

# CONGREGATIONAL CONNECTIONS

OLYMPIA UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION



*We are a liberal religious community that opens minds, fills hearts, and transforms lives.*

- *Mission Statement*

FIND YOURSELF A GROUP THAT WOULD:  
OPEN YOUR MIND,  
FILL YOUR HEART,  
TRANSFORM LIVES...



## SPIRITUAL PRACTICE PAGE 2

Groups and activities based on shared spiritual practice.

## LEARNING PAGE 3

Groups that come together for educational purposes.

## SERVICE PAGES 4-6

Groups that come together to serve the congregation or community.

## SOCIAL PAGE 6

Groups based on shared social experience such as dining together, retreat groups, women's groups, men's groups and age-based groups

## COMMITTEES PAGE 7

Committees enact OUUC's Mission and Ends and have a budget allocation.

## LEADERSHIP PAGE 8

OUUC Board, Leadership Development Team and groups made up of leaders of other groups.

## SPIRITUAL PRACTICE

### CAREGIVERS

We welcome OUUC people who see themselves as caregivers, usually for a family member. We meet monthly. Contact [Rev. Carol McKinley, Affiliated Minister](#).

### CHOIR

New members need not audition and the ability to read music is helpful but not required. The Choir practices Wednesday evenings at 7 pm with Music Director Troy Fisher. [Contact Troy Fisher, Music Director](#).

### COVENANT CIRCLES

Each month Covenant Circles meet to engage in the spiritual practice of reflection and discussion, with questions that explore the theme of the month. Members who sign up are making a commitment to their group, which means making every effort possible to have good attendance and participation and to be in covenant with one another. The Circle meets in private homes (address will be messaged to participants). [Contact Sara Lewis, Director of Lifespan Religious Education](#).

### OUUC MEDITATION

The purpose of our meeting is to strengthen our practice at home. The facilitator will begin with a brief reading and lead the community into a 20-minute silent meditation. After the period of meditation there will be time for sharing. We'll meet in the Sanctuary 1st and 3rd Monday of the month from 6:30 to 7:30 pm. [Contact Anatha Attar](#).

### SOUL MATTERS DISCUSSION CIRCLE

Soul Matters Discussion Circle meets monthly at OUUC to discuss and reflect upon each month's Soul Matters theme. Everyone welcome – people are welcome to attend as many of the monthly Circle discussions as they like. When? 2nd Sunday of each month, 12:30 – 2:00 pm (bring your own lunch). Soul Matters packets containing reflections, questions, spiritual exercises, and links to additional resources are sent via email each month and are available in the Commons. [Contact Sara Lewis, Director of Lifespan Religious Education](#).

### YOUNG SINGERS

This children's choir is open to all young singers, and rehearses most Saturdays 12-1 pm at OUUC with Music Director Troy Fisher. Come join them and add your voice to the choir. [Contact Troy Fisher, Music Director](#).

## LEARNING

### ADULT EDUCATION TEACHERS

Become one of the people who teach these short classes. The Adult Education Program of OUUC seeks to foster life-long learning and spiritual growth through classes, workshops and events that expand and deepen understanding of Unitarian Universalism; facilitate the search for truth and meaning in all spheres of human knowledge; explore other spiritualities, religions and philosophies; enhance appreciation of the arts; promote social and earth justice; provide opportunities for learning new skills; and encourage sharing ideas and experiences among the participants. [Contact Ann Rockway.](#)

### LEARNING RIGHT RELATIONS

Join the continuing search for appropriate expressions of right relationships with the original people of the Salish Sea. During three 3-hour monthly gatherings the class will meet with members of the Nisqually, Puyallup and Squaxin Island Tribes to come to know the path of right relations and to nurture the growing interest of non-tribal people in becoming involved with the Tribes in useful ways. [Contact Douglas Tiller Mackey.](#)

### MEANINGFUL MOVIES

Meaningful Movies Olympia is a member of the Meaningful Movies Network in Washington State. We operate in coalition with interested groups and persons who believe that community grows stronger and engagement becomes more effective when we come together for education, discussion, and collaboration around social justice and environmental challenges.

