

WELCOME!

The Unitarian Universalist Ocean County Congregation (UUOCC) is a religious and spiritual community where all are welcome.

We embrace diversity, affirm the self-worth and value of every person and aspire to love universally.

THE HEART OF UU BELIEFS

These are the **seven principles** that Unitarian Universalists throughout the world affirm and promote:

- The inherent worth and dignity of every person;
- Justice, equity and compassion in human relations;
- Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations;
- A free and responsible search for truth and meaning;
- The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large;
- The goal of world community with peace, liberty and justice for all;
- Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.

THE MEANING OF MEMBERSHIP

Church membership represents a deeper connection with your faith community. As a member of our church, you become a part of a growing, living congregation—one that is joined with other congregations, both here in the United States and abroad.

BENEFITS of MEMBERSHIP

Here we offer opportunities for growth, engagement and acceptance, religious exploration and the support and comfort of an open and caring community.

As a member of a Unitarian Universalist congregation, you may participate in congregational votes, shape the life and mission of the congregation through your commitments and identify with a community that challenges and encourages its people to practice their highest ideals and to be their best selves.

EXPECTATIONS of MEMBERSHIP

Your Presence

Every member is vital to the life of our congregation. Participating in the worship life of the church and joining one or more small groups will deepen your spiritual life and enrich our community.

In addition, at UUOCC we come together to uphold, encourage and care for one another. We are here to celebrate with each other during times of joy and to provide compassionate companionship during times of crisis or sorrow.

Your Generosity

Member contributions determine our operating budget. Unitarian Universalist churches are self-governing and self-sustaining. We are free to call our own ministers and develop our own mission and vision and style of worship. We are also solely responsible for supporting the life and work of our church.

We believe that we live our values through our commitments. To give to the church is to invest in an inclusive, caring community, devoted to service and searching theological inquiry. As contributing members of our congregation, you help make these ideals a living reality.

Members not only financially support UUOCC, but also give of their time and talent. Knowing that we are stronger together, we depend on your sharing your unique gifts.

Your Service

Our faith tells us we have the capacity to make the world better. Our members commit to serving our community and the world at large. We are available to help you make that commitment.

In addition, many tasks and activities of the church community are not done for you but by you. The church needs helping hands as well as heart and mind.

Your Spiritual Growth

Joining this church is a significant step in your spiritual journey. Our members commit to deepening their spiritual growth through worship, teaching, spiritual practice, education, justice work and service.

IS MEMBERSHIP FOR YOU?

Membership in UUOCC is both simple and challenging. It is simple to sign the *Membership Book*. It is simple to sign a pledge card. But both these acts challenge you.

Your signature and pledge represent your commitment to become part of a faith community that inspires and supports the search for personal growth and meaning.

To help you decide whether or not membership is right for you, we invite you to attend our ***Getting to Know UU and UUOCC*** session, which provides an overview of our faith and this congregation.

UUOCC is a **Welcoming Congregation**, committed to acceptance of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people.

Sunday services are at 10:30 am and Religious Education and childcare are available. Hospitality Hour is a time to meet and connect with each other while enjoying a cup of coffee and a bite to eat.

Please note that this is a companion brochure to "New to UUOCC" and "Connecting at UUOCC." Also check out our website at www.uuocc.org



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twitter

Joining



Embrace the Soul

Embolden the Spirit

Enrich the Community

Unitarian Universalist Ocean County Congregation

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