



PATHWAYS

for your journey at UUSS

WELCOME
to the Unitarian Universalist
Society of Sacramento

We hope this guide to our committees and activities will help you decide where your exploration of Unitarian Universalism might take you next. You'll find a list of current contact people for these groups on the insert sheet. To make it easy to find things which are of interest to you, the activities are divided into four groups.

1. We Come Together

One advantage of being in a large church is that individuals with areas of special interest can usually find enough others with the same interest to form a group. Such groups offer one way of strengthening that sense of knowing one another which is the backbone of a community.

Alliance is a lively group of members, friends and guests who meet for lunch and a program on the second Thursday of each month, September through May. Programs include lectures and presentations on a wide variety of topics. Attendees bring their own lunches, and coffee and dessert are provided. All are welcome!

Art Exhibits seeks to enhance the aesthetic experience within the church by presenting high quality exhibits of art.

Betty Nash Memorial Crafts group hand-crafts items to sell in support of the church.

Book Club meets the third Thursday of each month for a lively discussion of notable books chosen by club members. Volunteers lead the discussions.

Bridge Club features two styles of play: a Round Robin tournament that runs from September to May, and monthly or bi-monthly party bridge. Many people attend both.

Couples Club #1 meets once a month for potluck and conversation.

Film Club is a social group that provides venue for monthly discussion of current film.

Servetus Club meets monthly for a potluck supper and fellowship. Members are older people, both singles and couples; many of them have been coming since days long-past when they formed as a group of thirty-and forty-year-old singles.

Ted's Webb is a group of men and women who meet weekly to discuss politics and foreign affairs; other subjects also come up and are included. We have solved most of the problems of the US and the world, but others remain, and more seem to spring up needing our attention.

Theater One is open to those who are interested in any aspect of theater production (acting, directing, backstage) or providing input at their planning meetings. The group generally gives one or two community theater productions a year and plans one of the summer services.

2. Deepening Our Lives

Ancient tradition dictates that people who are part of a community take care of one another in many ways. They try to be open with each other, sharing their life's stories, listening carefully to what the other says. This deepening of relationships is characteristic of several of our groups.

Caring Network acts as a bridge to members and friends who are ill or hospitalized.

CUUPS (Covenant of Unitarian Universalist Pagans) offers Solstice and other seasonal celebrations throughout the year, including rituals and pot-luck meals. Our events are open to all who are curious about or involved in Paganism and Earth-centered spirituality. We are interested in the spiritual teachings of earth-centered traditions which celebrate the sacred circle of life and instruct us to live in harmony with the rhythms of nature, e.g., the seasonal cycles. CUUPS is a national organization for Unitarian Universalists whose spirituality is earth-based, including native religions of diverse places and traditions.

DayDreamer group is open to anyone interested in working with their dreams in a group setting.

Dreams as agents of change often reveal new insight about life on many levels: personal, cultural and global.

Interweave is an independent organization serving the needs of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender members and allies within the Unitarian Universalist denomination. Loosely connected to Interweave Continental, UUSS Interweave sponsors special events once or twice a year; meetings are held as the need arises.

Labyrinth: The labyrinth has been utilized for centuries as a means to support worship/meditation. The Labyrinth Education Committee will hold at least two training events per year to instruct members and friends in this practice. Several times each year services celebrating the changes of the seasons are held.

Lay Ministry volunteers from the congregation are available to act as compassionate listeners for people in the UUSS community at times when it would be helpful to talk to a non-judgmental, objective "Other". A licensed mental health professional serves as coordinator of this group, working closely with the ministers. (See separate brochure).

Memorial Reception provides light refreshments and hospitality at Memorial Services for UUSS members, friends and their families.

Men's Group is a peer group that meets twice a month. The focus of the group is to promote bonding, share concerns, feelings and experiences in a supportive environment.

Ministry Circles are small groups led by trained facilitators. Their purpose is to encourage spiritual growth and to establish close ties among participants through heartfelt sharing. Registration forms are available at the church office.

3. To be a Force for Healing in the World

Acting on our social concerns is a long-standing tradition among Unitarian Universalists. This is reflected in the number and popularity of groups here that have such a goal as their focus.

American River Parkway Stewards adopt and perform regular cleanups of one mile of the Parkway. As Parkway Stewards our members meet on the morning of the second Saturday of each month to clean up our adopted mile which is located on the UUSS side of the river between the Campus Commons Golf Course and the near border of Cal Expo.

Family Promise is a temporary shelter program designed to meet the needs of newly homeless families. UUSS hosts up to 14 guests for a week at a time on a rotating schedule.

Green Sanctuary focuses on environmental justice, sustainable living, worship and celebration, and earth education for adults and children to promote a sense of reverence, gratitude and care for our living Earth.

The Interfaith Service Bureau is a nonprofit service organization that encourages understanding and cooperation among people of all faiths in response to human needs. ISB sponsors programs that build bridges of dialogue, spirituality and community service. UUSS is a participating member of ISB; we send representatives to the monthly ISB meeting and publicize their activities for interested UUSS members.

