



Exploring  
Membership

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# The Membership Process at UPC

## Why Become a Member?

- The membership process is an opportunity to wrestle with, and clarify, what you believe.
- Membership is an affirmation of your commitment to God and his people.
- Membership is a commitment to a particular part of God's family that nurtures continuing growth in your faith.

UPC views membership as one step in a life-long discipleship process. Thus becoming a member of UPC is not so much about meeting certain requirements and having your name placed on a roll, as it is about taking up the journey of Christian discipleship with the people of this congregation. The process of becoming a member at UPC is designed to introduce you to our community, equip you to navigate comfortably within it, and prepare you to join with us in the goal of realizing our vision: "Every Member a Minister."

## Membership Kickoff: Starting the Process

During this 60-minute meeting, you will learn about the New Member process. All incoming members will participate in a small group for six to ten people. The groups will be facilitated by elders and deacons who will help you connect with the family of UPC. We will collect the information we need to form the small groups and will contact you soon with your group facilitator's name and contact information.

## What Happens Next?

### Come to a Party!

The process isn't all study! You are invited to get together with fellow New Member candidates who are also working through the membership process. We will share dessert and participate in a question and answer period. This complimentary event will be held on Thursday, March 22 at 7-8:30pm in Geneva A.

During this event, you can discuss what you have learned, thoughts you have about finding community, and other questions you might have about membership at UPC. This will also be a time where you can clarify the meaning of the membership questions and the promises you make by becoming a member. **Please let us know whether or not you will attend.**

## I'm Ready to Join!

When you have completed the process and feel ready to join, contact Sharon, [sharonb@upc.org](mailto:sharonb@upc.org) or 206.524.7301 x560 at least two weeks before the scheduled Membership Sunday. Also, complete the **New Members Information Form** included in this packet and return it to the Community Life office. Once you have notified Sharon, she will send you a letter with instructions of where to go and what to do on Membership Sunday.

Membership Sunday is on April 22 in all services. On that day you should arrive at least 15 minutes prior to the service of your choice. Sharon will give you your nametag and certificate and all new members will sit together in the front row.

New members are presented to the congregation twice a year, at all five services. If you decide not to complete the process at this time, you may choose to pursue it again in the future. **The next New Member process will take place fall 2012.**

## Do I need to be baptized to be a member?

Yes. If you were baptized earlier in life, or at a non-Presbyterian church, it still counts. If you haven't been baptized, you need to attend the baptism preparation class on Sunday, March 25, and then you can be baptized on April 22 in worship. Please let Sharon know if you need to be baptized.

## I Want to Get Involved in a Ministry!

- Visit the UPC Web site at [upc.org](http://upc.org).
- Check out the list of UPC ministries in this syllabus. Beginning on page 20, ministries are listed by the sponsoring department.
- Watch the Sunday bulletin and the *UPC Times* for ministry opportunities.
- Mike McCormick Huentelman, Director of Urban Ministries, would love to meet with you to discern opportunities for life-giving service in and around Seattle.

Mike ✉ [mikem@upc.org](mailto:mikem@upc.org) ☎ x214

## Questions?

Sharon ✉ [sharonb@upc.org](mailto:sharonb@upc.org) ☎ x560

# Why “Every Member a Minister”?

by Dave Rohrer, Teaching Pastor

**E**very Member a Minister. It’s an expression of our desire to be the people of God and act on this identity in our world. Every Member a Minister does not merely mean that every member has a volunteer job at the church (although that would be a good thing, too). It is bigger than this. It is the goal that every member would understand himself/herself to be a disciple of Jesus. It is the understanding that every moment has everything to do with the living God and that there is no time in which we are not involved in ministry. It is the willingness to take note of and partner with, God in his work in the world.

In the second chapter of his epistle, St. Peter tells us that we “are a royal priesthood.” With this designation he captures the essence of our work as ministers. As disciples of Jesus we have the honor and the duty of coming alongside others to give witness to the grace of God and reflect the

love of our Lord Jesus Christ. There is a joyous opportunity and a weighty challenge that God has set before us in that every encounter with another human being is an opportunity to be a part of God’s work in the world. Interactions with our families, our friends, our neighbors, our colleagues are all opportunities for us to be priests who mediate the reality of Jesus Christ and so call attention to the presence of the Kingdom of God.

As we commit ourselves to this vision of ministry at UPC we are dedicating ourselves to live lives that are awake to God and aware of the ways in which we can be salt and light in our world. Jesus’ call to us is to come follow him and be a part of this adventure. Our hope at UPC is that every member will hear and answer this invitation.

*(Reprinted from the UPC Times, Vol. 27, No. 6, Nov./Dec. 2006)*

# UPC Ministries

If you would like more information on the ministries mentioned below, call 206.524.7301 plus the phone extension or email address listed for the ministry or visit our website at [upc.org](http://upc.org).



