

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Athens, Georgia

Vision (statement adopted May 15, 2011)

The vision of the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Athens, Georgia, is to be a beacon of liberal religion and spirituality in Northeast Georgia. Guided by our Unitarian Universalist principles, our light will shine more brightly as we welcome greater diversity and search for deeper meaning. By speaking and acting for justice, and modeling sustainable stewardship of personal and earth resources, we strive to transform our world.

Mission (statement adopted May 15, 2011)

The Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Athens, Georgia, is a caring congregation of diverse peoples, ages, backgrounds, and beliefs. Our purpose is to support our members and to commit deeply to our shared Unitarian Universalist principles by worshiping, playing, and exploring life's meaning together, thus promoting love and justice in our larger community and the world.

2011 Mission/Vision Goals

In accordance with the seven Unitarian Universalist Principles and in keeping with the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Athens Mission and Vision statements, we will work to achieve the following goals:

1. FAITH DEVELOPMENT

To explore our shared values and to create deeper meaning, we will:

- a. Provide religious education and exploration throughout the lifespan;
- b. Foster leadership development within the Fellowship;
- c. Encourage greater participation in small groups and activities;
- d. Encourage alternative ways to worship;
- e. Promote opportunities for diverse spiritual practices;
- f. Increase commitment to, and ownership of, multigenerational religious exploration;
- g. Explore additional worship services;
- h. Support lifespan religious exploration that incorporates different styles of learning;
- i. Continue to support and expand music and arts programs;
- j. Connect to our religious heritage and other sources of our faith.

2. STEWARDSHIP

To create a sustainable future, we will:

- a. Nurture a culture of increased generosity by members of time, talent, and money;
- b. Care for and improve building and grounds;
- c. Increase and improve facility rentals;
- d. Seek grants and other sources of funding.

3. CONNECTING AND CARING:

To foster deepening relationships in shared ministry we will:

- a. Provide support and opportunities for people of all ages to integrate into the life of our community;
- b. Build community connections with those who are homebound or living in retirement centers.

4. WELCOMING/ACCESSIBILITY/INCLUSIVITY

To welcome all and to become a more diverse congregation, we will:

- a. Cultivate a culture of hospitality where newcomers are encouraged to be integrated and engaged in the life of the congregation;

- b. Continually review our practices looking for and amending those that unintentionally exclude;
- c. Support Unitarian Universalist programs, such as Standing on the Side of Love, Welcoming Congregation, etc;
- d. Encourage the increased connection to and use of existing resources from UUA, Mid-South District, and other non-profit and community program resources focused on diversity;
- e. Support members of Membership Committee, greeters, and the congregation in general in an effort to support diversity in our membership;
- f. Offer workshops and encourage interest groups focused on diversity;
- g. Examine ourselves and our practices which create barriers to greater diversity;
- h. Engage the congregation and individuals in the congregation with diverse cultures and ethnic groups in the greater Athens community;
- i. Plan for further growth in membership, programs, staff, and facilities;
- j. Provide access for all to building and grounds; provide adequate parking; and provide audio/visual aids to those who need them;
- k. Encourage and support youth and UGA campus youth programming.

5. REACHING OUT/COMMUNICATION

To become the beacon of liberal religion, we will:

- a. Strengthen our presence and activity in the Athens community and northeast Georgia;
- b. Develop a mass media plan;
- c. Provide a robust website with access for UUFA members-only and for the public;
- d. Expand an active social media presence;
- e. Increase interfaith and community presence and activities;
- f. Provide audio links to worship and programs.

6. ADVOCATING

To provide greater justice, we will:

- a. Promote protection of vulnerable people and groups locally, nationally and internationally;
- b. Advocate as a congregation, not just as individuals, on issues that reflect our values in accordance with our UUFA policies and bylaws;
- c. Reinvigorate the Welcoming Congregation program and improve witness in such areas;
- d. Promote economic justice and protection.

7. ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP

To preserve our earth resources, we will:

- a. Develop plans, create policies, and adopt practices that reflect sustainable stewardship within our congregation, the larger community, and the world;
- b. Participate as a congregation in community activities to improve the environment;
- c. Use the Unitarian Universalist Ministry for the Earth resources to work to obtain Green Sanctuary certification.

These goals will be achieved in accordance with UUFA policies and bylaws. We recognize the value of our ongoing relationship with the Unitarian Universalist Association, Mid-South District, and other UU denominational entities, and the use of their resources to accomplish our goals.