



# PATH TO MEMBERSHIP PACKET

Accotink Unitarian Universalist Church  
10125 Lakehaven Court  
Burke, Virginia 22015  
(703) 503-4579  
Web Site: [www.accotinkuu.org](http://www.accotinkuu.org)  
E-mail: [administrator@accotinkuu.org](mailto:administrator@accotinkuu.org)



# PATH TO MEMBERSHIP PACKET

Accotink Unitarian Universalist Church (AUUC) is an open and nurturing community of faith. We foster each individual's spiritual journey, and we share common values while honoring a diversity of beliefs. Together, we cherish our connection to nature, and we act to transform our world into a more embracing and just community.

This church has been the voice of liberal religion in Burke VA for 40 years, and a place where people on a variety of spiritual paths come together to learn and grow. Since its founding in 1980, numerous committed members have worked tirelessly to create what you experience at the church today: a dynamic, transforming, religious community, devoted to personal spiritual growth and to social justice in our surrounding community and beyond. No doctrinal test is required for membership.

We are a welcoming congregation and our membership process is quite simple. At the same time, by deciding to join AUUC, you are deciding to covenant with a faith community that is searching for truth, actively working for social justice and whose members seek to live in loving relationship with one another. Membership also means contributing your time, your talents, and your treasure to ensure the stability and mission of the church.

AUUC strives to be a congregation that truly welcomes all persons and commits to structuring congregational life in ways that empower and enhance everyone's participation. Members of the Congregation are in a close and mutually supportive relationship and commit themselves to maintaining AUUC as a vital and effective institution.

AUUC has about 200 members. Attending the worship service on Sunday is a very special experience. Members who are looking for community and ways to deepen their commitment to the church find actively engaging in church programs and activities a very rewarding experience. We hope such engagement will help you to feel a part of AUUC, and in turn that the folks here will welcome you to our community.

This church has many opportunities for involvement and spiritual growth: covenant groups, social justice activities, teaching or participating in a class, movie nights, and special interest groups such as Buddhist Meditation, Poetry Reading, Book Club, nUUners discussion group, and others.

We encourage new members to actively seek out groups, programs, and activities that appeal to them and get involved as soon as possible. Contact information is found on our website: [www.accotinkuu.org](http://www.accotinkuu.org). When you join the church, filling out the Gifts and Talents Survey greatly helps the Membership Development Committee put you in touch with those who can help you make the connections you seek in our church community.

The church also needs and welcomes volunteers. Volunteers support Sunday services by ushering, greeting newcomers, serving coffee, setting up chairs, and operating the sound system. Members serve on numerous church committees and on our Board of Trustees. Teachers are also needed for children or adults through our Spiritual Development programs.

## BECOMING A MEMBER

Are you thinking about becoming a Member of our church, but not sure what that means, or how to go about it?

Our Path to Membership is designed to assist newcomers (as well as long-term congregants) in deepening their connection to the church through membership. Start by thinking of membership as an ongoing journey to deeper community and deeper faith, rather than as a specific date or event. Think of it as a journey along a path....

If you are new to AUUC, we encourage you to worship with us a few times, and to explore various church activities, classes and events that appeal to you. "Connect and Volunteer" on our website is a good place to begin. Also, check out "Education" to find out about ongoing and new classes. Take some time to get to know us better!

To help you learn more about our congregation and to have your questions addressed, we hope you'll attend one of our informal "Meet the Minister and Accotink" sessions. These informative sessions are usually offered the second Sunday of each month – check the website calendar and the Order of Service for time and location. If you're new to our religion, this is a good place to begin your journey. If you are a long-time Unitarian Universalist, this is an opportunity to get to know more about this particular congregation, its history, and what it means to be a member. This is your chance to meet other newcomers and learn more about the spirituality and commitment of our community. Be sure to bring your questions! No registration is required, just drop in.

Newcomer Orientations are typically three-hour sessions and are held periodically throughout the year. During the Orientation, you will learn more in-depth history, meet other seekers like yourself, and have an opportunity to sign the Membership Book.

Although no preparatory classes are required for membership, we encourage you to follow the **Path to Membership**, particularly if the Unitarian Universalist faith is new to you.

If you have children, they may be registered at [www.accotinkuu.org](http://www.accotinkuu.org), Education, Children, Register for RE.

### Path to Membership

Get to know us. Worship with us a few times. Explore various church activities, classes and events that appeal to you.

Attend a "Meet the Minister and Accotink" session.

Come to a Newcomer Orientation, and sign the Membership Book when you feel ready.