Meaningful Movies Olympia shows free social and environmental justice films and fosters discussions every 3rd Thursday of the month at the Olympia Unitarian Universalist Church from 6:30-9:00.. [Contact Linden Bentley.](#)

### CHILDREN'S AND YOUTH RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CLASSES.

[Contact Sara Lewis, Director of Lifespan Religious Education.](#)

- NURSERY
- SPIRIT PLAY – PRESCHOOL-KINDERGARTEN
- LABYRINTH LEARNING – K-5<sup>TH</sup> GRADE
- MIDDLE SCHOOL GROUP
- HIGH SCHOOL GROUP

### COMING OF AGE PROGRAM

A year-long program for 8<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> graders. [Contact Sara Lewis, Director of Lifespan Religious Education.](#)

### CHILDREN'S AND YOUTH RE PROGRAM PARENTS AND FAMILIES

Watch for discussion circles and special events. [Contact Sara Lewis, Director of Lifespan Religious Education.](#)

## SERVICE

### ADOPT A PLOT

Volunteers who have adopted a section of the church grounds for care and weeding. An initiative of the Buildings and Grounds Committee. [Contact Rob Radford.](#)

### ANNUAL AUCTION

Each year our members and friends auction off over 100 events, services, and special items to our community. Become one of the over 50 people whose work builds community through creating this event and through the many dinners and events that unfold as a result. This event raises funds for our congregation's annual budget. Contact [Kelly or Mary Ann Thompson.](#)

### AUDIO VISUAL TEAM

Provides lighting, sound, video assistance and audio recordings for Sunday services and special services. [Contact Riley McLaughlin.](#)

### BOOKS, BROWNIES AND BEANS

An annual used book sale held in February for the larger community. We sell books, brownies, and coffee to raise funds for area groups working to serve the homeless. Over 100 volunteers work together to make this event possible. [Contact Harmon Eaton.](#)

### CARING FRIENDS LISTSERVE

OUUC Caring Friends is an opt-in group which enables us to let one another know when we need help with practical things like transportation, doing errands, having meals delivered, etc. Caring Friends facilitates member/friend-to-member/friend support during life transitions and times of illness or stress. It is also an opportunity for each of us to respond to a request for help when we can. Each of us has the opportunity take care of those in our congregation.

[Contact Cheryl Hanks.](#)

### CHILDREN'S RELIGIOUS EDUCATION VOLUNTEERS

Volunteer in the program. Be a trusted adult in a learning relationship with one of our age groups: preschool, or elementary. [Contact Sara Lewis, Director of Lifespan Religious Education.](#)

### COMING OF AGE MENTORS

Volunteer as a mentor for one of our 8<sup>th</sup> or 9<sup>th</sup> grade youth as they progress through the year-long Coming of Age program. [Contact Sara Lewis, Director of Lifespan Religious Education.](#)

### COMMUNITY KITCHEN

Cook and serve a meal for those in need at Community Kitchen, downtown Olympia. OUUC's happy crew serves dinner the 3rd Friday of each month and whenever there is a 5th Friday of a month. [Contact Karmel Sheilds.](#)

### EZINE "THE COMMONS"/WRITERS

Create periodic Ezine "The Commons, topics vary. [Contact Linda Crabtree.](#)

### HOSPITALITY TEAMS

Provide that warm welcome to OUUC each Sunday morning. Welcome people at the door, help visitors feel welcome in a new place, help people find a place in the Sanctuary, collect the offering. Each team serves one Sunday each month at the 9:15 am or 11 am service. [Contact Jack Jackson or Jennifer Sabel.](#)

### IMMIGRATION

OUUC members and friends provide support for persons held at or being released from the Federal Northwest Immigration Detention Center in Tacoma. In collaboration with other community organizations. [Contact Frances Tanaka.](#)

## SERVICE

### INTERFAITH WORKS EMERGENCY OVERNIGHT SHELTER

To advance the social inclusion and empowerment of our neighbors experiencing homelessness through innovative practices of sheltering, mental health and emergency basic needs coordination. Each month, OUUC members and friends assist at the Shelter greeting guests and/or bringing a meal. [Contact Jo Ann Young](#).

### IT TEAM

Maintain IT systems, help solve problems as they occur, and consult on IT purchases. [Contact Barry Zickuhr](#).

### JUSTICE NOT JAILS

Advocates for reform to the criminal justice system. To learn more, add your name to this group email list. [Contact Steve Tilley](#).

### MEMORIAL SERVICES TEAM

Coordinates volunteers to assist with tasks related to an OUUC memorial service for members and pledging friends. [Contact Melanie Ransom](#).

### PASTORAL CARE TEAM

Lay ministry team that offers direct spiritual care and support to members and friends along with the Minister. [Contact Bruce Bergquist](#).

### SANCTUARY ART DISPLAYS

Coordinates and installs art from our congregational members and friends on a rotating basis. [Contact Sandra Worthington](#).

### SEWING MINISTRY

Focuses on creating warm quilts and other sewing projects for those in need. [Contact Karen Jackson](#).

### SHARE THE PLATE

This group meets in early fall to choose the 6 groups OUUC will receive half of the Sunday offering throughout the year. To help, nominate community groups that could Share the Plate. To help, watch the Weekly Update announcing when the Share the Plate group meets to make its selections. [Contact Erik Felch](#).

