

Welcome Ministries

Submitted by Hannah Hotchkiss, Welcome Ministries Coordinator

The mission of Welcome Ministries is to welcome all who enter UUAA, provide easy access to information about Unitarian Universalism and this congregation, and integrate visitors and new members into our community. Welcome Ministries groups strive to examine welcoming practices by collaborating with various identities groups within the congregation to expand sensitivity to and best practices in inclusion.

Vital Signs 2019 (January 1, 2019–December 31, 2019)

- Total membership reported for UUA Certification in February 2020: 643

Previous year: 632

- New members in 2019: 34

Previous year: 38

- Visitor cards in 2019: 187

Previous year: 198

- Introduction to Our Faith Attendees: 40

Previous year: 40

Accomplishments in 2019-2020

- Collaborated with Interweave to offer “Welcoming Transgender into Our Congregations” —a six-session series focusing on examining the existing culture of the congregation and how to expand inclusion using Transforming Hearts curriculum. Scheduled to work with participants to bring this curriculum to the larger congregation as an SGD offering hosted by various identity groups.
- Collaborated with Interweave to offer a discussion of *Radical Welcome* by Stephanie Spellers (an offshoot of the workshop offered above).
- Collaborated with Chalice Circle Facilitators to increase the number of offerings of one-time Newcomer Chalice Circles and to expand the program for an extended Newcomer Chalice Circle.
- During the Covid-19 Stay-at-Home Order, Welcome Ministries assisted various groups to get their ministries on-line.

Goals for 2020-2021

- Partner with other “identity group” to expand sensitivity to inclusion.
- Spearhead the development of an online offering or partial online offering of the Introduction to Our Faith class.
- Gather a Community Outreach Team to get the UUAA more known in the larger community through a coordinated and strategic plan.
- Investigate “Virtual Membership” option and what rights and responsibilities that would demand.
- Update current Constant Contact communications and assist in developing a Communications Team to strategize effective use of current modes of communication and social media, as well as investigate best practices in framing a UUAA message.