

NEW SOCIAL GROUPS

Policy

We welcome new activities that are ALWAYS OPEN to the congregation's members, friends and visitors. **To start a new social group, complete the following form.** Your request will be reviewed by appropriate members of the senior staff and will be either approved or commented upon within 5 days of submittal.

All Social Groups:

- Are listed on a flyer stocked in the brochure rack. The flyer lists meeting times and locations ("off-site" if that applies), a contact person and their contact information.
- Have access to e-news for announcements regarding changes in normal meeting times or periodic invitations.
- That meet at UUCA, will have meeting time and location listed on the congregation calendar.

Procedure

Submit the completed questions below to Linda Topp, administration@uuasheville.org (printed or online)

Date of submittal:

Social Group Name (clarity over catchiness if both are not possible):

Purpose:

Does this activity encompass any other Ends Statement besides this one? Yes No

We create a community where people of all ages and backgrounds experience belonging, and feel loved and needed.

If yes, which one? (The full set of Ends Statements can be found on our website under "Mission.")

Contact person, email, phone number:

Meeting time and location:

At least 5 Members or Friends must agree to attend this activity for at least its first 4 meetings. The 5 people who have made this commitment are:

	Name	Email address
1.		
2.		
3.		
4.		
5.		

See next page for Convener Guidelines.

Revision History	
Responsible Staff Member: Director of Administration	
Date	Description of revision
January 2013	Created
January 2016	Changed name from “Activity Groups” to “Social Groups”
December 2018	Updated to match current procedures and new End Statements

Social Group Convener Guidelines

As the convener and contact person for your social group, you *represent the congregation and Unitarian Universalism*. Your class or group may be one of the first communal experiences a newcomer has. Social Groups are all about **building relationships**. Therefore, at every gathering, be sure that every newcomer feels welcomed and is warmly introduced and incorporated into the group.

As a convener, you have the following responsibilities:

- Arrange for meeting times and places and communicate that to your group.
 - If meeting on the UUCA campus, contact Tish Murphy to reserve a space.
 - If meeting off campus, be sure that all participants are clear on the meeting location. Provide maps if necessary.
- Create and maintain your group's information on REALM. It's important that we know how each of our members and newcomers are connected to the congregation.
- Make sure that everyone attending knows and remembers everyone else's name. Take time at the beginning of the activity to do this. Play a name game if necessary.
- If this group includes discussion, make sure that all participants are somewhat familiar with each other before the discussion begins. Ask everyone to answer a question such as, "What is the best thing that has happened to you in the past week?" OR "If you could visit any place in the US (or world), where would that be?" OR any other question that requires each person to use their voice at the start of the activity even if it is just a one-word answer (which is good for keeping things moving).
- Be especially welcoming to first-time participants.
- Follow-up when a "regular" participant misses 2 meetings in a row. Reach out by email or phone (or at church) to find out if they are OK.