

Connections Committee Annual Report

The Connections Committee welcomes visitors to the meetinghouse, fosters visitor and membership engagement, provides for the coordination and support of the Care team and Communications Committee and assists with coordination and training of ushers, greeters, and hospitality team(s) The committee monitors the membership in order to reach out to those who may have become disconnected, support those in need, and to foster ongoing connections.

We have been able to do the following things in 2025

- Plan, advertise and provide the Introduction to UU class quarterly, including membership requirements. **Thank you Dee and Evan**
- Schedule membership book signings following the classes and provide Dedication of New members twice annually during the worship service **Thank you Rev. Mandy, Dee and Evan**
- Follow-up with visitors and inquiries about the church **Thank you everyone on the committee**
- Encourage input by visitors of their contact information into Church Center **Thank you Chris, greeters and Worship associates**
- Provide name badges and assistance to visitors for use of Church Center - **Thank you Shirley and Theo**
- Help new members become familiar with committees and opportunities for full integration into congregational activities **Thank you Chris and Nastassia**
- Provide new member list to Congregational Administrator for the UUA **Thank you Lauren**
- With the use of Church Center, new situations have arisen that require new solutions. Members of the congregation are automatically given access to the member directory. But friends and non members must request access related to a need for the congregation. That is decided by the connections committee on a case by case basis.
- One of our goals was to make sure no one “fell through the cracks”, so we are checking on those that have not checked in over the last 4 weeks. Our committee members connect with those newer friends and visitors and refer long time members to the Care Team for a check-in to make sure everyone is OK.
- Our committee members also provided input to the BOT with the Stewardship committee chair about those members who may not have continued to fulfill their membership requirements.

There are many ways that we maintain connections with each other through this congregation and its work. The in-house groups that are integral to these connections are:

Communications (digital and otherwise) - led by Chris Tennant and Nastassia Snaden, who continue to work hard to keep us connected in the digital world while continuing to communicate in more familiar ways

Care Team - led by Dee Koehl and Patty Davis, who are working to make it easier to follow-up with care requests and provide what our members and friends need.

Hospitality Teams - led by Stevie Scheurich, who is trying to make sure we have a nice coffee hour to connect with each other. **Thank you to the Terri and Danny Swim** for doing this for so long

Greeters - Led by Shirley Glade, who tirelessly make everyone who enters our door feel welcome

Ushers - led by Ed Powers, who help if whatever way is asked to make the Sunday service go more smoothly

We wish to thank each of these members for their dedication and service to our congregation.

Annual Goals and Objectives for 2026

1. Encourage and assist recording of all involvement by member, friend, or other in church activities including; taking attendance at all church groups and check-ins at Sunday service. We will use the data to reach out to those who may have become disconnected, support those in need, and to foster ongoing connections.
2. New workflows will be designed to follow up with visitors in thoughtful, intentional ways, creating space for meaningful and personalized connection.
3. New visitor information will be completed and made available regularly so that visitors will feel more comfortable with our community.