

UUA Recognized Communities

Pilot Program - 2015

This proposal was developed in the fall of 2014 by UUA senior leadership and the UUA Board of Trustees. Acknowledging the changing landscape of religious experience, the UUA seeks to find new ways to be in relationship with expressions of our faith that look different from traditional congregations. The UUA is creating a pilot program to offer a new “recognized communities” status, and will explore the value and potential of this designation in collaboration with local groups who are already in relationship with the UUA through other venues.



The goals of the pilot program are:

1. To provide formal recognition from the UUA.
2. To further the goal of growing our faith.
3. To foster relationship between the larger Unitarian Universalist movement and Recognized Communities.
4. To foster healthy stewardship within the Recognized Communities and the wider UUA.

Definition of Recognized Communities:

- Claim UU Principles and Sources, advance UU values
- Committed to being in covenant with the larger UU movement
- Not member congregations
- Following the patterns of our polity, communities are self-governed and freely associate with the UUA

Benefits for Recognized Communities

- Online resources for spiritual exploration especially curated for these groups
- Recognition at General Assembly on General Session stage

- Access to many UUA supports available to congregations – attendance at trainings, consulting with headquarters and field staff, opportunity to apply for programs and grants
- Participation in UUA insurance plans (health, retirement, etc.) and the UU Common Endowment
- Connection with new pathways of support for emerging groups, such as coaching and learning circles with peers
- Retain the option to ultimately become a UUA member congregation

Registration Process

To register as a recognized community, groups would provide:

- Group name
- Group description and purpose
- Contact Person (name, phone, email)
- Website
- Mailing Address
- Meeting Location
- Answer UU identity questions:
 - How do you claim UU identity and principles?
 - How do you advance UU values in the world?
 - What relationships do you have with other UU congregations, groups, organizations, etc.?
 - What are your covenanting practices or documents?

Each Recognized Community would meet with a staff member of the UUA, virtually or in person, to complete registration. Groups would also meet with UUA staff to discuss covenant and generosity and make a pledge to the UUA appropriate to their size and means (imagined to have a minimum expectation of \$100).

The Recognized Community status would be for one year and would be renewable.

For more information, contact Rev. Tandi Rogers at trogers@uua.org.

