**PLUS: Professional Learning Units for Staff**

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

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**PLUS 7: Credentialing and Certification Programs**

Learn about programs leading to certification in the various professional areas. Note that the RE Credentialing and Music Leadership Certification programs are administered by the UUA, while certification programs in the areas of administration and membership are run by the professional organizations.

**Read**

“Skim” all of the information below, so you have some familiarity with all of the programs. Do a more careful read of the materials in your area of specialization.

* **UUA Religious Education Credentialing Program**
  + [RE Credentialing main webpage](http://www.uua.org/careers/re/religious-education-credentialing-program)
  + [RE Credentialing Program Plan](http://www.uua.org/sites/live-new.uua.org/files/recp_2017_plan.pdf) Introduction (pages 3 to 6)
* **UUA Music Leadership Certification Program**
  + [Music Leadership Certification main webpage](http://www.uua.org/careers/music)
  + [Music Leadership Certification Program Requirements](http://www.uua.org/careers/music/leadership-certification-program-requirements)
* **Association of UU Administrators Certification Program**
  + [AUUA Certification main webpage](http://auua.org/certification)
  + [AUUA Certification program brochure](http://auua.org/Resources/Documents/Annual%20and%20AUUA%20related%20Docs/20130503AUUABrochureCertification.pdf)
* **UU Association of Membership Professionals Certification Program**
  + [UUAMP Certification Program main webpage](http://www.uuamp.org/uuamp-certification-program/) (in development)

**For Your Journal**

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

1. Given that all of these are optional programs, what do you think motivates our religious professionals to undertake certification in their area?
2. What are some of the similarities and difference you notice among the programs? (Are there different levels that can be achieved or just one designation? Do they consist of taking courses, doing independent work, and/or something else? How do they describe their areas of focus – e.g., “competencies” or other language? What do you suppose the pros and cons are of UUA program oversight versus a program managed by the professional organization? What else?)
3. What questions come to mind as you read over these program materials, especially the program in your area of work?
4. Do you envision yourself pursuing credentialing/certification in your area? If so, why? If not, why not?

**Connect**

Option 1: Make contact with someone who has been through one of the credentialing/certification programs – in your ministry area or another. What was their experience of the program? What benefits do they feel they received? How has it helped their congregation?

Option 2: Talk to your supervisor about this PLUS unit. Share what you’ve learned about certification in your area. Have a conversation about whether the program makes sense for you (now or in the future).

Of course, you are welcome to do both Options 1 and 2. ☺

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