



# PARTICIPATION OPPORTUNITIES

AT

## THE FIRST UNITARIAN CHURCH OF DALLAS



*Groups available to you*

*How to make contact with each group*

*What the group is doing*



Presented

by

The Program Management Team (PMT)

**Building a Participating Community**



## GROUPS AND ACTIVITIES

**ADULT CO-ED SOFTBALL TEAM** – The adult co-ed softball team is a great place for fellowship, fun and to meet members of the church. All levels of skill are welcome. Even if you have never played before or have not played in years, you are invited to join. This is a co-ed, non-competitive, slow pitch softball, “D” league, that plays in spring, summer and fall.

Contact: Sara Kovich—214-352-3776 or skovich@provisionsconsulting.com

**ARCHIVES** – Cares for the church’s historical records.

Contact: Loyse Whisman—214-520-7862

**AUDIO VISUAL** – Volunteers who staff the A/V booth during the worship service to provide sound for the service (and special events), record the service on tapes and CDs available for sale, and provide the recording of the sermon to the website.

**BOOK NOOK** – Sells books and other items to our church members for their spiritual and other interests.

Contact: Deena Monsees—Day: 214-528-3990, Evening: 972-612-2154 or Monsees1@yahoo.com

**CARING COMMUNITY** – A network of care teams, which are set up to meet certain needs within the church congregation. One team prepares meals for people, one makes phone calls or visits people who are sick, in the hospital, or in crisis, and one team sends out cards to people to let them know we are thinking about them on various occasions. Next will be a new cell phone care team to respond to pastoral emergency phone calls when the church office is closed.

Contact: Susie Carter - 214-902-9225 or susie@carter.net

**COMMUNITY SERVICE COMMITTEE** – Identifies, promotes and coordinates community service opportunities including: Adopt-A-Shoreline, Habitat for Humanity, Holiday Gift Drives, Blood Drive, Partners in Education and many more. Volunteer recruitment and identification of new service opportunities are always ongoing.

Contact: Christiane Baud—Evening: 214-358-5029 or dwhcmb@sbcglobal.net or Sue Spalding—Evening: 214-902-8593 or sspald@parknet.pmh.org

**COUPLES GROUP** – Meets monthly for socializing and an informal dinner, generally hosted by one of the couples. There are around twenty five couples currently on the roster. No fees or commitments are necessary except if your home is large enough to be a host. The Couples Group is diversified, interesting and relaxed. A great way to meet other church couples.

Contact: Patricia and Frits Andeweg—214-361-4744 or patricia@earthlink.net

**FLUTE CIRCLE** – Players of Native American flutes meet monthly for information-sharing, snacks, and jam sessions in the Parish House and the church courtyard. Anyone interested in playing the Native American flute is invited to join regardless of playing ability.

Contact: Suzy Hogue—Day: 972-238-6019 or shh863@dccd.edu

**GOURMET GROUP** – Members of the Gourmet Group enjoy gourmet-style dinners in member homes with 21 different couples during the year. “Couples” may be married, partners or two friends. The group has been active in the church since the 1970s.

Contact: Dolores and Jeffrey English—972-840-0090 or engassoc.flash.net

**GROUNDS COMMITTEE** – Coordinates a “spruce-up” of the church grounds one Saturday in the spring and one in the fall. If you like a time-limited commitment in the best weather of either of those seasons, this is the group for you!

Contact: Church office—214-528-3990

**INTERN COMMITTEE** – Helps coordinate the annual search for a ministerial intern to continue his/her educational process in this teaching church. The committee works closely with the intern over the course of the year he/she is here to support all aspects of his/her work here. The committee also helps prepare interns for their meeting with the Ministerial Fellowship committee and assists them in their search for their own church.

Contact: Charles Bangert—972-644-7341 or plannedperform@aol.com

**JAZZ COMBO** – Jazz enthusiasts who play a "jazz" instrument are invited to join this high-voltage music group. Open to musicians 16 and older, this group performs for receptions, parties, and worship services.

Contact: Stephen Potter—Day: 214-464-5193

**JOURNEY TOWARD WHOLENESS (JTW)** – Dedicated to expressing the wholeness of all human beings in our church and community. JTW looks for ways to reach out to groups of wide diversity and involve them in our church and to promote the development of an attitude and spirit that is inclusive of all people.

Contact: Bill Maxwell—Day: 214-274-6322, Evening: 214-319-9199 or

billmaxwell@sbcglobal.net or

Mary Lou Hoffman—972-231-3816 or MLHoffman3@aol.com

**LESBIAN/GAY UU GROUP (LGUU)** – This group sponsors a monthly pot luck for all L/G/B/T people in our church and family, friends and supporters of L/G/B/T issues.

