

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 community.

Sunday Welcome Teams, Friday Fun Nights, Social Hour, 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 2018 (January 1, 2018–December 31, 2018)

- Total membership reported for UUA Certification 2019: 632
Previous year: 608
- New members in 2018: 38
Previous year: 45
- Visitor cards in 2018: 198
Previous year: 226
- Introduction to Our Faith Attendees: 40
Previous year: 64

Accomplishments in 2019

- Collaborated with LDT to provide Welcome Training for Group Liaisons.
- Collaborated with Chalice Circle Facilitators to launch newcomers one-time Chalice Circle experience focusing on the principles.
- Continued growth in the volunteer pool and participation in Friday Fun events
- Assisting with the launch of new groups that foster opportunities for multigenerational socializing
- Outreach to former members to reengage with the congregation.

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.
- Focus on Newcomer Welcome training and expand roles.