

Responsibilities of Membership

Membership is Ownership

To be a Unitarian Universalist is to believe that what you do matters the most. Love is the spirit of this church and service is its prayer.

A member's responsibility is to give service. We mean both service in the wider community and service within our fellowship.

Opportunities to serve the fellowship include volunteering when volunteers are called for – Alternative Gift Market, Rachel Carson Dinner, Goods and Services Auction in the early spring, on committees, in the choir, lay pastoral care – finding service opportunities that fit your interests, skills, and time will be your first task as a member and a continuing task.

If you decide to join, we will welcome you as new minds and hands to help us with our mission to provide an institutional home for liberal religion on the upper Cape.

A member's responsibility is to give financial support. If you join, you are joining two organizations, our congregation and the denomination, the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Falmouth and the Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations headquartered in Boston.

First, the Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations financial commitment: UUA dues, called Fair Share, are \$75 per member. The UUFF pays this amount for each member to the UUA each year. In return the congregation receives support with RE, ministry, and training lay leaders. UUA prints the hymnals and develops curriculum and programs. All members receive the UUA quarterly magazine, UU World, to keep up with other congregations and the denomination nationally.

Second, the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Falmouth financial commitment: Every year we need to receive enough money from our members – and pledging friends – to take care of this building and pay our staff and run our programs.

As a member, you will help decide what the budget for the coming year will be. This year members voted for a budget total of \$227,183. Right now, we have 223 members. If every member gave the same amount, that would be \$1,018 each.

Not every member can or wants to give that amount every year. The amounts pledged and paid vary widely from \$50 a year to \$5,000 a year. The median gift this year is just under \$1,000. This is about \$19 if paid weekly or \$83 a month if paid monthly. But you may decide to pay more or less. You will be asked each year to pledge an amount – usually the pledge drive is in March and April – and you will decide how you want to pay – weekly, monthly or lump sum.

In addition, members and friends contribute in the weekly offering and participate generously in our fundraisers. This year, for example, we need to raise \$24,000 through fundraisers to meet the budget. If you decide to join, we will welcome you as new financial supporters to help us with our mission to provide an institutional home for liberal religion on the upper Cape.

In return for what you give in service and support, the fellowship will strive to give you opportunities to deepen your spiritual life, expand your circle of friendships, grow your interpersonal and managerial skills, and build a community for yourself of like-minded, caring people.