

Laity and Clergy Together

Unitarian Universalist lay community ministers and ordained community ministers both serve our religious movement and dedicate themselves to its service in the wider community and within congregations. Ordination recognizes a rigorous breadth and depth of ministerial competencies not expected of lay ministers, who themselves have a range of preparation, education, credentialing and specialization.

Both may serve in a variety of roles, depending on their gifts and expertise, and the needs of the communities they serve. Both feel that their work constitutes a participation in the shared ministry of this faith, understanding ministry as serving and connecting with what is meaningful in life.

Unitarian Universalist theologian James Luther Adams emphasized “the priesthood and prophethood of all believers.” Our history is filled with lay and ordained people of faith who committed their lives to healing the broken, creating justice, and living in harmony with the spirit of life.

UUSCM empowers lay ministers and clergy to work together in mutually beneficial relationships. UUSCM offers formation processes, inspirational resources, and accountability structures, supporting and enriching all of our community ministries.

A UUSCM goal is to recognize **TWO** or more Community Ministries **IN EVERY ONE** UU Congregation

Commissioning. UUSCM has developed and deployed a Commissioning process that supports our lay members who want to have a covenant with a UU congregation who supports their community ministry. See our Commissioning Brochure or our website for details.

Credentialing. UUSCM Credentialing is under study. The goal is to support members gaining professional recognition such as becoming Board Certified by the Association of Professional Chaplains. In this example, UUSCM’s role would be to provide an additional path for our member to gain denominational endorsement. Currently, the only path to denominational endorsement is becoming clergy in fellowship with the UUA.

You Can Find Us Online at

uuscm.org

or on Facebook:
facebook.com/

UUSocietyforCommunityMinistries/



About UUSCM

Unitarian Universalist
Society for
Community Ministries



Beyond the Walls
of Our Congregations

We are a Professional Society of Clergy and Lay Ministers, Friends and Partners.

UUSCM provides education, peer support, best practices, partnerships, accountability and a code of professional practice.

“Service is our prayer”

Who Benefits from Your Participation in UUSCM?

The Community that you serve

As you strengthen your ministry you make more of a difference in the community that you serve.

Your Congregation

Through your ministry, your congregation will be able to extend its ministry and presence in the world. Your ministry may also directly serve members of your congregation.

Your Colleagues

Through your participation in UUSCM, the impact of your colleagues in ministry will be strengthened, extended and supported.

You

You will gain support, collegiality, and encouragement to further develop your ministry. In addition to making more of a difference in the world, you can expect to find new meaning and depth in your Unitarian Universalist faith.



Tell Me More about Membership in UUSCM

To join UUSCM Apply at uuscm.org. You will be asked to describe your discernment of your ministry, agree to the UUSCM Code of Professional Practice, and supply references.

Once accepted, you can access the benefits of our professional association:

Collegial Relationships with lay and clergy members of UUSCM, including gatherings at GA, at RAs, at local chapter meetings, and online.

UUSCM Resources: e-mail chat list, UUSCM Facebook Group, resources on the members only section of the UUSCM Website, including podcasts, member directory, live and recorded webinars, sample ceremonies, covenants and agreements.

Good Officer Support. You will be accountable with your peers in upholding the UUSCM Code of Professional Practice in maintaining good right relationships with colleagues and organizations.

How can I learn more?

Contact us at

uuscmministry@gmail.com

What Kinds of Ministries Are Included?

Any ministry that is reaching beyond the walls of the congregation.

Any ministry that is serving the community in the congregation.

What is Your Ministry?

What are you doing that ministers to some part of the world?

Where is the world hurting?

What special gifts do you bring?

What are you called and inspired to be doing?

Your ministry is included!

