

Membership at Unity of Lehigh Valley

Our bylaws outline that becoming a member at Unity of Lehigh Valley, with all the rights and responsibilities that includes, is a process that begins with filing an Application for Membership with the Office; continues through the Orientation Program; and requires an annual renewal by participation in the ministry and submitting a renewal card.

There are two classes of members described in our bylaws:

- **Active** members have full benefits of membership including the ability to vote and serve as a board member.
- **Inactive** members have failed to renew their membership and may not have the benefits of membership, including voting rights, until the membership is restored. If the membership is not restored within two years of becoming inactive, the name will be removed from the membership role.

Through this policy we have created a third class of membership.

- **Associate** members are supported in actively learning and growing at Unity of Lehigh Valley but may not vote on matters of governance or serve as a board member. Associate members may receive wellness calls from the Chaplain team. Since there are no governance rights, the bylaws are silent on Associate members.

Unity of Lehigh Valley is a thriving spiritual community and YOU are an important part of that community. Is Spirit calling you to step up to a higher level of commitment in membership? Say Yes!

Associate Member must take Class 1 and Class 2

Class 1: Unity Basics

An overview of the history of Unity and our basic teachings.

Class 2: Welcome to ULV

An overview of organizational structure in churches in general and ULV specifics for membership and governance. A look at healthy churches and the integral model for thriving churches. A look at our mission, vision, values and strategic plan.

Active Member, in addition to Classes 1 and 2, must take Classes 3, 4, 5 and 6. We suggest that all 6 classes be completed within two years.

Class 3: Prayer in Unity

An overview of affirmative prayer and basic meditation. What is the difference between prayer and meditation? How does prayer work?

Class 4: Prosperity Teachings

An overview of the concepts of substance and maintaining a flow in our lives, including tithing practices.

Class 5: Positive Communication

A brief overview of how we listen and how we can seek to connect in our communication. We will explore Agreeing and Disagreeing in Love as a part of moving through conflict.

Class 6: Metaphysical Interpretation of Scripture

A brief overview of the various levels of interpretation and basic interpretation of old and new testament Bible verse and story. Introduction to fundamental Unity symbols and meaning.

Each of the 6 classes is a 2 hour session and the series is offered twice a year.

If you take a 4-6 week class on Prayer (or Chaplain Training), Prosperity, NonViolent Communication or Bible study, you will not need to take the corresponding Overview Classes. Please consult the Minister if you have a question about whether or not a weekly class qualifies. *If you are considering active or associate membership, please complete an Application for Membership Card available from the office and begin your journey.*

Youth who have consistently participated in our Youth Of Unity program for two (2) years prior to turning 18 may apply to the minister to receive credit for classes 1 and 3-6. With the Minister's approval, upon completion of an application form and Class 2, the applicant is eligible for full membership upon turning 18.

Transferring Membership

If you are a member in good standing at another Unity Worldwide Ministries member church, you may request a transfer of your membership.

- Please complete the New Member application card and indicate your former home church.
- We request that you take the Welcome to ULV orientation class to become familiar with our organization and expectations.
- We will contact your former church home to verify your membership.
- Upon approval of membership, you will be subject to the same membership requirements for renewal and board service.

Membership Renewal

To retain your membership in good standing, members must maintain active participation in the ministry as evidenced in commitment(s) on the renewal card. Each fiscal year Active and Associate Members must indicate the desire to retain membership by completing and returning to the church a yearly membership renewal card. Beginning October 2015, new members and renewing members will agree to communicate using the tenants in Agreeing and Disagreeing in Love.

In the event membership is lost and the congregant seeks to re-instate membership, the following shall apply:

- If membership loss was at or less than six (6) months, complete the renewal card and submit to the office.
- If membership loss was more than six (6) months but less than two (2) years ago, submit a request for reinstatement to the board outlining the circumstances of the lapse in membership along with a renewal card.
- If membership loss was 2 years ago or more at the time of the request, the congregant should complete all membership requirements for new members.