

Membership



Walk The Path  of Peace With




Creating Peace, One Person at a Time.

THE VALUE OF BELONGING

Three Milestones

- *Active Membership*
- *Intentional Membership*
- *Centering Membership*



Walk The Path  of Peace With
Us

This Book Belongs to:





Walk The Path of Peace With Us

Vision Statement

"Together, we are a thriving spiritual community for all beings and all generations where the transforming Spirit of God expresses through us as love, wholeness, awareness, peace and oneness."



Our goal at Unity Center Of Peace is to offer individuals different avenues toward a deeper spiritual connection, that will enrich our lives and allow us to grow in spiritual awareness. We believe that in doing so we create peace in our everyday lives and that this benefits our families and our communities both locally and globally.

Church membership is one way we can walk together, learn together, and support one another in our journeys of spiritual awakening. It is one response to our own inner call for a deeper spiritual connection and meaning in our lives.

Just as any journey is sequential, there are three milestones which mark distinct aspects of membership: **Active Membership, Intentional Membership, and Centering Membership**. Each one is a valid and valued part of the life of this community.

Think of this membership program in terms of a living labyrinth. Each part of the labyrinth is connected to all of the others and none can exist independently.

All of us are at different places on the journey at different times as we move about according to our personal response to spirit. Rather than an end in itself, we see membership as a dynamic process of learning together.

Active Membership

The labyrinth takes form and is shaped by all of those who join to form the circle. Showing up in a world of so many distractions is an action step for peace and spirit.



Joining the circle is an action step for Peace.

Your attendance, whenever you choose, helps to create a spiritual community where God's love, wisdom, and truth can flourish and deepen. You are a blessing and deeply valued. — We consider you an "Active Member" of Unity Center Of Peace. Showing up counts!



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Intentional Membership

Intentional members are those who feel called to enter into a deeper experience of spirit and community. This may show up as curiosity about spirituality, its practical use in our lives and a willingness to be open to learning and growing in spirit. Intentional members enter the labyrinth encircled and supported by a community of Unity friends. If you have a sense of connection with this community and feel in your heart, “Yes I belong here and I am willing to see what is here for me,” we invite you to join with us in Intentional Membership.

1. Sign the card indicating you are interested in becoming an Intentional Member.
2. Attend a basic Unity Class. (approx 3-4 hours)

This Class includes a brief history of Unity as well as a history of this Unity Church. There is an interactive discussion of basic Unity principles. You will view and discuss a video on Peacemaking by Reverend Gary Simmons, participate in a time of fellowship at a community potluck, and attend a welcoming celebration at Sunday Service.

Centering Membership

“Be the Peace you wish to see in the World.” The goal in this journey is to move toward a more centering place, a place of greater peace in our lives. Centering Membership supports you on a path of immersion in spiritual teachings and practice to assist in the realization of this goal. Those who complete this program will have traveled a journey of transformation in a supportive, caring community.

We envision that the profound personal and spiritual changes experienced along the way will prove to be a blessing of peace, love, and healing for you and will radiate out as a blessing for all beings.

While all members have a meaningful voice in all issues affecting the life of the community, Centering Members comprise the voting-base for major decision making. Centering Members may participate in official church leadership by running for a position on the Board of Trustees, if they choose, with opportunities that will allow them to learn, grow, and deepen connection to Spirit even more. Trustees will have completed the Thriving Ministry Model curriculum from the International Association of Unity Churches.

A journey like this takes time. There may be stops along the way as you explore and discover new territory. Classes will be offered throughout each calendar year. We estimate completion of the Centering Membership journey to take a year or more, depending on the pace you choose.





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Path to Centering Membership

1. Completion of Intentional Membership class and orientation.
2. Attend a 10-week course on Peacemaking based on *"The I of the Storm"* by Gary Simmons, including lessons in *Non-Violent Communication –NVC (also known as Compassionate Communication)*
3. Attend a *Unity Prayer and Meditation* class.
4. Participate in a class on *"Lessons in Truth"* by Emily Cady or *"Discover the Power Within"* by Eric Butterworth.
5. Complete two electives chosen from a selection of classes offered through our community.
6. Reflect on your commitment to Unity Center Of Peace and to acts of service in your local and global communities.
7. Centering Membership also includes your commitment to continuing your spiritual growth and understanding in whatever way you are called. This may include at least one Unity class each year or attending at least one seminar, workshop, or retreat each year for the purpose of enriching your spiritual life.

8. 4-T class or equivalent.
9. Upon completion of the classes, attend a one-day Centering Membership orientation.
10. You will then be invited to participate in a recognition ceremony at a Sunday worship service.

If you have special needs or considerations please talk to our minister or anyone on the board about how we may assist you in achieving your membership goals.

This program differs from some of the more traditional church membership programs that might be familiar to you. We recognize that we all have differing needs and calls and that each person's path is unique and sacred. Therefore, we offer several options so that you may choose what best suits you.



"Be the Peace you want to see in the world."



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Frequently Asked Questions

Q: What is Church Membership?

A: An action that honors and recognizes our relationship with each other and to the community we create together. A personal statement that lets us know that you find this work we do together personally meaningful. A demonstration of willingness to participate in creating a spiritual community in whatever way works best for you.

Q: If I become a church member, are there requirements for me to participate in any particular way?

