

Welcome Ministries

Submitted by Hannah Hotchkiss, Welcome Ministries Coordinator

The mission of Welcome Ministries and Sunday Welcome Teams is to warmly welcome all who enter UUAA, provide information about Unitarian Universalism and this Congregation, and integrate visitors and new members into our spiritual community.

Welcome Ministries and Welcome Teams strive to uphold our third Core Value, Community, which states the following.

We create and foster community by providing an intentionally welcoming and safe environment where all feel valued and cared for, and where all are given opportunity to form meaningful connections with one another. We foster a climate of purposeful inclusion of all. We cherish the diversity of gender, age, race, ethnicity, and national origin, range of abilities, sexual orientation, gender identity, financial means, education, and political perspective. We live together in peace, search for truth in love, and help one another.

Welcome Ministries oversees the coordination and training of the Sunday Welcome Teams, which include greeters, ushers, Involvement Table staff, newcomer welcomers, and the Sunday Social Hour Team. In 2015, 80 committed welcome team volunteers contributed their warmth and hospitality to provide a positive, welcoming experience for our Congregants.

Welcome Ministries strives to reach out to new members and visitors to help them find connection at UUAA.

Vital Signs 2015 (January 1, 2015 – December 31, 2015)

- Total active membership reported for UUA Certification: 629
- New members in 2015: 35
- Visitor cards in 2015: 202
- Introduction to Our Faith Registrations: 62

Accomplishments in 2015

- Collaborated with Leadership Development Team and Social Justice Council in presenting *Make a Difference* workshops and Involvement Sundays
- Conducted Sunday Welcome Team Workshop with emphasis on accessibility

Future Opportunities

- Update and expand Sunday Welcome Team Training to reflect the expansion of roles
- Continue to explore paths to expand awareness of UUAA in the wider community
- Launch the Community Culture Team to enhance opportunities for connection