Contact: Charles McMullen—Day: 214-528-3990 Ext. 116, Evening 214-941-2740 or cmcmullen@dallasuu.org

**MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE** – Welcomes/greets/assists visitors, guides prospective members through the membership process and integrates existing members (new and current) into the community of the church.

Contact: Jorie Blackwell—972-713-8242 or jblackwell@pobox.com

**MEN’S FELLOWSHIP—30’s-40’s** – Shooting pool, playing Frisbee golf, or just getting together to talk over dinner; the Men’s 30’s-40’s group is a social group encouraging men at First Church to get to know each other a little better. Social events and other opportunities occur every one – two months and are usually organized by different group members who take the lead in planning the outing. If you are interested in good times and good conversations, please join us!

Contact: Fred Lines—Evening: 972-881-0081

**MEN'S FELLOWSHIP—OVER 50's MEN'S GROUP** – This men's group meets twice a month (brown bag lunches) for discussion and fellowship.

Contact: Guy Cage—972-416-1050 or [guy\\_cage@verizon.net](mailto:guy_cage@verizon.net) or Frank Smith

**MEN'S WISDOM CIRCLES** – Wisdom Circles provide a safe environment for men to share experiences and feelings related to men's issues. Each of the three Wisdom Circles currently meeting has six to 10 members and meets on two evenings per month.

Contact: Guy Cage—972-416-1050 or [guy\\_cage@verizon.net](mailto:guy_cage@verizon.net)

**OUTDOOR ADVENTURES** – Organizes outings throughout the year that provide opportunity for new, prospective and long-time UU's, families, and friends together in a relaxed atmosphere while enjoying the outdoors. These outings include day trips and overnight stays.

Contact: Deena Monsees—Day: 214-528-3990, Evening: 972-612-2154 or [monsees1@yahoo.com](mailto:monsees1@yahoo.com)

**PARENT GROUP—UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST DALLAS PLAYGROUP** – Parents of children from birth to school age invite fellow parents (in home and out of home) to the UU Dallas Playgroup. The playgroup meets weekly at various locations. UU children who grow up together in our church can form friendships at an early age. To join, please log on to: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/uudallasplaygroup/> for information and chat between meetings. For help, please contact [uudallasplaygroup-owner@yahoogroups.com](mailto:uudallasplaygroup-owner@yahoogroups.com). This group also offers a program for Parents of Infants and Toddlers (PINTS).

Contact: Seana Saxon—972-238-9368 or [seanasaxon@sbcglobal.net](mailto:seanasaxon@sbcglobal.net)

**SANKOFA UU GOSPEL ENSEMBLE** – A mix of professional and amateur singers that provides high-energy contemporary, classical, bluegrass/country, Afro-American style gospel that will get listeners on their feet and full of spirit! New talent is always welcomed!

Contact: I.B.Butler—214-520-0815 or [ibbutler@comcast.net](mailto:ibbutler@comcast.net)

**SOCIAL ACTION COUNCIL** – Helps educate members and friends of the church about a broad range of non-partisan social justice issues in the hope that people will feel encouraged and motivated to get involved. Recent topics and ongoing initiatives include: voter registration; support of clean air projects; collecting funds and layette items for women on Native American reservations; providing speakers to help people understand the complexity of the issues facing citizens.

Contact: Sally King—Day: 469-364-9395, Evening: 214-341-7415 or [sally@turanboat.com](mailto:sally@turanboat.com)

**USHERING & GREETING** – Welcomes members and visitors into the church each week and helps provide a pleasant worship experience. This is a wonderful way to meet people! The commitment includes assisting with just one service a month, and we will train you on everything you need to know.

Contact: Angie and Joe Sifferman—469-443-0313 or [angie.sifferman@comcast.net](mailto:angie.sifferman@comcast.net)

**WEB TEAM** – Volunteers who work to keep the website, the “virtual face” of the church, updated and useful for church members and for those seeking information about who we are and all that we can offer them as a church home.

Contact: [webmaster@dallasuu.org](mailto:webmaster@dallasuu.org)

**WOMEN'S 30's-40's GROUP (WOW stands for Women's Outings)** – This social group is for women UUs in their 30's and 40's. WOW events are held every two to three months and include bowling, dinner, wine tasting, and other fun social events that give us an opportunity to get to know one another.