Loaves and Fishes, a subgroup of the Social Responsibility committee, provides helping hands to prepare and serve food to homeless people. One day each month, the food prep crew meets at 7:30 and the second crew meets at 10:30 to serve lunch and clean up.

Peacemakers, as part of Social Responsibility, meets monthly to discuss Unitarian approaches to the promotion of peace and nonviolence through social activism, reading and discussions of the arts, literature and periodicals, and self-reflection.

St. John's Shelter provides food lodging and training for 100 women and children. Volunteers from UUSS provide dinner and fellowship to guests on the fourth Wednesday of each month.

Social Responsibility plays an extensive and diverse role in supporting and directing our energies to causes and activities they see as requiring change. They organize letter-writing campaigns, inform us of rallies and demonstrations, and in many other ways help us become more effective change agents than any one of us would be alone.

4. Church Works

What a wealth of talent, wisdom, creative energy, and just plain hard work goes into the nurturing of a religious community! These are the people who get things done.

Beacon Bookstore offers many publications from Beacon Press and the UUA. The Bookstore also sells used books and magazines with all profits going to the UUSS general fund. Open every Sunday!

Coffee Hospitality sets up, serves, and cleans up after our two coffee hours each Sunday

Communication Facilitation: Monthly informal Congregational Conversation meetings are scheduled on the first Sunday of the month. All UUSS members and friends and interested persons are encouraged to attend. The purpose is to raise questions, create useful discussion and strengthen social ties while addressing UUSS issues.

Endowment Trust was established to safeguard and strengthen our congregation's mission and long term vitality. Gifts from members and friends to the UUSS Endowment Trust are invested in a prudent and diversified manner. Each year a percentage of the trust's income is spent for special and nonrecurring needs of UUSS.

Finance plans and revises a budget that determines how we will spend the funds raised through pledges, rentals and fundraising. Members must approve their proposed budget.

Membership serves the congregation by welcoming visitors, helping to integrate new members and supporting activities that make all members of the congregation feel welcome and included. Whatever your interests and talents UUSS has a place for you.

Ministry Committee supports and attends to the health of the ministry at UUSS and reviews concerns about the ministry voiced by the members. The Board of Trustees and the ministers select committee members.

Music Committee members are dedicated to making music an integral part of the worship experience and creating a common ground for diverse beliefs through the universality of music: The UUSS Choir is part of the Music committee. New singers and musicians are always welcome. The Choir is led by the UUSS Music Director and sings at one service each Sunday and rehearses once a week. UUSS Harmonies is an activity group where amateur singers harmonize on hymns and folk songs just for pleasure.

Nominating Committee members are elected by the congregation. This Committee enlists candidates to fill Board of Trustees, Program Council and other leadership positions each year.

Office Volunteers help support the staff to provide a variety of services to members of the congregation as well as to the general public. Tasks vary and include: Greet and answer visitors questions and telephone calls, help prepare the weekly Order of Service and BlueSheet. Data entries and use of the copier may be asked of them. Weekday Office Volunteers for one to three hours weekly. Sunday Office Volunteers before and after Sunday services, once every four to six weeks as scheduled.

Personnel Committee members make recommendations to the Board regarding personnel policies, job descriptions, salaries and benefits for non-clergy staff.

Program Council members are elected by the congregation. Their mission is to nurture current programs and encourage new ones; and to coordinate committee efforts so members can serve the congregation more effectively. The Program Council works with the Board of Trustees to establish budgets and is responsible for program implementation within the bounds of the budget and the Long Range Plan.

Property Management members work cooperatively with the business administrator to maintain our buildings and grounds. The Grasshoppers work in teams of three to maintain the lawns, and the Water Bugs work individually to water our flowerbeds and other plantings in the dry season.

Public Forum offers monthly Sunday afternoon lecture-and-discussion programs from September through early June. Forums feature a wide variety of topics, highlighting social and political issues.

Religious Education, in collaboration with the Religious Education professional staff, offers special growth and development opportunities for children and young people. Members reflect on the purpose and direction of religious education, choose and develop curricula, and plan special events. Other volunteers contribute to activities for children and youth.

Religious Services works closely with the ministers in planning and presenting Sunday services, and arranges for guest ministers. Worship Leaders take on specific roles and duties as participants in each service.

Stewardship plans and supervises an annual campaign to fund the work of the congregation through pledges of monthly donations.

Unigram editors are responsible for communicating with members who have information of interest to the UUSS community. The editor-members alternate responsibilities for editing and lay-out of the Unigram for monthly distribution by the UUSS staff.

Website Committee maintains and updates the UUSS website. It also develops policies and procedures regarding the use and maintenance of the website. The committee is open to all UUSS members and friends regardless of technical expertise.

Welcome Team members arrive before Sunday services to help ready the Sanctuary. They may distribute hymnals, greet people as they arrive for the service, hand out Orders of Service, and help with seating as needed. They also collect the offering, answer questions of people stopping by the table. Newcomers are encouraged to join; it's a great way to get acquainted.

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Changes and corrections:
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