

## Vision Statement

First Unitarian Universalist Church of San Antonio is a welcoming community, promoting free thought and spiritual development while searching for truth and meaning in a liberal religious environment. *(from Strategic Plan, April 19, 2001)*

## Mission of the Church

The Mission of the First Unitarian Universalist Church of San Antonio is to:

- Provide a nurturing environment for worship, religious exploration, and spirituality
- Offer religious education and opportunities for personal growth and development for all ages
- Support one another in a community of love and fellowship
- Engage in outreach and service to the wider community

Be stewards of our heritage, perpetuating this church by applying our time, talents and financial resources. *(from Strategic Plan, April 19, 2001)*

## Church Covenant

We believe that we, the First Unitarian Universalist Church of San Antonio, can and will, meet the goals of growth and community. And that we:

will carry the vision, share the burden, share the glory,  
will act with patience, understanding, and good judgment,  
will hear one another the way we would like to be heard,  
will respect and care for one another,  
will greet each stranger as the next great leader,

will celebrate together what we create -- within our church – and out in the world.  
*(adopted by First Unitarian Universalist Church of San Antonio Board, Wednesday, November 20, 2002)*

## Part I. General Information

### A. Procedures for People New to Our Congregation

#### 1. To Attend Worship Services

Worship services are held Sunday Mornings 11:00 am in the Sanctuary at First Unitarian Universalist Church. Services generally last till 12 noon or 12:15 pm.

Children stay with their parents and families during the worship service (approximately 15-20 minutes), but are welcome to leave to go the playground at the time designated in the Order of Service. Several worship services throughout the year are “Intergenerational” and geared for children attending the entire service. There is a “Wiggle Room” at the rear of the Sanctuary, for you and a restless young child, as well as a Nursery available in the Longfellow Building for infants through two years.

## **2. To Attend Other Sunday Morning Adult Programs**

**Check announcements, newsletter, and web site for current information**

### **Religious Explorations**

This continuing seminar meets every Sunday from 9:30 – 10:30 am in the Fellowship Hall. Format for the seminar is a video presentation for the first half hour, followed by discussion

### **Spiritual Seekers**

Join us in the Sanctuary classroom, to the right of the Sanctuary foyer from 9:30 – 10:30 am Sundays, mid-August to late May, for a lecture and/or discussion group on various spiritual topics of current interest to our church community.

### **Parenting Support**

This group meets to discuss the needs for raising children to find support and encouragement, especially if extended family is not close-by. The group utilizes UU Principles and other sources for dealing with children. Check the announcements, newsletter, and web site for meeting dates and location.

## **3. To Enroll Children in Religious Education**

Parents/Guardians are asked to register children after the third participation in classes. Parents/Guardians need not be a church member to register for our Religious Education (RE) program, but as part of registration, all parents are asked to fill out an RE volunteer sign-up sheet to let us know in what way you will be participating in our Co-operative Church School.

Forms can be found in each of the classrooms and on the patio next to the RE bulletin board. We ask that several forms be completed: a Family Registration Form, an individual All About Me/All About My Child sheet, and Emergency Information Cards. Please make sure we are aware of any custody, medical or educational issues. On the back of the family registration form, you will find Behavior Guidelines to review and endorse upon registration.

It is important for our children to learn self-respect and to learn to respect the rights of others. Forms can be returned by giving them to the teachers, placing them in the “completed forms” holders in the Jefferson Building or on the patio, or putting them in the Director of Religious Education’s (DRE’s) mailbox in the church office.

## **4. To Join First Unitarian Universalist Church of San Antonio**

Becoming a member entails several steps:

1. Fill out a membership application (found at the greeters' table on Sunday mornings, in the brochure rack on the patio, or available from the church office) and turn it in to a greeter or to the church office.
2. Call the church office (210-344-4695) to arrange a meeting with the Minister or an officer of the church to talk about privileges and responsibilities of membership.
3. Attend an orientation course covering history of Unitarian Universalism and the culture of this church. (Applicants that have recently been a member of another UU church or have attended a Coming of Age class may have fulfilled this requirement.)
4. Review the annual budget of the church and make a responsible pledge to its support.

To vote at a Congregational Meeting, a member must have completed the above requirements at least sixty (60) days prior to the meeting and must have made a responsible contribution of financial support to the church within the preceding twelve months.

## **5. Your Responsibilities as a Member**

Under the bylaws adopted in December 2002 by the congregation, prospective members are asked to meet with the minister and to attend an orientation class. We are, a self-governed, self-financed, autonomous organization. Our activities are conducted by volunteer contributions of our members and with the help of our minister and staff. We need the skills and leadership of all members in order to exist. We need your participation in our social and educational events, as well as our Sunday services. Some may choose not to actively participate at any one time, but we hope all will attend when needed.

The bylaws state a new member must make a "responsible" pledge of financial support for the following year. That is not the same amount for everyone. The Unitarian Universalist Association recommends 3% of your gross annual income as a reasonable figure for the average wage earner. They recommend a higher percentage for those fortunate enough to have higher incomes. The church pays dues to our national, regional and local organizations for every member on our rolls, even though a member may not participate in any way in church membership. We have no outside source of income.

There are no expectations that any member of this church will have any particular spirituality, belief, national origin, sexual orientation, marital status, race, gender, education or any other qualities. We expect all Unitarian Universalists to have tolerance and respect for others, though you may disagree with them.

*"Love is the doctrine of this church, the quest for truth is its sacrament, and service is our prayer. To dwell together in peace, to seek knowledge in freedom, to serve others in the community, to the end that all souls shall grow into harmony with creation." Thus do we covenant with each other.*

Finally, a responsibility of every member is to tell us when you need us. The events and trials of life are not always kind. Almost everyone has times when help is needed. We are a community. We will be there for you, as you will be there for us.

## **6. To Make a Pledge**

Yearly financial pledges are made in September/October of each year during the annual Stewardship Drive. The Church's operating condition and staff salaries are dependent on the pledges and budget for the year. Individuals completing the new member process will make a financial pledge at that time.

## **7. To Pay Your Pledge**

Pledges can be made and paid weekly, monthly, quarterly, semi-annually or annually. Payments can be made with a check in the offering basket during the worship service, through automated pre-authorized bank debit payments, or by credit card. Cash is accepted and should be placed in the labeled envelopes available in the pew holders or church foyer so our pledge and bookkeeping records are current. Automated pre-authorized bank debit payments and credit card payments are made through may be set up with the Office Administrator.