### STANDING UP TO RACISM

Addresses racism through education and activism and works with community organizations, including The Black Alliance of Thurston County, Full Circle United, Standing Up to Racial Justice (SURJ), and Unity in the Community. [Contact Rev. Carol McKinley, Associated Minister](#).

### SUNDAY FLOWERS

You may donate floral decorations for Sunday worship in remembrance of someone or of a special day. [Contact Ken and Ann Yeo](#).

### SUNDAY MORNING COFFEE TEAMS

These lovely folks provide that hot cup of coffee following Sunday services - giving us that time to connect with one another over a cup of coffee. Teams serve once a month at one service: prepare sustainably grown coffee and clean up our chinaware afterward. A great opportunity for introverts to say hello to folks on Sunday mornings! [Contact Julie Rosmond](#).

### UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST SERVICE COMMITTEE (UUSC)

Guest at Your Table raises money to fund the justice work carried out around the world in partnership with local justice organizations. UUSC advances human rights through grassroots collaboration. Contact [faithinactionministry@ouuc.org](mailto:faithinactionministry@ouuc.org).

## SERVICE

### WEBSITE TEAM

Manage the OUUC website. [Contact Darlene Sarkela, Administrator.](#)

### YOUTH RE PROGRAM VOLUNTEERS AND MENTORS

Volunteer in the program. Be a trusted adult in a learning relationship with one of our age groups: middle school group or high school group. [Contact Sara Lewis, Director of Lifespan Religious Education.](#)

## SOCIAL

### LADY UNITARIAN SOCIAL HOUR

UU women gather for community, and drinks or hors d'oeuvres from 4:30 to 6ish pm on Tuesdays at establishments around Olympia. Arrive when you can - women come and go over the time, see who is there when you arrive. Locations listed in OUUC's weekly email newsletter sent each Wednesday: OUUC Weekly Update. [Contact Susan Bakke or MELizabeth Maatta.](#)

### MIGHTY UNITARIAN GUYS

(MUGs)Meets every Thursday at 10 am for coffee and friendly discussion. Locations listed in OUUC's weekly email newsletter sent each Wednesday: OUUC Weekly Update. [Contact Jim Lengenfelder.](#)

### UU MULTI-CHURCH RETREAT

Annual Spring retreat includes UUs from 7 area congregations at Seabeck Conference Center: over 90 acres with housing, meeting areas, dining hall, woods, a lagoon, beach access on Hood Canal, the Cathedral in the Woods, trails, and more. [Contact Karen Jackson.](#)

### OUUC WOMEN'S BOOK GROUP

A book group that's dedicated to growing and nurturing friendships as well as discussing literature that relates to our spiritual and ethical lives. [Contact Ann Yeo.](#)

### POWERFUL UNITARIAN GALS (PUGS)

This Informal women's group meets every Wednesday at 10:30 am to noon for friendly conversation. We meet in the Youth Room of OUUC. Bring your own refreshments. [Contact Pat Sonnenstahl.](#)

### SMALL GROUP DINNERS

Get to know one another in a quieter setting than Commons coffee hour. The Small Group Dinners (SGD) program works with a roster of six people. Each month, six different people will be scheduled to dine together. A participant could expect to host a meal at their home once every 3 to 4 months. If a host has room for more than 6 people, the host is encouraged to invite more people from the Substitute list to complete their table. Add your name to the substitute list anytime at the OUUC website: <http://ouuc.org/small-group-dinners>.

### THANK GOODNESS IT'S FRIDAY ON THURSDAY

Guys get together each Thursday afternoon for refreshments and conversation. Locations listed in OUUC's weekly email newsletter sent each Wednesday: OUUC Weekly Update. [Contact Bernie Brady.](#)

### YOUNG ADULT GROUP

Young Adult Group enables young adults age 18-35 to connect with each other by social activities, community service, and discussions of what it means to be a Unitarian Universalist and our spiritual lives. [Contact Ryan Baye.](#)

## COMMITTEES

### ADDICTION AND RECOVERY MINISTRY

Promotes awareness of addiction and provides effective and compassionate action and service. [Contact Terrence Artz.](#)

### ADULT EDUCATION COMMITTEE

The Adult Education Program of OUUC seeks to foster life-long learning and spiritual growth through classes, workshops and events that expand and deepen understanding of Unitarian Universalism; facilitate the search for truth and meaning in all spheres of human knowledge; explore other spiritualities, religions and philosophies; enhance appreciation of the arts; promote social and earth justice; provide opportunities for learning new skills; and encourage sharing ideas and experiences among the participants. [Contact Ann Rockway.](#)

