



Date: February 2010

Becoming a Friend of the Congregation

Becoming a friend of the congregation happens by signing up for inclusion in the church directory or making a official pledge.

Becoming a Member of the Congregation

Becoming a member happens by filling out an application form (which is submitted to the Board for approval), signing the membership book, and participating in a new member recognition ceremony celebrated by the congregation during a Sunday service. Friends are invited once a year to consider membership at Westwood.

Both Members & Friends at Westwood are:

- Welcome to attend and participate in any and all events and services at Westwood.
- Included on Westwood's newsletter mailing list.
- Invited to contribute to the ongoing volunteer life of the congregation.
- Asked to consider stewardship each year (making a financial commitment to the church).
- Free to opt in to contacts via the congregational directory and Yahoo group.
- Inclined to give generously of their time as volunteers for congregational endeavours.

Only Members:

- Vote on the affairs of the congregation as we act upon that important Unitarian principle, "the use of the democratic process within our congregations"
- Become a Committee chair, a lay chaplain or Board member.
- Enjoy free use of the building space for private gatherings and meetings.
- Act as delegates of the congregation at denominational meetings.
- Receive news of the broader Canadian Unitarian landscape via a quarterly national newsletter.

The choice to remain a Westwood friend or become a committed member makes no difference to your self-determined degree of involvement. Or Westwood's determination to involve you, for that matter. Whether friend or member, Westwood notices when you are not with us and appreciates times you when you are.

On the other hand, commitment to membership remains vital for the ongoing growth and longevity of Westwood. Without members' stewardship, showing up for congregational meetings, dreaming together and making decisions that foster Westwood's ongoing life, this congregation simply wouldn't be thriving as it is. Members count for something!

Adapted from article written for the Westwood newsletter by Sara McEwan, for Pathways to Spiritual Community, February 2010.