

## Worship Associates Program Application Information

Thank you for your interest in the Worship Associates Program. Because worship is such an important part of the life of the church, the Worship Associates Program has been established to help support the enrichment and development of the worship experience in the course of the formal church year (9 months) through a shared ministry.

### The Ministry of a Worship Associate

- **Quarterly planning** for minister-led services including themes and topics for each service *requiring monthly meetings, currently the first Saturday of each month from August through May, at 8-10 AM.*
- Acting as **liturgist** (from the root word meaning “the work of the people), being the *Reader and Responsive Reading Leader* in a service.
- Taking **responsibility** for assisting the minister in *one or more services* each quarter.
- **Working with the minister one-on-one** on the content of the service, including readings that pertain to the established theme of the service.
- Assisting in **quality assessment** for past services. This includes seeking and bringing back thoughts and suggestions from members of the congregation.
- Reflecting the **diverse worship needs** of the congregation in the development of services through worship arts mini-workshop sessions during the regular meeting time.
- Assist in **organizing the 12 lay-led summer services**, and giving assistance to those leading the service.

Aside from the rewarding aspect of this ministry, a consistent level of commitment is required on the part of the individual Worship Associate. Regular meeting attendance is necessary to meet the organizational and planning requirements of the ministry of the group. Setting aside the time and energy to serve as the liturgist is also important. By evenly dividing the responsibilities for service planning among the Worship Associates, the ministries of the individual members remain manageable and enjoyable.

### Program Specifics and Terms of service

A limited number of Worship Associates (9 to 12) will be chosen through a process of application and review. Worship Associates serve a two (2) year term and have the option of re-applying and serving consecutive terms if they so desire.

### Benefits

The benefits of being a Worship Associate are many. In addition to the plentiful opportunities for planning and participating in worship services, training is provided in the worship arts including public speaking. Because of the creative and theological nature of this ministry, the fellowship among the Worship Associates is rich and dynamic. As part of the shared ministry of the church, Worship Associates enjoy the opportunity to work more closely with members of the congregation and the minister for the purpose of better reflecting the personal and spiritual needs of the congregants in the worship experience.

If you are interested in becoming a Worship Associate, please complete the Worship Associates Application Form and return it to the minister.

## Worship Associates Application Form

*(Please answer this questionnaire with as much detail as you like. Feel free to write or print your answers on a separate sheet and append them to this questionnaire when you submit them. Remember to include the number of the question with your answer. Thanks for applying!)*

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

e-mail address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (work) \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (home) \_\_\_\_\_

- 1) How long have you been a member the Unitarian Universalist Church of Columbia? \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) Have you held membership in any other UU congregations prior to this one? \_\_\_\_\_
- 3) Are you familiar with the history and traditions of Unitarian Universalism and this congregation, or are you actively studying these subjects? \_\_\_\_\_
- 4) Please describe your involvement with this church including committees or small groups you've served on, classes taken, lay led services in which you've participated.
- 5) Do you have any previous religious affiliations apart from Unitarian Universalism? If so, please describe them. \_\_\_\_\_
- 6) Do you have experience in public speaking, theater or performance? If so, please elaborate.
- 7) How would you feel about assuming a more public role in the worship service? \_\_\_\_\_
- 8) Do you enjoy working cooperatively with other people? \_\_\_\_\_
- 9) Describe your desire to serve as a Worship Associate, including what you would hope to gain from the experience.
- 10) Briefly characterize your personal spiritual journey.

- 11) What is important to you about worship?
  
- 12) Are there needs or concerns of our congregation or of the broader community that you would like to see addressed through the venue of worship?
  
- 13) Are there topics or themes in which you have a particular interest for future worship services? If so, please discuss them.
  
- 14) Do you have specific ideas as to how our worship services could be changed or augmented?
  
- 15) Would you be available for retreats and training? \_\_\_\_\_
  
- 16) Does your schedule allow you to attend regular meetings in a timely fashion? What else can you tell us about yourself that you feel would be relevant to your participation in the Worship Associates Program?
  
- 17) To what extent will your personal schedule allow you to be a part of an assistance team for the 12 summer lay-led worship services? To what extent would you be able to shepherd a lay-led service leader through the process of worship preparation and provide limited logistical assistance?