

Mount Hood Cluster of UU Congregations Governance Structure

This structure was adopted by the cluster on Jan 10, 2016. Subsequent edits based on the discussion at that meeting are shown in orange.

Overall Purpose:

Nurture a spirit of cooperation and relationship among local UU congregations

1. Provide mutual aid and support:

Cluster organization meets monthly. More specifically,

Each member **congregation's board is invited to enter into covenant with the cluster and appoint** a delegate and alternate delegate yearly. One year terms begin July 1 of each year.

Cluster elects co-chairs on an annual basis. **Co-chairs are limited to two consecutive one-year terms in office.** Co-chairs provide direction for the Cluster and ensure: that goals are met, that our work moves us toward fulfilling our purpose statements, and that we maintain a connection with UUA regional and national staff.

Cluster co-chairs prepare an agenda for each monthly meeting in collaboration with Cluster delegates and other members. The meetings take place at rotating venues, and are facilitated by each host congregation's delegate.

Any member of a member congregation may attend meetings.

Each congregation represented may cast one vote. Five represented congregations constitute a quorum.

Cluster co-chairs act as scribes at Cluster meetings. They monitor action items as needed to ensure continuity between cluster meetings.

Cluster co-chairs facilitate a review and goal setting meeting each May.

2. Communicate and Coordinate Programs and Resources

Roles of the delegates in communication and coordination:

Ensure that congregation is represented at all Cluster meetings

Keep congregants and congregation Boards apprised of Cluster actions and activities

Keep Cluster informed of relevant events, board activities and inputs from congregants

Annual planning meeting:

Occurs during the May Cluster meeting

Is planned and led by co-chairs with input from delegates and members

Agenda includes:

assessment of progress towards current goals,

development of goals for the following year,

election of co-chairs for the ensuing year which starts July 1

Proposals for next year's events

Naming of liaisons to Portland cluster of UUMA and Oregon

UU Voices for Justice for the next year.

Cluster forms a carefully vetted, ongoing Comm/Tech subcommittee that

Maintains/improves Google group and website

Provides technical expertise as needed in support of cluster activities

Coordinates technical resources among congs for cluster activities

Explores feasibility of a shared event calendar

3. Strengthen our presence in the wider world

Cluster Social Justice events are determined at the annual meetings in May and during monthly meetings

Delegates choose possible project chairs for SJ events such as Pride Parade and beach cleanup.

Delegates share leadership process with project chairs, including generating publicity.

We reach out to other clusters and UU groups in the UUA Pacific Western Region, other local interfaith groups, and other religious and non-religious organizations.

We support a member liaison to Oregon UU Voices for Justice.

4. Affirm, promote and practice the principles of our UU Faith

We invite participation by:

- a parish minister of a small congregation
- a community minister doing social justice work
- a religious educator

Members from ministerial and education staff bring their awareness to the Cluster.

They are a link to the Portland cluster of the UUMA, supporting an exchange of information between the groups and obtaining valuable feedback.

We maintain and abide by the Covenant of the Mt Hood Cluster of Unitarian Universalist Congregations.

Covenant of Association with Mt Hood Cluster of UU Congregations

We, the Board of _____, covenant to participate fully with the Mt. Hood Cluster of Congregations. We agree with its purpose which is to nurture a spirit of cooperation and relationship among local UU congregations by:

- Providing mutual aid and support;
- Communicating and coordinating programs and resources;
- Strengthening our presence in the wider world; and
- Affirming, promoting and practicing the principles of our UU faith.

We will provide a delegate to serve on the cluster. Our delegate(s), _____, have agreed to serve from this date through June, 2017. Our delegates will 1) attend and actively participate in regular monthly meetings of the cluster, 2) keep our board and congregation informed of cluster events and in turn 3) share information on our congregation with the Mt. Hood cluster.

We will host meetings of the Mt Hood Cluster in rotation at our facility. We will consider participation in all Cluster initiatives. We believe that by our association together with other cluster congregations, our congregation will be enriched in relationship and enlarged in vision.

For the _____ Board

_____, President

Date: _____