

First Parish membership

First Parish is a Welcoming Unitarian Universalist congregation that seeks ways to deepen spiritually, build community, and make a positive difference in the world. When you sign the membership book of First Parish, you covenant to participate in and contribute to the life and mission of the congregation. The primary benefit of membership is to be part of an open, diverse, and inclusive community of religious seekers that support each person's spiritual journey and who practice living in kind, compassionate, and healthy relationships with each other.

7.0 Membership Policy (February 8, 2010) (Updated May 12, 2020)

7.1 An Active Member of First Parish is expected to:

- Be sixteen years of age or older.
- Be in general support of the principles, purposes, goals, and programs of First Parish.
- Have signed the Membership Book in the presence of a Minister.
- Make an annual financial contribution of record (not required of those 16-21 years of age.) (Members are welcome to consult with a minister if contributing is a concern.)
- Contribute time and talent toward church functioning.

7.2 An Active Member of First Parish is entitled to:

- Chair committees.
- Vote at parish meetings beginning 30 days after signing the Membership Book.
- When a call is desired, Active Members are entitled to vote to call ministers.
- Represent First Parish at regional and national events.
- Enroll children in certain special programs such as OWL, Coming of Age, and service trips.
- Submit a nomination for a Share The Plate recipient.

7.3 A Friend of First Parish:

- Is in general support of the principles, purposes, goals, and programs of First Parish.
- Does not wish to sign the membership book.
- Is encouraged to make an annual financial contribution.
- Is welcome to contribute time and talent toward church functioning.

7.4 Removal from Active Membership

A Member may be moved to **Inactive Member** status upon:

- A written request from the Member.
- An oral request from the Member to the Minister.
- Review and consultation by the ministers, if this Member has not fulfilled the conditions of Active Membership as stated above, has not made a request to become a Friend and has neither contacted nor responded to efforts to reestablish contact with First Parish for 2 years.
- Death of the Member.

** Exceptions to will be this Membership Policy at the Minister's discretion.*