trustees.

This community opened its doors in May of 2005. As they approach their 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary, they have already engaged in the many ways we look for in congregational members of the UUA. They are in relationship with congregations in their cluster in New Mexico, have reached out to the community and are known in Taos, have engaged creatively with what church looks like in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, provide care to their members, contract a part-time minister, and have a solid financial foundation. Many members have been members in other Unitarian Universalist congregations and feel a deep commitment to our faith that includes but is not limited to their own congregation.

They have been careful and 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

# Letter of Recommendation

Rev. Summer Albayati  
Congregational Life Staff  
Pacific Western Region  
UUA  
24 Farnsworth Street, Boston, Massachusetts 02210

Dear Rev. Albayati:

I'm writing to offer my enthusiastic endorsement of the application from the Unitarian Congregation of Taos (UCOT) to become a full-fledged member congregation of the Unitarian Universalist Association.

I have been serving as part-time contract minister for UCOT for about one year. Prior to this, I served as senior minister at the First Unitarian Congregation of Oklahoma City. I am a fully fellowshiped and ordained UU minister and active member of the Mountain Desert Chapter of the UUMA.

The Unitarian Congregation of Taos will be celebrating its 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary this spring. Founded by a small group of individuals, the congregation has grown significantly (see charter members list) and has several functioning shared ministry groups, including a Caring Community team, a Charitable Giving committee, a Membership team, and a Worship committee, as well as a well-functioning Board of Directors that meets on a regular basis and has transparent administrative and leadership processes.

Every first and third Sunday of the month, the congregation offers a minister-led or (occasionally) lay-led service that is both in-person and streamed online. Members lead small group sharing circles on the second and fourth Sundays, and fifth Sundays are special services featuring guest speakers. Small committees plan and implement second, fourth, and fifth Sunday offerings.

Address

PO Box 1739  
Ranchos de Taos NM 87557  
dkalid@startmail.com  
575-495-1120

In addition to Sunday services, UCOT has a thriving congregational life program. The congregation offers a men's group, a monthly luncheon, a book group, Dinners for Six, and a monthly game night. All of these are well attended, with active participation from members and friends of the congregation.

UCOT doesn't currently have a Religious Exploration program for children and youth; however, it does offer a UU 101 adult class for new members and visitors and provides some special programming, including a Blue Christmas group, which met last December.

The congregation is also an active member of the Taos community. Its Charitable Giving committee has raised significant funds for nonprofits doing good work in our area and it has a long-standing Road Cleanup team.

Recently, the congregation has been taking significant steps to become better connected to the larger Unitarian Universalist faith community. This has included raising funds for UUA Disaster Relief, and engaging with the Article II revision process in the congregation's newsletter, discussion groups, and a dedicated Sunday morning service. A recent Sunday service was focused on the 2024 UUA Business Resolution embracing transgender, intersex, and nonbinary people. Members of the congregation are excited about the potential to serve as delegates at upcoming General Assemblies.

In short, I believe that the Unitarian Congregation of Taos is spiritually and structurally ready to become a full member of the UUA. They have my full support.

Please don't hesitate to contact me if there is any additional information I can provide.

Yours in courageous love,

*Rev. Diana K. Davies*

Rev. Dr. Diana K. Davies

Contract Minister, Unitarian Congregation of Taos