

Path to Eliot Chapel Membership

We are delighted that your spiritual journey has led you to explore Eliot Unitarian Chapel. Whether you have joined us for Sunday worship or have children enrolled in our vibrant religious education program, we hope you are getting a sense of how Eliot can touch hearts, expand minds and change lives.

We invite you to consider taking the next step on your journey of exploration – to become a member of Eliot. Our **Path to Membership** is designed to facilitate your deeper understanding of our faith, provide you with an opportunity to know more about Eliot, and offer you a way to make a tangible commitment to this community and your own spiritual transformation.

What does it mean to be a member of Eliot Unitarian Chapel?

When you join Eliot, you are not just joining a church; **you are joining the people of the church.** This kind of membership is a covenant, that is, you are making a sacred promise to walk together. A familiar form of covenant is the marriage vow—two people promise to walk together for better or for worse. To join Eliot Unitarian Chapel is to make this sort of promise, not to only one person, but to the hundreds who gather here. As a member of the congregation, you will have the privilege and responsibility of:

- voting at annual and special congregational meetings
- electing the members of the Board of Trustees
- serving on the teams and task forces that do the ministry of Eliot

What are the expectations of membership?

While our spiritual paths are unique, to build a healthy community of faith requires a level of commitment. Eliot members are urged to:

- Worship regularly with the congregation
- Join in the work and play of the congregation
- Participate in an Eliot covenant group for deeper spiritual growth
- Make a financial commitment
- Care for and support others in our community
- Perform service to the wider community
- Connect with our larger faith movement



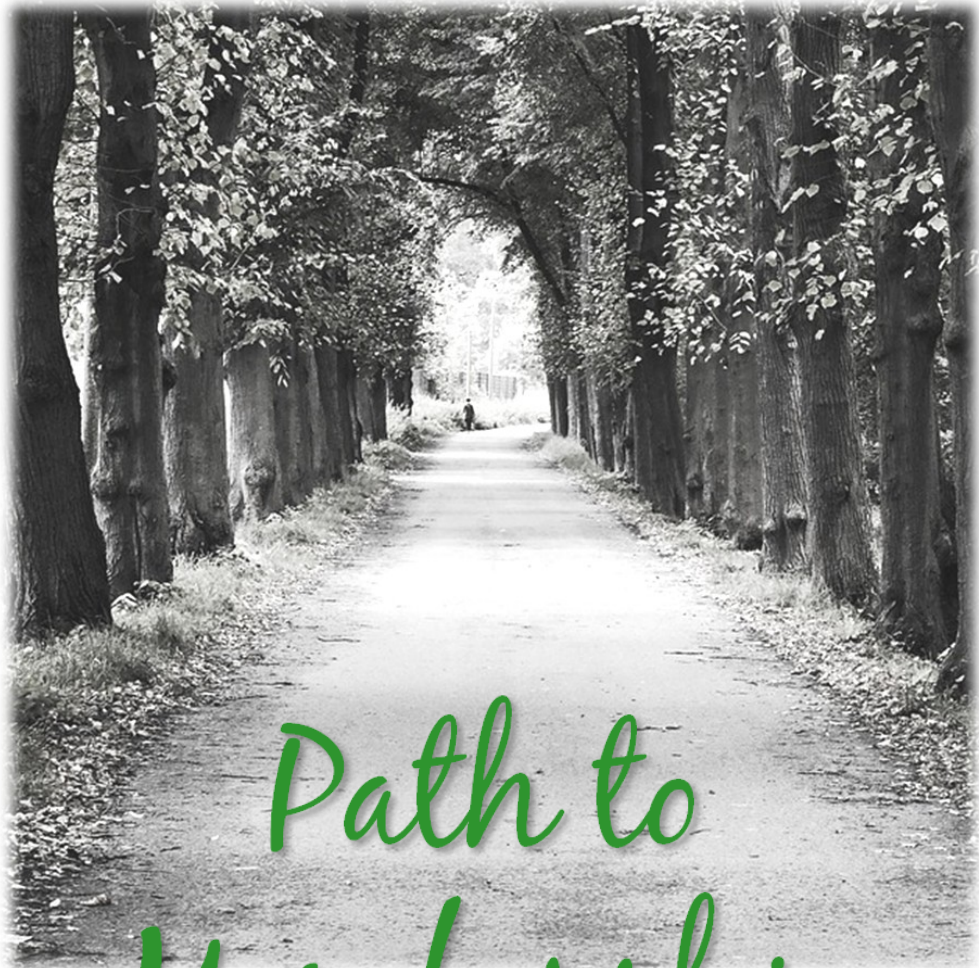
What are the steps in becoming an Eliot member?

1. **Attend the Introduction to Our Faith class or meet with one of our ministers or the Membership Team Lead.** The intro class is highly recommended. It will provide you with an overview of the rich and remarkable history of Unitarian Universalism, introduce the values that characterize our faith, and familiarize you with the history, mission, and activities of Eliot Unitarian Chapel. If you are unable to attend the introductory class, please complete the form on the opposite side of this brochure, and contact the Eliot church office at 314-821-0911 or frontoffice@eliotchapel.org to arrange a brief get-acquainted visit with one of our ministers or the Membership Team Lead. Your answers to the questions will help you determine if you are ready for membership.
2. **Make a financial pledge.** Members make an annual pledge of financial support to the church as a spiritual discipline. We ask members to consider giving 5% of their income. If that is not possible for you, start where you can and work up. What you give is an individual choice and should be a

generous pledge for you. Your pledge can always be adjusted if your financial circumstances change. Pledge cards are available from the church office or online at www.eliotchapel.org/giving.

3. **Sign our membership book.** After completing the steps above, you are ready to complete the path to membership by signing the membership book, either upon completion of the Introduction to Our Faith class or by arrangement with our ministers or the Membership Team Lead. You will be invited to participate in a brief welcome ceremony during a Sunday service. At its next meeting after you sign the book, the Board of Trustees will formalize your membership. **Your new ministry has begun!**





Path to Membership



Eliot Chapel Membership Questionnaire

Please consider the following questions to help you decide if you are ready for membership:

Identity

Do I consider myself a Unitarian Universalist? What tells me that I am? Would I tell my family and friends that I'm a UU?

Spiritual Path and Beliefs

Am I committed to working on my spiritual path at Eliot Chapel through study and practice?

Service

Am I ready to offer my time and talent to promote Eliot's mission? Am I willing to learn about what is needed and to help at the level of my ability?

Community

Do I understand that being part of a community means to care for others and to allow them to care for me? How will I be proactive in making those connections? Do I understand the commitment to our covenant, and am I willing to support it?

Financial Support

Do I understand that Eliot Chapel is self-supporting and that I have an obligation as a member to assist the congregation in meeting its commitments? Am I prepared to make a commitment in the form of a financial pledge?

If you can affirmatively answer the questions on the back of this brochure, please fill in the blanks below, cut this form off, and turn in the completed form to the church office, so we can contact you about signing the membership book.

Name: _____

Preferred phone: _____

Email address: _____

