



Membership Policy

Approved at the May 2016 Congregational Meeting

The following membership policy is enacted under Article IV, Section 2 of the Peoples Church Bylaws approved in May 2015.

Members

Members guide our church by voting at annual and special congregational meetings, and are counted for the purpose of calculating dues paid to the Unitarian Universalist Association and other organizations.

Benefits of Membership

- Have a voice in how your monetary pledge is spent.
- Have a direct say in who leads your church.
- Participate in shaping the direction of your church as it moves forward.
- Save money on renting church facilities.
- Learn about Unitarian Universalist trends and endeavors with a subscription to UU World magazine.

Requirements to become a Member

Anyone may become a Member of Peoples Church Unitarian Universalist who:

- Is at least sixteen (16) years old.
- Is in sympathy with the principles of Unitarian Universalism and the mission of Peoples Church.
- Has met with the Minister to learn about Unitarian Universalism and the history and traditions of Peoples Church.

Process to become a Member

Individuals become Members of Peoples Church through the following process:

1. Individuals inform the Minister of their intentions.
2. The Minister submits these names to the Board of Trustees.
3. The Board confirms new Members by vote at the next business meeting.
4. New Members sign the Membership Book and are welcomed to the congregation during a Sunday service.

Expectations for Members

Members agree to contribute to the life of Peoples Church by:

- Upholding the Covenant of Right Relations.
- Participating in church activities.

- Volunteering time and talent to church events and groups.
- Attending congregational meetings in person or by proxy.
- Pledging annually a minimum of \$100.

Special Exemptions

Members who are temporarily unable to meet one or more of the ongoing commitments of membership – i.e. participation or pledging – are encouraged to contact the Minister to request an exemption for the duration of the temporary difficulty. Members are not expected to give up their voting status in such circumstances, and are expected to resume fulfilling membership requirements when able. Members and Friends in these circumstances are encouraged to remain within the church community.

Friends

Friends of Peoples Church are individuals who choose to participate in the life of the church without seeking formal confirmation by the Board of Trustees or signing the Membership Book.

Expectations for Friends

By participating in the life of Peoples Church, Friends are expected to:

- Be in sympathy with the principles of Unitarian Universalism and the mission of Peoples Church.
- Uphold the Peoples Church Covenant of Right Relations.
- Participate in church activities.
- Volunteer time and talent to Church events and groups.

Friends are welcome to attend annual and special congregational meetings, but cannot vote. Friends are also encouraged to contribute financially to the church, and to become Members.

Inactive Members

The list of Members will be reviewed annually, and individuals will be transferred to an archive of inactive members if they have not participated in church life or made contributions of record for two years. Inactive members are considered former members of the church for all practical purposes, and the church is not obligated to maintain communications with them. Members who are classified as inactive will receive a letter from the Board to inform them of the action and inviting them to return to Peoples.

Revocation of Membership

Under certain circumstances, individuals may be asked to leave the church community under the Disruptive Persons Policy. The conditions and procedures under which membership is revoked for both Members and Friends are detailed in that policy.