**We look forward to welcoming you as a member of our community at AUUC.**

# Membership comes with Responsibilities and Benefits

## Responsibilities of Membership

Give of your time and talent, as you are able  
Sign the Membership Book  
Make an annual pledge or identifiable contribution

## Benefits of Membership

Free subscription to UUWorld, the magazine of the UUA  
Free use of the church for non-commercial endeavors  
Access to the minister for life events  
Pastoral Care Team support in times of need  
Eligible for internment in the Memorial Garden  
Privilege of voting in our democratic process  
Ability to serve on the Board and key leadership positions  
Spring-Mar Cooperative Preschool tuition discount ([www.Spring-mar.org](http://www.Spring-mar.org))

## Our By-Laws (Article IV) state, in part:

“AUUC strives to be a congregation that truly welcomes all persons and commits to structuring congregational life in ways that empower and enhance everyone’s participation. Members of the Congregation are in a close and mutually supportive relationship and commit themselves to maintaining AUUC as a vital and effective institution. No doctrinal test shall be required for membership.

To become or remain a member, a person, at least fifteen years old, must:

1. Agree with and be willing to support the overall purposes and mission of the Congregation; and
2. Sign the membership book; and
3. Commit to contribute time, talent and funds – commensurate with the person’s ability – toward achieving the programs and goals that the membership annually adopts in a democratic process.

Voting privileges for members shall begin 30 days after all conditions of membership are met.

Any individual who is not a member, but chooses to participate in and/or contribute to the organization, is defined as a "Friend of AUUC." “

If you are ready to become a member, please read this Pathway to Membership Packet and bring the completed **Gifts and Talents** form, and the **Part-Year Pledge** form, to the next Newcomer Orientation.

We welcome your decision to join us and hope that your relationship with AUUC will be spiritually, intellectually and emotionally rewarding.

**We look forward to welcoming you as a member!**

## MEMBERSHIP ENROLLMENT KIT

**Gifts and Talents Survey:** Let us get to know you. We ask that each individual who wants to get involved in the church, complete a Gifts and Talents Survey. Please choose the areas that particularly interest you and check them. This information becomes part of our database and can be referred to as church needs arise. The Membership Development Committee reviews your survey and passes on your information to the appropriate group or committee. This helps you connect with others with similar interests, which in turn helps you along your personal spiritual journey. This allows you to give of your time and talent, as you are able. **You do not need to be a member to get involved.**

**Pledge Form:** The Unitarian Universalist tradition is unique in that we all decide the direction of our church in a democratic process. Your time, talent, and treasure are what make our spiritual home a vital and vibrant provider of service to the local community as well as our church community. It falls on all of us to build the church community we want to have, so we learn to be our best selves, offer pastoral care for one another, and deepen our own personal spiritual journeys.

Your pledge is your financial promise to donate a certain amount of money to the church during the fiscal year. It is a statement of intent, not a legally binding obligation. Your pledge allows you to give of your funds, or treasure, and should fit your heart and your budget. Each individual and family makes its own decision on how much to give. One person described this as “Give until it feels good.”

Pledging is our largest and single most significant source of income. Our annual pledge campaign lets us know what income we can count on during the fiscal year. Your pledge provides stable financial support to help us to continue to be a welcoming house of worship, to provide nurturing support and education, and to put our values into action in the community. We ask for your generous support and to help us achieve our community’s future goals.

The pledge you make upon joining AUUC is for the remainder of the current fiscal year ending June 30. Each spring, as part of our Annual Pledge Drive, or Canvass, AUUC asks its members and friends to make a pledge of financial support for the coming calendar year. Each and every pledge plays a decisive role in our ability to work towards fulfilling our mission each year. WE really are the church.

Please pledge generously, within your means, by completing the **Part-Year Pledge Form**. Members may pledge individually, or as household or family units. **You do not need to become a member to pledge.**

Please bring the completed **Gifts and Talents** form, and **Part-Year Pledge** form to the Newcomer Orientation. There, you will be invited to sign the **Membership Book**, which is one of the church bylaw requirements for membership. If you have questions about any of the forms, there will be members at the Newcomer Orientation who can assist you. You may also return the forms to the church office.

# Gifts and Talents Survey

AUUC is a cooperative institution with many volunteers providing support to sustain our programs and services. There are many ways to connect with others, become engaged in community, and be of service at AUUC. Please check the areas that particularly interest you. This information becomes part of our database and may be referred to as church needs arise. The Membership Development Committee reviews your survey and passes on your information to the appropriate group or committee.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

## Administrative

- Provide childcare at a church event
- make phone calls; general office help
- planning and general organization

## Building and Grounds

- Lawn and Memorial Garden maintenance
- building repairs and maintenance
- purchase consumable supplies

## Communications

- Newsletter
- website
- social media
- publicity
- IT support
- database maintenance

## Denominational Affairs

- Review Statement of Conscience
- prepare proposal for study/action
- represent AUUC at Association meetings

## Fellowship Activities

- Women's Book Club
- Poetry Group
- Provide refreshments
- help with event logistics
- plan an activity (brunch, Seder, concert, Circle Supper, holiday activities)

## Gardening

Weeding, mulching, cutting spent blooms, separating perennials. Includes the area east of the building, the plantings in front of the main sign at the driveway entrance, and a small planting near the green sign at the stop sign.