Contact: Queta Moore Watson—Day: 214-922-1218, Evening: 214-373-3122 or  
qwatson@dallasmuseumofart.org

**WOMEN'S DAY ALLIANCE** – This unique community of women of all ages will help you build lasting friendships and inspire you with motivating stories, lectures and music. All this occurs at monthly meetings from September to May that include a catered lunch (and occasional pot luck lunch!). In addition, members meet to socialize and play bridge weekly. This is a very active group that has room for you!

Contact: Lenna Webb—972-732-7712 or msnilknarf@comcast.net

**WOMEN'S EVENING ALLIANCE** – This women's fellowship group of the church holds monthly program meetings at the church with interesting topics followed by a pot luck supper. The group is open to women of all ages. This is a wonderful opportunity for church women to get to know each other in a social environment.

Contact: Kathy Calhoun—214-943-6738 or kathycalhoun@sbcglobal.net

**YOUNG ADULT GROUP (YAG)** – This fellowship-oriented group of young people (ages 18 – 35) who meet twice monthly, once for a discussion meeting and once to participate in social activities in the community.

Contact: Kate Axt - 214-636-0269 or katherineaxt@yahoo.com  
April Ellis - 972-386-7181 or alicefairy@yahoo.com



## **ELECTED GROUPS**

*Church wide elections are held for these groups annually.*

### **BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

This is the governing body of the Church.

### **ENDOWMENT AND MEMORIAL GIFT FUND COMMITTEE (EMGF)**

Collects and administers gifts, bequests and conveyances for memorial or other purposes when the intent of the donor is to make a lasting contribution of the church.

### **NOMINATING COMMITTEE**

Collects and presents to the congregation a ballot of candidates to fill positions in all elected groups in the church.

### **PROGRAM MANAGEMENT TEAM (PMT)**

Six members are elected for a two year term. The PMT coordinates and supports the lay-led programs, committees, and groups of the church.



## CHURCH PROGRAM GROUPS

*These groups support church programs that are led by a paid professional staff person.*

**ADULT RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (ARE) PROGRAM** – Fosters the enrichment of our spiritual and intellectual lives and strengthens our sense of community. Participation is open to our members, friends and guests.

Courses and Lectures change each Spring and Fall. Regular Sunday offerings usually include:

- **Spiritual Conversations** - this group uses poetry and other sacred writings to initiate a time of reflection and conversation about personal spiritual experiences.
- **Adult Forum** - thirty-minute video-lecture series followed by facilitated discussion.
- **Adult Discussion Group** - participants exchange information, share knowledge and express personal views in spontaneous group discussions on a variety of religious, spiritual and ethical issues. Handouts are provided each week to spark discussion.

Other offerings include:

- **Spirituality Book-Discussion Group** - gathers to discuss books which explore the history and current influences of Christian, Jewish, Muslim, and Eastern religious beliefs, books which encourage spiritual enlightenment and exploration, and books which help us understand the role religion plays in the contemporary culture. The facilitated discussions center on how the concepts in the books apply to our lives as Unitarian Universalists.
- **UU Buddhist Meditation Group** - This weekly, hour-long meeting includes gathering, an inspirational reading, meditation, tea, and fellowship.
- **Joseph Campbell Conversations** – monthly meeting to discuss the works of Joseph Campbell; open to anyone interested in Campbell's work; no prior knowledge is required and seldom is advanced reading important.
- **Spiritual Circle** - monthly gathering where you can sit in communal silence and share aspects of your spiritual journey through readings, ritual, meditation, and journaling. Sign up at the Adult RE table in Channing Hall or e-mail: [programs@dallasuu.org](mailto:programs@dallasuu.org)

Contact: Charles McMullen, Director of Adult Religious Education  
214-528-3990 Ext. 116 or [cmcmullen@dallasuu.org](mailto:cmcmullen@dallasuu.org)

**RELIGIOUS EDUCATION FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH (RE)** – Volunteers teach curricula to introduce our young Unitarian Universalists to the stories, ideas and principles of our liberal religious tradition. Children and youth freely explore all facets of liberal religion and clarify the personal values that will guide and support them as they become caring and compassionate adults. Together, we create a place where we may make new friends and grow in a nurturing faith-community. Our program serves infants through high school youth and draws upon the diversity of our members to enrich our children’s religious journey.