## Children & Family Ministries

✉ [cfm@upc.org](mailto:cfm@upc.org)  
☎ x171

Children & Family Ministries is committed to helping children and their families know and trust Jesus Christ as their Savior, Lord, and best friend, build healthy relationships within their families, connect with others in the Church body, and minister in their world.

**Pastor: Rev. David Hallgren**

### Ministry Synopsis

- Children's Sunday Classes
- Parent Classes & Community
- Baptisms
- Side-by-Side  
Side-by-Side is a ministry to families who have a seriously ill child. Our Family Support Program, annual Camp Side-by-Side, and Ronald McDonald House collaboration supports families through companionship, practical assistance and play, complementing the care they receive from the healthcare community.  
Contact: [hollyw@upc.org](mailto:hollyw@upc.org), x537.
- Children's Programs & Events
- Family Events

## Community Life

✉ [sharonb@upc.org](mailto:sharonb@upc.org)  
☎ x560

*Our Vision:* Encouraging and developing communities where adults are called, stretched and nurtured to be Christ's people in this world.

*Our Mission:* To foster and support pathways to community in Christ for adults at UPC by:

- Making smaller, more personal Christ-centered communities more accessible and encouraging adults to find their place of community,
- Supporting and developing lay leaders and ministry teams,
- Growing new opportunities for community that address discipleship and community needs not currently met at our church,

thus, expanding the capacity of UPC's members and friends to be the family of God.

**Pastor: Rev. Renée Sundberg**

### Ministry Synopsis

- Adult Small Groups
- Adult Discipleship Classes
- Prayer Retreats
- Second Wind (UPC's 50+ community)
- Welcoming Ministry
- Beyond Divorce Ministries
- New Members Ministry
- Prayer Team
- Marriage Ministries
- Baptisms

## Congregational Care

✉ [fredac@upc.org](mailto:fredac@upc.org)  
☎ x132

The mission of Congregational Care is to minister with compassion and grace, to the personal and emotional needs of our UPC family.

**Pastor: Rev. Ray Moore**

### Ministry Synopsis

- Deacons
- Support Groups
- Deacon Fund
- Financial Counseling
- Mental Health Ministry
- Chancel Flowers (on Sunday)
- Memorials
- Membership Records
- Stephen Ministry
- Prayer Chain & Prayer Letter
- Crisis Care

## Convergence

✉ [jepps@upc.org](mailto:jepps@upc.org)  
☎ x279

Convergence is a weekly gathering of those in their 20s & 30s. Meets most Tuesdays at 7:30 pm in Geneva for worship, fellowship and teaching.

**Director: Jon Epps**

### Ministry Synopsis

- Convergence (Tuesday Evening Worship)
- Service Team
- Connecting Team
- Small Groups
- Hospitality Team
- Prayer Team

For updated information, visit our calendar at [upc.org/convergence](http://upc.org/convergence).

## Youth Mission & Ministry

✉ [ritab@upc.org](mailto:ritab@upc.org)  
☎ x160

The mission of YMM is to present the gospel to youth in a relevant way and provide an environment that encourages their maturity in Christ that they might enjoy and glorify him forever.

**Community Team Lead: Andi Soccoccio**  
*In the process of hiring an interim pastor.*

### Ministry Synopsis

- Middle School
- Senior High
- Young Life Capernaum
- Youth Auction

## University Ministries

✉ [beckyr@upc.org](mailto:beckyr@upc.org)  
☎ x147

The mission of UMin is to “Go and make disciples of all nations” beginning with college-age individuals in the greater Seattle area.

**Senior Director: Ryan Church**

### Ministry Synopsis

- The Inn (Tuesday Evening Worship)
- Greek Ministry
- Winter Retreat
- Student Leadership
- Missions
- Ascent
- Core Groups



# Outreach

✉ [shelleyd@upc.org](mailto:shelleyd@upc.org)  
☎ x533

The mission of Outreach is to help our congregation grow in their discipleship calling through missions involvement, both in Seattle and “to the ends of the earth.”

**Senior Director: Ken Kierstead**

**Ministry Synopsis**

- Care and support to UPC missionaries
- Adult classes
- UPC AIDS Initiative
- Short-term mission trips
- English classes for newcomers to the US
- Global engagement through task forces and prayer groups
- Street Youth Ministries
- Urban Advocates
- Shoulder-to-Shoulder service opportunities
- Ministry to Internationals
- Vocational counseling and training to those considering mission service
- Prayer, medical advice, and support for people with health-related needs



# Worship

✉ [bobd@upc.org](mailto:bobd@upc.org)  
☎ x143

The mission of the Worship department is to oversee services that provide every opportunity to encourage all who enter UPC to welcome Jesus Christ into their lives and surrender to his gospel.

