

Welcome Ministries

Submitted by Hannah Hotchkiss, Welcome Ministries Coordinator

The mission of Welcome Ministries is to welcome all who enter UUAA, provide information about Unitarian Universalism and this congregation, and integrate visitors and new members into our spiritual community.

Sunday Welcome Teams, First Friday Fun Nights, and Newcomer Chalice Circles strive to uphold our third Core Value, Community, which states the following.

We create and foster community by providing an intentionally welcoming and safe environment where all feel valued and cared for, and where all are given opportunity to form meaningful connections with one another. We foster a climate of purposeful inclusion of all. We cherish the diversity of gender, age, race, ethnicity, and national origin, range of abilities, sexual orientation, gender identity, financial means, education, and political perspective. We live together in peace, search for truth in love, and help one another.

Vital Signs 2017 (January 1, 2017–December 31, 2017)

- Total active membership reported for UUA Certification 2018: 608
Previous year: 620
- New members in 2017: 45
Previous year: 24
- Visitor cards in 2017: 226
Previous year: 188
- Introduction to Our Faith Registrations: 73
Previous year: 41

Accomplishments in 2017

- Collaborated with SGD to offer a shooter training to Sunday Welcome Teams and devise new Sunday Safety procedures.
- Collaborated with Chalice Circle Facilitators to offer newcomers a shortened Chalice Circle experience focusing on the principles.
- Continued growth in participation in Friday Fun multi-generational dinners
- Increased number of participants hosting Social Hour.

Future Opportunities

- Offer more opportunities for newcomer engagement, such as expanding the newcomer Chalice Circle offerings, a follow up class to Introduction to Our Faith.
- Representing membership and offering UUAA literature in three community events, e.g., Art Fair and ICPJ event.
- Formalize newcomer and new member follow up procedures.