

# Announcements

**Faith Development: 12:30:** Pre-K - 1st graders; **1:30 pm:** 2nd - 6th graders; **3:00pm:** Teens. Our 5<sup>th</sup> UU principle inspires us towards “The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large.” On Sunday in our Faith Development classes for children and youth, we'll talk about what it means to be committed to our conscience and letting it guide us to do what our inner voice tells us is right. If you'd like more information about our Faith Development program for children and youth, contact our Director, Karen Gonzalez at [ReligiouEducator@RiverOfGrassUU.org](mailto:ReligiouEducator@RiverOfGrassUU.org).

**Young Adults** are now meeting on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sundays, at 7:30 pm virtually on Zoom – Millennials, Gen Xers, and Gen Zs, are welcome to tune in to the YUUnG Adult Virtual Coffee Hour on **Sunday, Mar 14<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 pm**. Our group's purpose is to foster an inclusive, diverse and intentional community that inspires spiritual growth and connection. Please email [youngadults@riverofgrassuu.org](mailto:youngadults@riverofgrassuu.org) if you have any questions and to obtain the zoom details.

**The Annual RoG Pledge Drive Kicks-Off on Sunday, March 14<sup>th</sup> during our Worship Service and runs through April 11<sup>th</sup>.** The River of Grass UU Congregation exists, "to nurture our spirits, love intentionally, and create a just and healthy planet". Here at the River, we sustain this mission and the operations of our congregation through the two P's. If you are a new member, then you are most familiar with our weekly request for financial support through the first “P”, i.e., the “Plate” of which ½ goes to support our operations and the other ½ goes to one of our real connections to the community through direct support of LifeNet4Families of Broward County. The funds from your generosity to the “Plate” is usually about 3% of our real income each year.

On the other hand, once a year we do our most critical fund-raising for operating income for the next fiscal year for the River via the second “P”, i.e., the annual “Pledge”. Over 80% of the total annual operating income for next fiscal year, starting on July 1st , 2021 comes from the second “P” from the Annual “Pledge” Drive (APD). You can commit to your pledge during the month-long drive by going to our website at <https://riverofgrassuu.org> and clicking the “[Donations](#)” tab and then clicking on “[Stewardship/Pledging](#)”. Fill in the blanks of the “River of Grass UU Congregation 2021-2022 Pledge Form” and Click “Send”. It is that easy! And you can tell us if you plan to fulfill the pledge through a single annual, quarterly, or monthly payments, which can be set up online or with the help of our office manager. Save postage and a trip to the post office! Otherwise, please fill out the enclosed form that you as a member will be receiving soon in the mail with an Annual Pledge Drive brochure.

Your financial contribution is essential to helping us to continue to love River of Grass into being. We are tremendously grateful for your current and past support for our Beloved Community!

Rob Giblin-Davis, RoG APD Chair and Treasurer, [Treasurer@RiverofGrassUU.org](mailto:Treasurer@RiverofGrassUU.org)

**Rev. Amy's upcoming sabbatical:** Rev. Amy's sabbatical will begin March 13, 2021, and end May 09, 2021. She will be back with us for the Annual Meeting on May 9<sup>th</sup>, and back in the pulpit on May 16, 2021. For more information about her sabbatical, please check out the information listed on our website: <https://riverofgrassuu.org/rev-amys-sabbatical.html>.

**Registration for Unit One of Building the World We Dream About is now open:** The registration link can be found on our website, on our Facebook page, and [\*\*REGISTER HERE FOR BUILDING THE WORLD WE DREAM ABOUT.\*\*](#)

In these first 12 90-minute sessions, we'll focus our gaze inward as we learn about ourselves and begin the work of becoming an antiracist / antioppressive / multicultural faith community. Specific dates and times will be determined by those who register.

Building the World We Dream About is a Unitarian Universalist Association program that seeks to interrupt the workings of racism and transform how people from different racial/ethnic groups understand and relate to one another. The full program consists of 24 workshops, with Taking It Home activities, reflections, and readings to be done between workshops. The program creates opportunities for participants to practice dreaming our world otherwise, and then commit to new, intentional ways of being.

As Unitarian Universalists, we hope developing antiracist, anti-oppressive, and multicultural habits and skills will lead us to build the multicultural world of the beloved community we dream about. Contact Karen Gonzalez at [ReligiousEducator@RiverOfGrassUU.org](mailto:ReligiousEducator@RiverOfGrassUU.org) for more information or to sign up for this transformational experience.

