

# Frequently Used Terms & Acronyms at the Unitarian Universalist Society of Geneva

Annual Canvass – Our pledge drive, conducted each spring.

Annual Meeting – This congregational meeting takes place on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in May. The budget and Board of Directors for the upcoming year is voted on at this time. It is open to non-members, but only active members may vote.

Board of Directors – (BOD) Our elected governing body.

The Book – This is the book that holds the list of members of UUSG going back to the mid-1800s.

Book Signing – Signing the book means that one has made a commitment to become a member of UUSG. The Book is offered for signing in front of the congregation 2 weekends each year, but it can be signed at other times upon discussion with the Senior Minister.

Chalice or Flaming Chalice - The symbol of Unitarian Universalism

Chalice Lighting – A UU tradition that is the centering that calls us together, reminding us of the greater purpose of our gathering. We share this tradition with many churches throughout the world.

CMwD – the Central Midwest District, which is the local grouping of UU societies in Illinois and surrounding areas.

CoA – Coming of Age program. This program for youth going into high school is a deeper exploration of the meaning of congregational membership and growing into adult responsibilities.

Common Room – The large room at the center of the buildings. This is where most of our community events, including social hour, take place.

CON – An abbreviation of “conference,” it refers to a local, district, or national event where UU youth from a wide variety of congregations gather for a weekend of activities.

Council - Made up of the Board Vice Presidents and Ministry Team Leaders

DRE – Director of Religious Education. The individual responsible for administering our religious education program. (ADRE = Acting Director of Religious Education)

ERC - Emergency Response Committee

Flower Ceremony or Flower Communion – Held on the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in June, this follows the tradition of the Flower service begun by Norbert Capek.

GA – General Assembly. This is annual gathering of representatives from every UU church in the U.S.

HFH – Habitat for Humanity. UUSG supports HFH in two ways: each summer, a group of UUSG youth and adults travel for a week of home-building. UUSG also supports our local group, HFH- Pottawatomie Partnership, with donations and volunteers.

Intergenerational Service – A service specifically designed to appeal to both children and adults.

Lazarus House – Our local homeless shelter, located in St. Charles. We support Lazarus House with donations and monthly volunteers.

LRE – Lifespan Religious Education.

MAD – The “Make a Difference” Fund is available to provide one-time financial assistance to UUSG members and friends.

Mini-Pioneer – The weekly bulletin handed out the beginning of each worship service. In addition to including information about that day’s service, the “Mini” also has the upcoming week’s calendar and information about events and activities.

Ministry Teams - teams of members and friends who provide time and talent toward specific ministry objectives in support of our UUSG mission and purpose.

MPC - Membership Preparation Class; required in order to become a member of UUSG

Naming & Dedication – This is a special service during which the minister, the parents, and/or sponsors dedicate children into UUSG. The service has the samereverence found in the tradition of a Christian baptism or Jewish naming ceremony.

New UUs – A series of orientation sessions conducted by the Welcoming Ministry Team, designed to educate newcomers about UUism in general and UUSG in particular, what our faith community has to offer and finding spiritual growth.

OWL – “Our Whole Lives.” This curriculum presents a lifespan sexuality education program in a spiritual context. It is currently offered to 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders.

Pageant – Held in mid-December, our “No-Rehearsal Pageant” is a fun time for everyone to get involved in telling holiday stories.

Pioneer – Our monthly newsletter. It can be received via email or postal mail.

Pioneer House – Formerly the parsonage, Pioneer House now houses the offices of the Senior Minister and the Acting Director of Religious Education.

SMG – Small Group Ministry. SMG is a way to grow church communities by making sure that people are connected in close circles as well as part of a large and vibrant congregation.

Social Hour – Immediately following every worship service, UUSG members, friends, and visitors are invited to gather in the Common Room for fellowship.

UUA – The Unitarian Universalist Association. This is the national organization that serves as a center for all UU churches. UUSG is a member of the UUA by choice. Churches who are members of the UUA make an annual “Fair Share” financial contribution; the amount is based on the number of active members in the congregation.

UUSC – The Unitarian Universalist Service Committee is a nonsectarian organization that advances human rights and social justice in the United States and around the world.

UUSG – The Unitarian Universalist Society of Geneva. That’s us!

YRUU – Young Religious Unitarian Universalists, grades 9-12.