

The “Living” Statement of First Unitarian’s Mission, Values & Ministries

(Originally affirmed in May 2005, this statement was formed out of our “Hopes & Histories” process where the board and ministers met with small groups of our membership over a three month period. Since then, the “MVM” has been updated annually by the board after it reviews each ministry’s work. The following version was affirmed in May 2008.)

Mission:

The First Unitarian Church of Rochester inspires us to better the world and experience the sacred by challenging us to know our deepest selves, build community and see the needs of the world as our own.

(Our staff finds it useful to explain our mission in the simplified form: “We help people listen, open and serve!—listen to their deepest selves, open more trustfully to life’s gifts and serve needs greater than their own. Through these three sacred acts, we believe people experience the holy and find personal wholeness.”)

Core Values:

Our communal life is grounded in these core values:

Joy; Living and loving boldly; Justice; Pride in our faith; Community; Beauty; Diversity; and the Spirituality found in our relationships to each other and the world

Ministries:

In order to help each other connect to the sacred, our deepest selves, each other & the needs of the world, we organize our efforts into the following ministries with the following missions:

WORSHIP MINISTRY

Ministry Mission: Offer joyful worship that challenges us to live boldly, think openly and deeply, care for one another and make justice a priority

MUSIC & ARTS MINISTRY

Ministry Mission: A music and arts ministry that :

- *enhances every aspect of church life,*
- *helps members of all ages to appreciate, share and create beauty,*
- *strives for programming that is distinctively spiritual and Unitarian Universalist,*
- *inspires personal growth and social change, and*
- *attracts neighbors and members of the Greater Rochester community.*

PASTORAL CARE MINISTRY

Ministry Mission: A pastoral care ministry that engages the skills of our members as well as our ministers to support one another and help those far from our community stay connected to us

ADULT SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT MINISTRY

Ministry Mission: A rich array of small groups in which members encourage each other's personal and spiritual growth and develop a proud, easily-articulated UU identity

CHILDREN'S & YOUTH RELIGIOUS EDUCATION "CLASSES" MINISTRY

RE Ministry Mission:

A rich and visible religious education program that engages a broad cross-section of the church community in providing children and youth with a strong sense of:

- *Religious belonging (connections to peers, adults, church, and UUism)*
- *Religious understanding (gaining knowledge of UUism and other religions, exploring religious concepts such as spirituality and theology), and*
- *Religious living (putting faith into action, demonstrating personal values through relationships, developing personal spiritual practices)*

SOCIAL JUSTICE MINISTRY

Ministry Mission: Lay and ministerial acts of social justice that engage our hands, voices and money to put our liberal religious values into action locally, nationally and around the world.

MEMBERSHIP MINISTRY

Ministry Mission: A membership ministry that (1) offers newcomers a sense of welcome, connection and understanding of Unitarian Universalism, (2) helps new members understand both the responsibilities and rewards of membership, and ensures that they are fully integrated into the life of the church community, (3) supports varied fellowship opportunities for members and (4) encourages a variety of outreach initiatives focused on sharing UUism with others.

DENOMINATION AND DISTRICT AFFAIRS MINISTRY

Ministry Mission: To provide liaison between our congregation and our larger denomination, and to develop within the membership knowledge, interest and participation in our denomination on the area, district and national level.

BUILDING & GROUNDS MINISTRY

Ministry Mission:

The Building & Grounds Ministry:

- *Maintains and enhances the building & grounds as we serve the needs of the other ministries of our congregation.*
- *Protects the architectural integrity of Louis Kahn's design & vision.*
- *Strives to be environmentally sensitive and responsible.*
- *Maintains and develops a garden that supports the wider spiritual/ministry goals of our congregation and shares natural and artistic beauty with our neighboring community.*
- *Strives to make our building and grounds safe and physically accessible to all.*
- *Seeks appropriate Congregational input when prioritizing major maintenance & new projects.*
- *Strives to perform maintenance projects so that they are cost effective by reducing the annual cost of operations & maintenance.*

OFFICE ADMINISTRATION MINISTRY

Ministry Mission:

An Office Ministry that:

- *supports the ministries and ministers of the congregation by freeing them from administrative tasks and prioritizing church programming over rental opportunities;*
- *ensures the most effective, creative and ever-adapting means of communication of church programming;*
- *has authority of building usage, ensuring the most creative and mission-focused use of our space as possible;*
- *maintains accurate and usable membership records & church documents;*
- *maintains accurate and usable financial records and supports the Treasurer and Controller of the church.*

LEADERSHIP & GOVERNANCE (“BOARD”) MINISTRY

Ministry Mission: *An administrative and governance ministry that supports effective church operations by establishing clear roles for staff, the ministerial team and lay leadership; that recognizes the policy-setting responsibilities of the Board of Trustees and the implementing roles of the ministerial team, staff and committees; and, that invites constructive analysis and innovation*