

UUA Covenanting Communities Information & Application

Acknowledging the changing landscape of religious experience, the UUA offers new ways to be in relationship with expressions of our faith that look different from traditional congregations.

Covenanting Communities status:

1. Provides formal recognition from the UUA
2. Furthers the goal of growing our faith
3. Fosters relationship between the larger Unitarian Universalist movement and Covenanting Communities
4. Promotes healthy stewardship within the Covenanting Communities and the wider UUA



Definition of Covenanting Communities:

- Claim UU Principles and Sources, advance UU values
- Committed to being in covenant with the larger UU movement, particularly surrounding UU communities
- Following the patterns of our polity, communities are self-governed and freely associate with the UUA

Benefits for Covenanting Communities

- Online resources for spiritual exploration especially curated for these groups
- Recognition at General Assembly on General Session stage, although please note that Covenanting Communities are not voting members of the General Assembly
- 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

Application Process

To apply for Covenanting Community status groups 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?
- Letter or email of recommendation from their Congregational Life staff primary contact.
- Letter or email of recommendation from area congregations (within driving distance when existing.)



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

The Covenanting Community status would be for one year and would be renewable upon certification (annual updating of information and gathering of data, which happens in January.)

For more information, contact Carey McDonald at cmcdonald@uua.org.