The **Parent Leadership Network** engages all parents with children enrolled in RE classes and actively supports the work of our cooperative program. All families registering children automatically become members of the Parent Leadership Network, joining in fellowship with others to support classes and special events by donating time and energy. –**sumfun!** is our week-long liberal religious summer day camp for children and teens 5 years of age through current 7th-graders. Swimming, arts, crafts, field trips and a carnival are just some of the activities. Adult volunteers are welcome.

Contact: Karen Lewis, Director of Religious Education—214-528-3990 Ext. 103 or  
klewis@dallasuu.org

**MUSIC DEPARTMENT** – Musical ensembles perform throughout the church year and are gearing up for another great season. You can be a part of the action whether you’re a singer, pianist, or instrumentalist, opportunities abound. Adult Choirs include the Sanctuary Choir, Kindred Voices, and the Motet Choir (by invitation). Children’s Choirs include the Primary Choir (Ages K-2) and the Junior Choir (Grades 3-6).

Contact: Don Krehbiel, Director of Music – 214-528-3990 Ext. 114 or  
dkrehbiel@dallasuu.org

#### **Global Ends Statement**

*The Board of Trustees has prepared these statements by which all decisions are measured:*

The First Unitarian Church of Dallas creates and nurtures an enduring, liberal, religious community where all souls shall grow in harmony with the divine through worship, education, service and fellowship.

#### **Worship**

Our congregation, friends and visitors experience communion with the gathered congregation, the transcendent in their lives, and a strengthened human spirit.

#### **Service**

Our ministries of service to each other, the larger community and the world enrich, nourish and transform us and those we serve.

#### **Education**

The lives of our members, friends and visitors of all ages are enriched and sustained by this faith community and are actively and continuously engaged in learning about religion from the Unitarian Universalist perspective, developing individual spiritual disciplines and expressing personal religious conviction through action.

#### **Fellowship**

At The First Unitarian Church of Dallas people feel welcomed, dialogues flourish, and relationships develop through good times and bad.

#### **Stewardship**

Our gathered resources support our congregation and matters we find important.



## EXTERNAL ORGANIZATIONS

*These are external not-for-profit organizations with which the church has a mutually collaborative and supportive relationship. The contacts shown are church members who liaison with the organizations.*

**Choices of Life of North Texas** – An End-of-Life-Choices organization which favors legalization of physician aid in dying for terminally ill patients.

Liaison: Phil McClure—[mcclure@utdssa.utdallas.edu](mailto:mcclure@utdssa.utdallas.edu)

**Dallas Area Interfaith (DAI)** – First Church was a founding member of DAI, a non-partisan group that brings people together across racial, cultural, religious, geographic and economic lines. DAI works toward goals its members believe will create social change in Dallas.

Liaison: Mary Lou Hoffman—972-231-3816 or [mlhoffman3@aol.com](mailto:mlhoffman3@aol.com) or  
Melody Nye—214- 824-5362 or [mmnye@yahoo.com](mailto:mmnye@yahoo.com)

**Funeral Consumers Alliance/Memorial Society** – Dedicated to simplicity, dignity and economy in funeral arrangements. The Society helps provide guidance and moral support to families who may be in a profound emotional state at the loss of their loved one and are unfamiliar with the complexities of decisions facing them at this intense time. They offer educational materials, forms, and directives on end-of-life matters.

Liaison: Ken Carter—972-238-9156

**North Dallas Shared Ministries (NDSM)** – This social service organization was founded in 1983, by a coalition of five faith institutions in North Dallas, including First Church. Over the years, NDSM's supporting churches has grown to 44 and its range of services has broadened to include employment assistance; classes in English-as-a-second-language; and medical and dental services. NDSM is staffed by volunteers with only one paid staff person. First Church continues its commitment with financial support, quarterly food and clothing drives; and a steady stream of volunteers. NDSM is a model of interfaith cooperation for our community.

Liaison: Judy Hembree—214-821-2347 or [judithhembree@earthlink.net](mailto:judithhembree@earthlink.net)

**Unitarian Universalist Service Committee** – The committee serves as our local group that joins the national UU Service Committee in expressing this church's interest in concerns for human rights, social justice, voting, etc. It serves an educational and active purpose.

Liaison: Millie Seltzer—214-357-3417 or  
Susan Hunter—972-702-0808 or [susanmaryhunter@hotmail.com](mailto:susanmaryhunter@hotmail.com)

**Walden Piano Quartet** – Our resident chamber music group that performs a varied selection of chamber music in a concert series each year. Walden was established in 1993 through our church and has become a favorite with the Dallas music community.

Liaison: Anne Norvell—(214) 373-3973 or [annenorvl@aol.com](mailto:annenorvl@aol.com)