

Membership in the Unitarian Society of Northampton and
Florence 2014-15 Membership Journey

FIVE STEPS TO MEMBERSHIP

The Unitarian Society of Northampton and Florence is a congregation of approximately 300 members. Every year, some people join us in membership and some move away, or die, or decide to leave. Even though the individual people change over time, we have been here as a congregation since 1825. We are organized under a form of governance called congregational polity, which dates back to the Puritans! Congregational polity means that the congregation, as a whole, owns the building, calls the minister, runs the programs and ministries of the Society and is responsible for making sure that it continues into the future. Our Society is a member of the Unitarian Universalist Association, an umbrella organization to which nearly all UU churches, fellowships and societies belong.

Congregational polity means that becoming a member here represents a commitment to the congregation. For most of us it is a commitment that feels right, and that deepens over time. If you have been coming to services, and participating in some of our events and programs, if the principles and purposes of Unitarian Universalism speak to you, or if you have been a member of a UU congregation elsewhere, you may be thinking about membership.

Membership in this Society is open to anyone who indicates a willingness to support it and subscribe to its purposes, who has participated in an appropriate program of orientation, and who expresses a desire to join. Members (and most friends) make annual commitments of financial support, called “pledges.” These commitments are our major source of funding, money we need in order to compensate the minister and staff, keep our building in good repair, and support our programs.

If you are considering membership in the Unitarian Society of Northampton and Florence, you are ready to take five easy steps.

Step 1: Let Cathy Lilly, our Membership Journey Coordinator, know that you are ready to begin to explore the possibility of membership in this Society.

Step 2: Cathy will give you some literature to read, a list of online videos, and other online resources to help you learn more about us and about Unitarian Universalism.

Step 3: At your own pace, you can look into these resources. Feel free to call or email any of the people listed at the end of this document if you have any questions or would like to sit down and talk to someone. We are all happy to meet with you at your convenience and looking forward to getting to know you.

Step 4: When you are ready, call Cathy and she will arrange a face-to-face meeting with herself or with Janet, at a time convenient to you. At this meeting, or shortly thereafter,

you will sign the Membership Book. If you have not yet made an annual financial commitment, you'll be asked to make a pledge for the current year, and to provide current directory information.

Step 5: Celebrate! We will announce your decision in our Sunday Times bulletin, and celebrate and welcome you and other new members at a worship service in the spring. We'll encourage you to discover other ways to deepen your connections here. And we'll invite you to a social event with other new and more seasoned members where you can get acquainted by sharing your stories about your spiritual path.

Contact information:

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