**Interim Director of Worship: Scott Burnett**

**Ministry Synopsis**

- All adult vocal and instrumental ensembles
- Sunday worship services
- Special worship services
- Concerts
- Communion
- Adult choirs

# Operations

## Executive Pastor's Office

✉ [lorettap@upc.org](mailto:lorettap@upc.org)  
☎ x204

The focus of the office of the Executive Pastor is to work in partnership with the Senior Pastor and the Session to ensure that the mission of UPC is accomplished through vital and focused ministry. Other departments within Operations are Audio-video, Facilities & Hospitality, Finance, Human Resources, and Information Services.

**Pastor: Rev. Timothy Snow**

## Communications

✉ [communications@upc.org](mailto:communications@upc.org)  
☎ x188

The mission of the Operations departments is to serve Jesus Christ by providing facilities, service and support to the lay and professional ministry of UPC.

**Director: Lindsey Burgess**

### Ministry Synopsis:

- Sunday Bulletin
- Sunday Broadcast/Podcasts
- Graphic Design
- Hallway Art
- Welcome Kiosk
- *UPC Times*
- Website ([upc.org](http://upc.org))
- Annual Report
- Display Cases
- Departmental Publicity

## Senior Pastor's Office

[nancys@upc.org](mailto:nancys@upc.org)  
x153

**Senior Pastor: Rev. George Hinman**

## Union

415 Westlake Ave. N.  
📍 [unionchurchseattle.org](http://unionchurchseattle.org)  
✉ [lorettap@upc.org](mailto:lorettap@upc.org) ☎ 206.388.5470

Union Church is a satellite community of UPC in the South Lake Union neighborhood that seeks to be an externally focused, internally alive and eternally connected congregation.

**Pastors: Rev. James B. Notkin and Rev. Renée Notkin**

# The Role of Elders and Deacons

## What is an Elder?

Elders are active members of the church who serve in government, leadership, and ministry. They are persons of faith, dedication, and good judgment, nominated and elected by the congregation. Elders serve on the church's governing body (called session), take part in planning committees, assist in worship, serve communion and help the pastors nurture, teach, and encourage the congregation.

Although elders are elected for a term of three years, once ordained, they are ordained for life, even if they transfer to another PC(USA) church. After their terms of office are finished, elders continue to play an important role in the life of the church by participating in various ministries. Some elders continue to minister to the congregation and the denomination by serving as representatives of UPC in the presbytery, synod, and General Assembly.

You will be meeting with an elder in your small group throughout the new member process. The elder will be something of a mentor for you as you learn about membership here at UPC. We hope you will take this time to pray together and share the love stories of your faith. An elder is also a great resource in helping you learn how to become involved and to guide you as you seek how you will serve. The elder may not have all the answers immediately, but can direct you to someone who does.

## What is a Deacon?

Deacons are members of the church chosen by the congregation and ordained to care for those in need—the sick, the lonely, the discouraged, and any who may be in distress. At UPC, deacons are often referred to as “His Hands, His Feet.”

The deacons of UPC are ordained to serve for three years. However, “Once a Deacon, Always a Deacon!” These three years are filled with responsibilities such as serving communion and delivering Easter and Christmas flowers to the homebound, coordinating the food barrel ministry, caring for the sick, visiting, serving, and getting to know the members.

## Ministries led by Deacons

- The Deacon Fund
- The Food Bank
- Flowers
- Communion

Contact us if you know of any needs or if you would like to learn more about serving in the Deacon Ministry.

Sue ✉ [sueb@upc.org](mailto:sueb@upc.org) ☎ x131.

## Mission

The mission of UPC is to SHARE HOPE in Jesus Christ—our reason to exist and our call to action.

## Vision

Every member a minister—a picture of what full engagement in our mission looks like.

## Core Experience

Alive in Jesus, alive together, living for the world—the ways that hope becomes the heart-beat of our experience.

## Ministry Convictions

Spiritual Formation, Life-Changing Community, and Lay Leadership—how we align our shared resources to mission.

## Strategic Priorities

Focal points for shared impact over the next five years.

1. Align to Convictions
2. UW Initiative
3. Local-Global Initiative
4. One Church Seattle Initiative

## Leadership Model

How leaders share leadership to release the gifts of the congregation.

The mission of UPC is Christ-initiated, Session-discerned, staff-supported, member-led.

## Community Model

Our shared commitments through which Jesus changes lives within and beyond a circle of his followers.

- Study the Word
- Worship the Lord
- Care for each other
- Love our neighbors
- Relate as friends

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*Presbyterian Church*

4540 15th Ave NE Seattle WA 98105 | [upc.org](http://upc.org) | [info@upc.org](mailto:info@upc.org) | 206.524.7300