

NEWS FROM THE MISSION PLANNING TEAM

Since January, the Fellowship has been actively engaged in a series of meaningful conversations to examine the fundamental elements of our congregational life in preparation for the creation of a new Mission Statement. Each segment of this journey has been designed to provide opportunities for wide participation, open communication, and thoughtful reflection by the entire Fellowship through a variety of experiences including Worship Services, Congregational meetings, focus groups, cluster group meetings, and other small group gatherings. Each step in the process is building consensus around clarifying:

- Who we are as an organization
- Why we exist (our purpose)
- What we seek to accomplish as an organization (our Mission)

This journey began in January with identifying the **CORE VALUES** to which the Congregation is fully committed. In February and early March we moved deeper into discussing our **BEDROCK BELIEFS** - what is most important to us at our center, the essential beliefs that we turn to in times of uncertainty and crisis. On March 15th, the Congregation came together to review the results of the discussions that had taken place over the previous weeks and came to consensus on a set of Bedrock Beliefs that were the most resonant for the Congregation.

1. We believe in the power of community, love, and compassion.
2. We believe healthy relationships give us life.
3. We believe in the interconnectedness of all existence.
4. We recognize the multitude of ways in which the sacred or divine is manifested within each of us, in the majesty of our natural world, and the beauty of art and music.
5. We believe gratitude and appreciation of life nourishes and strengthens us.
6. We believe in a democratic process and believe every voice should be heard and respected.
7. We believe in standing up for justice and equity in society.
8. We believe in the rights of individuals to seek truth through reason and conscience.
9. We believe change and challenges are inevitable. We are resilient and capable of handling life's challenges. Positive change takes effort, commitment, adaptability, and time.
10. We believe that everyone's unique contributions are valuable, impactful, and make a difference.
11. We recognize we all get to live one day at a time.



The third segment of this journey, **MOTIVATING VISION**, begins March 29th with the Sunday Worship Service during which Pastor Tom will introduce the visioning process and encourage us to consider the question *"What is it about my experience of Unitarian Universalism that this community cannot live without?"*

Following that morning's Worship Service, we'll do some covenanting around visioning, learn and discuss relevant spiritual practices, and get into the details of the Listening Prayer Triads in which you'll be invited to take part.

Throughout the month of April, a variety of opportunities will be offered to further explore these concepts, including a Focus Group in mid-April that will be scheduled via ZOOM at various times from Saturday, April 18th through Friday, April 24th. You can sign up for a Focus Group via [Sign-Up Genius](#). If you have any questions or difficulty with sign-up, please contact the Mission Planning Team at missionplanning@evergreenuu.org for assistance.

THE MISSION PLANNING TEAM thanks all of the members of the Congregation who have participated in this process to date and are grateful for your interest, enthusiasm, and honest communication. We understand that this has been an investment of your time and energy, even though the journey at times may seem to be lengthy and the path one of challenges and new perspectives. We believe that the overall outcome in June will be truly representative of the Congregation today and the commitment to our shared values, beliefs, and vision clearer and much stronger because of your engagement in the process. It continues to be a privilege to share these experiences with all of you. Please contact any of us with questions or concerns. We welcome your input and your participation.

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PASTORAL ASSOCIATES ARE AVAILABLE BY PHONE OR E-MAIL, OR THEY CAN SET UP A ZOOM VISIT WITH YOU. CONTACT THEM AT PASTORALASSOCIATES@EVERGREENUU.ORG

**CONGREGATIONAL CONVERSATION
MARCH 29TH
ONLINE VIA ZOOM**

After the worship service, please join us for some covenanting and a workshop on some spiritual practices related to visioning.