### THE BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS COMMITTEE

Maintains the OUUC buildings, parking lots, and landscaping. We have short term and ongoing opportunities for handy people of all abilities, from adopting a small landscaping plot to making minor repairs to managing major upgrade projects. [Contact Jerald Dodson.](#)

### ENDOWMENT COMMITTEE

A sustained flow of income to OUUC from the profits of invested gifts to support programs identified by the congregation. [Contact Gail Gosney.](#)

### FAMILY MINISTRY COMMITTEE

Our Vision: Our congregation be like a large, extended family: a welcoming and fun community for people of all ages and all family structures, and that people have many opportunities to easily meet others and build relationships. Mission: To create low-barrier, intentionally multigenerational opportunities for fun and connection. Offer a variety of activities: opportunities to get to know one another, service projects, fun parties or events. [Contact Tiffany Felch.](#)

### FINANCE COMMITTEE

Monitors OUUC's income and expenses throughout the fiscal year and assists the Minister and the Board with the preparation of the Annual Budget. [Contact Mary Welsh.](#)

### GREEN SANCTUARY COMMITTEE

Advises and educates OUUC to make good environmental choices and coordinates with other community groups. Advocates for sound environmental policy with national, state, and local governments. [Contact Leslie Romer.](#)

### MEMBERSHIP TEAM

Welcome new members to our congregation and help everyone find ways they can connect and contribute to our congregation and fulfill our congregation's mission. [Contact Mark Gray.](#)

### MUSIC COMMITTEE

To inspire and move us with music. Contact [Bobbe Murray.](#)

### PARTNER CHURCH COMMITTEE

OUUC has a Partner Church in the village of Kissolymos in Romania. This group works with that church and the UUA Partner Church organization to build relationships between OUUC and the Kissolymos congregation. [Contact Jo Ann Young, Mikel Young, or Elizabeth Mooney.](#)

### STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

Works to encourage conversations about abundance and how we give to our congregation. Conducts the annual pledge drive. Encourages other donations. Welcomes members who can serve as stewards to facilitate pledges and answer questions. [Contact Chris Parke or Jeff Goltz.](#)

### WORSHIP ARTS COMMITTEE

Facilitates the weekly worship services, providing our minister with logistical and ritual support. In the absence of our minister, supports guest ministers and provides lay-led services. [Contact Neil Marsh.](#)

## LEADERSHIP

### BOARD OF TRUSTEES

A nine-member group elected by the congregation. Sets policies to ensure the Executive's decisions match the long-term vision and mission of the congregation.

[Contact Linda Selsor](#), Board Chair.

### COMMITTEES

Committees are also leaders in our congregation. The Board or its delegee may authorize certain standing and temporary committees to perform designated functions to further the purposes of the Congregation. By joining one of the Committees listed on page 7, you become another one of this congregation's leaders.

### LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT TEAM

As described in OUUC's bylaws, the members of the committee are elected by the congregation. The team compiles the list of candidates for the Board of Trustees and the Leadership Development team. The congregation's vote takes place at the spring Annual Meeting. The team also develops an annual leadership training plan. [Contact Melanie Ransom](#).

## LEADERSHIP AT OLYMPIA UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION

More information available at OUUC's website: <http://ouuc.org/who-we-are/governance/>

### THE CONGREGATION

The Olympia Unitarian Universalist Congregation operates under the principles of congregational polity. This means we are independent, self-supporting and governed by our own members. Responsibilities of Membership: A member shall accept responsibility for the well-being of the OUUC community through contributions of time, energy, and financial resources. B. Members shall not represent themselves as speaking on behalf of the Congregation unless authorized in accordance with Board of Trustees (Board) policy.

### THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

According to our bylaws, the Board of Trustees functions on behalf of, and is at all times subject to the will of the membership. It governs using a Policy Governance model, meaning the Board is visionary, with its primary roles being 1) the articulation of the differences the congregation wants to make in the world and for whom and 2) assuring that those differences are accomplished. Besides the articulation of the Ends, the Board's other functions include linking with the congregation, writing and revising board policies necessary to help the organization achieve its Ends, delegating the management and operations of the organization to an individual or team, and monitoring the work toward accomplishing the Ends.

### THE EXECUTIVE

At OUUC, the Minister is designated by the Board to be the Executive or operational leader of the church. The Accountable Persons Team, who reports to the Executive, is both responsible for and has the authority to ensure that the resources and programs within their purview are directed to assuring the congregation's health and meeting its Ends. The Accountable Persons Team's members each lead one of the congregation's Five Ministries: OUUC's Spiritual Life Ministry, Faith Development Ministry, Community Life Ministry, Faith in Action Ministry, and Resource Ministry. Most church committees fall within the purview of one of the five ministries.