

Membership Policy (Supplement to the Membership Bylaw) last updated April 25, 2017

From the Bylaw: The Champlain Valley Unitarian Universalist Society (CVUUS) values both its members and friends, but recognizes that membership entails a special relationship that carries additional rights, benefits and responsibilities. CVUUS members are people who wish to be actively involved in the life of the Society. Such involvement typically includes some or all of the following: attendance at Sunday services, attendance and voting at congregational meetings, participation in other events and activities, and annual financial support of the Society.

We recognize that people will participate in the life of the Society in different ways and establishing objective criteria for this involvement is impossible.

The benefits of membership include

- ***Belonging to a community that will nourish you on your individual spiritual journey.***
- ***Being in community with individuals who support and care about you and your family.***
- ***Voting at Annual Meetings where you can elect our leaders, help decide matters that may affect the direction ~~that of~~ CVUUS and/or the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) ~~takes~~, and determine budgets based on what is important in our congregational life.***
- ***Holding elected office within CVUUS. (board of Trustees and nominating committee)***
- ***Voting to call (or dismiss) a minister.***
- ***Representing CVUUS as a delegate at Regional and National UUA gatherings to decide ~~ing~~ important denominational direction and programming issues.***
- ***Participating in UUA and New England Region UUA events from conferences to webinars.***

Members

From the Bylaw: A member is a person 14 years of age or older who is familiar with and supports the purposes of the Society, who attends as able, who devotes his/her/their time, skills and abilities as able, and who makes a financial contribution of record annually, unless waived. Membership is open to all such persons regardless of race, color, gender identification, affectional or sexual orientation, socioeconomic circumstance, or national origin. A person officially becomes eligible for the benefits and responsibilities of covenanting with this congregation when they sign the membership book.

- ***Membership is open to all persons who meet these membership criteria, regardless of race, color, socioeconomic circumstance, gender identification, affectional or sexual orientation, or national origin.***

- *Youth who have completed the Coming of Age Program or its equivalent will be deemed to have met the requirement for familiarity with the Society and the Denomination.*
- *In unusual circumstances, membership may be recommended for individuals who do not meet the membership criteria listed above. The Board will either accept or deny such a recommendation.*

Resignation and Removal or Denial of Membership

- *On an annual basis, the minister and the Membership Committee will review the current membership and friends list and identify who has not been attending. Over a period of at least two years, a best effort to contact each individual and/or family unit shall be made to determine what, if anything, we might do to re-engage them into the life of the CVUUS congregation. If best efforts to reach the member is not successful, a letter will be sent to the last address on file. Any formal change in membership status will be communicated by letter.*
- *A person who believes they have been improperly denied membership, or (if removal from membership has in error) been removed from membership without appropriate reason, may appeal to the body that has been established for dealing with right relations in the congregation, or, if no such body exists, to the Board.*