A: No, participation is always voluntary. Unity Center Of Peace is comprised primarily of volunteers. When people find value in our community, very often they take an interest in the life of the church and participate in ways they are called to share their gifts that supports the Vision of Unity Center of Peace.

Q: Is there a requirement to tithe?

A: No, tithing is a spiritual decision and a spiritual practice. It comes from the heart and is not based on any perception of demand.

Q: What are some ways that I might participate?

A: The most meaningful participation you can make is to actively and consciously commit to continuing your own spiritual growth in whatever way works best for you.

Your prayers for the highest and best for our community are always highly valued. This commitment contributes to creating a healthy community that remains centered in Spirit.

On the practical side, there are endless ways to participate, and we encourage you to be creative. You decide what is right for you. Just a few examples might be attending classes, pitching in with service set-up or break down, supporting service projects, or sharing any of your talents, skills, and abilities.

Q: Do I need to be a member to attend Unity Center Of Peace?

A: No, when you attend services you qualify as an "Active Member."



INER SHOTS



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Q: Why might I choose Membership? What's in it for me?

A: Your attendance is an important contribution and you need not do anything more. We also believe that church membership is one way we can find deeper meaning in our lives. When we make a conscious decision to create and grow spiritually together, to hold and support one another, and to participate in a vision for future generations, it creates the spiritual legacy for others that come after us.

Q: Must I believe in the 5 Unity principles to be a member?

A: No, the 5 principles are not rituals or dogma. The principles reflect general themes for spiritual reflection in which we seek to explore and understand together. You are encouraged to explore your beliefs on a personal level, and we do not tell you what you should believe.

Q: What is the Unity Center Of Peace Vision Statement?

A: This statement reflects some of the primary goals and values of Unity Center Of Peace. Every Unity Church differs somewhat, and our vision statement most clearly states our uniqueness. It can be helpful to think of the vision statement as a guide to discern if you feel in alignment or comfortable with our values as you consider membership.

Q: Why are there three Membership options?

A: We offer three options because we feel church membership is not a “one-size-fits-all” decision. We believe that by offering several options we allow people to move more consciously into the process rather than just fulfilling the requirements of basic membership classes.

Q: Is there a hierarchy in regards to Centering Membership? Might I feel less valued if I remain at the Active or Intentional Membership level?

A: The invitation is open to everyone. It is a personal decision and every congregant is valued in our community.

Q: How is Intentional Membership different from Centering Membership?

A: Intentional Membership is the aspect of membership in which we personally determine our interest in spiritual growth. It affirms that the path of Spirit holds value for us, and we are willing to learn more about this in the context of community. Centering Membership evolves over time. It is a culmination of what we learn together through classes and discussions and through our own spiritual practice. It is our intention that our future church leaders be well established in Unity principles, spiritual studies, and practice. This course of preparation is designed to achieve these goals.



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Q: Is there a requirement to become a Centering Member before I start participating or can I think about that as I go along?

A: You make that decision when you are ready. It is even possible that once you have fulfilled all of the requirements for Centering Membership you might choose not to become a Centering Member. That is perfectly fine too.

Q: Do I vote on important church decisions and policies if I am not a Centering Member?

A: Your voice in decision making is important and your contributions are valued. Everyone has a voice however official votes are cast by Centering Members.

Q: Why do only Centering Members have a vote?

A: Voters create our policies and therefore must be very well informed. The time and process of becoming a Centering Member inherently leads to a greater knowledge of the Unity Principles, the value of spiritual community, and the goals of this particular church.

Q: Will I be required to become a church leader if I become a Centering Member?

A: No, you will not be obligated to become a church leader. You will, however, be eligible, for nomination and election to the Board, if you choose to participate in that way.

Q: Is my membership at Unity Center Of Peace in any way binding or exclusive?

A: Your Unity Center Of Peace Membership lasts only as long as it is meaningful for you and does not conflict with your membership in any other spiritual affiliation. Think inclusive, not exclusive.

Q: I have been a member of another Unity Church. Are classes transferable to become a Centering Member at Unity Center Of Peace?

A: Many of the Unity membership classes are transferable. We do ask that you continue to participate in classes and events that are unique to our community. We believe that learning together allows the important relationship work of community to develop in a deep and meaningful way.



Each person's path is unique and sacred.



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My Journey



Active Mem-

ber

- I show up whenever I feel called.

Intentional Member

- Date _____ I choose to become an Intentional Member.
- Sign the Intentional Membership card and give to anyone on the leadership team or drop it into the offering basket.
- Date _____ Attend the Intentional Member class/orientation.

Centering Member

- Date _____ Completion of Intentional Member requirements.

Attend Classes: (Note: *All classes are open to everyone at Unity Center Of Peace, not only those interested in Centering Membership.*)

Core Classes:

Date: _____ Peacemaking based on "The I of the Storm" and including Non-Violent Communication (NVC)/ Compassionate Communication

Date: _____ Unity Prayer Class

Date: _____ Meditation Class

Date: _____ "Lessons in Truth" or "Discover the Power Within"

Date: _____ "4-T" or equivalent

Date: _____ Your Personal Spiritual Reflection, Membership Reflection, Acts of Service locally/globally

Two electives from our many community offerings:

Date: _____ Course _____

Date: _____ Course _____

Notes





"Cherishing Community, Celebrating Diversity, Unity in the Heart of Spirit"

Reverend Tony Roebuck

Senior Minister

206-940-2231

info@unitycenterofpeace.org