## Governance and Stewardship

- Long-range planning
- building & land development
- human resources
- stewardship (fund raising)
- event planning and management

## Green Sanctuary

- Staff Fair Trade sales table
- support "green" issues/activities

Membership Development

- Mentor a new member/newcomer
- follow up with visitors
- cross-stitch name tags
- be a greeter

Music Ministry

- Sing in the choir
- play an instrument (which one/s)? \_\_\_\_\_
- plan musical components of services and events

Pastoral Care Ministry

- Provide a meal
- Provide transportation or run errands
- Perform small household tasks
- Provide respite care
- Organize memorial receptions
- Send cards to those in need

Sacred Wheel

Help plan and conduct ceremonies to celebrate the eight seasonal festivals that have traditionally been used to mark the turning of the solar year. Includes interest in Paganism, the Divine Feminine, Druid, atheist and everything in between.

Social Justice

- Outreach, political action, social action, address social concerns in the wider community

Spiritual Development for Adults

- Covenant group
- Buddhist Fellowship \_\_\_\_\_
- Teach or facilitate occasionally
- coordinate schedule of classes

Spiritual Development for Children and Youth

- Teach
- classroom assistance
- help in the nursery

Sunday Service

- Usher
- greet newcomers
- prepare coffee
- room set-up
- operate sound system
- provide flowers occasionally

Please check the areas below in which you have expertise that you would be willing to share:

- Financial
- Legal
- Fundraising/Stewardship
- Marketing
- Photography/Videography
- Website Maintenance/Design
- Social Media/Online Community Support

Anything we've missed?: \_\_\_\_\_

---



## PART-YEAR PLEDGE DONATION SUBMISSION FORM

LastName(s): \_\_\_\_\_

First Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State & Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone 1: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone 2: \_\_\_\_\_

e-Mail Address 1: \_\_\_\_\_ e-Mail Address 2: \_\_\_\_\_

**SUBMISSION DATE:** \_\_\_\_\_

### Pledge Amount

I/We wish to contribute \$\_\_\_\_\_ per month towards the stewardship of Accotink Unitarian Universalist Church during the 2019/20 Fiscal Year (July 1, 2019 – June 30, 2020) beginning on \_\_\_\_\_.  
(Date)

**Contributions to AUUC are fully tax deductible.** Thank you for your support!

**Payment Options— (circle one) Direct Deposit, Check, Cash or other arrangement**

**New Direct Deposit Pledgers— Please fill in the spaces below**

Please transfer \$\_\_\_\_\_ to AUUC, to be deducted per \_\_\_\_\_ (mo/qtr/half)

Bank Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Routing Number (first 9 digits at bottom of check): \_\_\_\_\_

Account Number (8 digits at bottom of check): \_\_\_\_\_

### OTHER PAYMENT METHODS

**Check: (attached for a one-time payment):** Make check payable to “AUUC” and note “Pledge” on memo line.

**Check payments over the year:** Mail checks to the office, or place checks in the offering plate (be sure to note “Pledge” on memo line).

**Annuity Disbursement or other Financial Product Sources:** Contact Dave Muirhead or your Pledge Team Rep.

Email your pledge form to [pledge@accotinkuu.org](mailto:pledge@accotinkuu.org) or mail your pledge form to:  
**Accotink Unitarian Universalist Church, 10125 Lakehaven Ct, Burke, VA 22015**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature 1

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature 2

## The Suggested Fair Share Contribution Guide

Adjusted Monthly Income	Approx. Adjusted Annual Income	Supporter 2-6% of Income		Sustainer 3-7% of Income		Visionary 5-9% of Income		Transformer 10% of Income	
		Suggested % of Income	Monthly Pledge	Suggested % of Income	Monthly Pledge	Suggested % of Income	Monthly Pledge	Suggested % of Income	Monthly Pledge
\$1,000	\$12,000	2%	\$20	3%	\$30	5%	\$50	10%	\$100
\$1,500	\$18,000	2%	\$30	3%	\$45	5%	\$75	10%	\$150
\$2,000	\$25,000	2%	\$40	3%	\$60	5%	\$100	10%	\$200
\$3,000	\$36,000	2%	\$60	3%	\$90	5%	\$150	10%	\$300
\$4,000	\$50,000	3%	\$120	4%	\$160	5%	\$200	10%	\$400
\$6,500	\$80,000	3%	\$195	4%	\$260	6%	\$390	10%	\$650
\$8,500	\$100,000	3%	\$255	5%	\$425	6%	\$510	10%	\$850
\$10,000	\$120,000	3%	\$300	5%	\$500	6%	\$600	10%	\$1,000
\$12,500	\$150,000	4%	\$500	5%	\$625	6%	\$750	10%	\$1,250
\$17,000	\$200,000	4%	\$680	6%	\$1,020	7%	\$1,190	10%	\$1,700
\$25,000	\$300,000	5%	\$1,250	6%	\$1,500	8%	\$2,000	10%	\$2,500
\$40,000	\$500,000	6%	\$2,400	7%	\$2,800	9%	\$3,600	10%	\$4,000

**Wherever you find the right level, revisit it periodically and reassess whether it's still the right level for you or if you are ready to move to a deeper level of support.**