***Important Announcement from the Nominating Committee:***

The Nominating Committee is excited to announce the slate to fill the open positions on Board members for the year 2021-2022:

Vice President – Maureen Lundell

Secretary – Bruce Ngo

Trustee – Mallory McLaren

Trustee – Corrine Mann

Nominating Committee (3 people to be elected by the Congregation)

Peter Fox

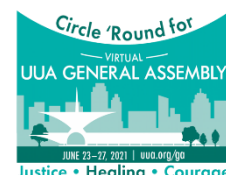
Bev Kaufman

Karen (Kat) Holland

On behalf of the Congregation, the Board would like to thank the Nominating Committee members for putting together a great slate for our upcoming year. Thank you Toni Cattell, Dave Katz, Corey Fleming, Jacquie Velasquez, Monica Dyer, and Devon Smith.

Per our By-laws - Other nominations may also be made by written petition signed by at least two members, delivered to an officer or Board member at least 20 days prior to the date of the Annual Meeting (May 9<sup>th</sup> this year) in order to be included on the final written slate. Members may nominate themselves. Nominations from the floor during the meeting are not permitted.

**Why Virtual General Assembly?** General Assembly (commonly referred to as GA) is the annual gathering of Unitarian Universalists, where we conduct business of the Association, explore the theological underpinnings of our faith, and lean fully into our mission and principles. That remains true even when we cannot gather physically. Last year, GA had more than 4,900 registered attendees participate from remote locations around the world. Although we give up the face-to-face interaction and hugs that are prevalent when we meet in-person, we retain our dedication to community and make our experience more accessible and more environmentally sustainable.



This year River of Grass will fund our three voting delegates, as well as others who are interested in attending. This is a major time commitment but so worth it. Go to <https://www.uua.org/ga> to view agendas and programs being offered. Only voting delegates are expected to attend the business meetings, but all are encouraged to attend. Last year we paid the registration fee for five attendees. With many ROGers attending, we can cover most of the workshops. Attendees will be expected to write a report to the Board. If you are interested in attending, please contact Kathy Jens-Rochow at [president@riverofgrassuu.org](mailto:president@riverofgrassuu.org).

### *River of Grass in Pandemic: One Year Later*

Rev. Amy Carol Webb, March 01, 2021

One year since River of Grass moved everything we'd do in person on-line to do our part to keep ourselves, one another, and our community safe COVID-19 changed virtually every aspect of our lives -- what a year of profound change, adaptation, learning and unlearning, creating a new normal that became, well, just "normal" before long, with all our coping and adapting and grieving and planning and dreaming and missing people we love to the bone and finding ways to stay connected driven by love that never gives up and renewed gratitude for all the good that lifts its head in the hardest of times.

And while we are grateful we've not lost a River of Grass member to the virus, none of us remains untouched by the loss of someone we love. Most of us also lost our way of life, whether from working from and schooling kids at home, or suffering mightily in isolation, while the COVID economy came down on so many as well.

Now one year later, hope rises as vaccines roll out and we can begin to see opportunity to gather in person again on the horizon – though we must yet remain patient until enough people have immunity to be safe together again.

Your leadership at River of Grass continues to take every precaution with every new stage of this process, especially as we weigh when/how/where we will gather again in person. To that end, your COVID-19 Re-Emergence Team has been at work examining data, listening to science, following guidelines as they come from science and health authorities, as well as recommendations from those who know congregational life, like the Unitarian Universalist Association and the World Council of Churches, and also watching trends and ideas being developed across religious communities as absolutely all of us are on the same ground, facing the same questions, at the same time.

Here are the Interim Recommendations from the RoG COVID-19 Re-Emergence Team

**Team:** Deb Buehler Ely, Karen Gonzalez, Susan Juncosa, Jeanne Masten

**Purpose of Team:** To review guidelines for congregational and smaller group gatherings in order to provide recommendations to the Board to be used for official River of Grass meetings and events.

**These recommendations are:**

For: only for official, River of Grass - sponsored outdoor small group gatherings.

Fluid: new information comes out all the time and the recommendations could change.

Inclusive: all attendees should be able to attend physically or virtually.

Protective: considers first those who are most at risk.

Science-based: follow the directives according to the experts.

**Sources:**

UUA: <https://www.uua.org/safe/pandemics/covid-19>

CDC: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/organizations/index.html>

Johns Hopkins: <https://coronavirus.jhu.edu/us-map>

UU Reston Covid-19 Guidelines: <https://www.uureston.org/covid>

**MEETINGS IN THE TIME OF COVID**

**RIVER OF GRASS COVID-19 TEAM RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE BOARD: February 2021**

**Meetings in the Time of the COVID**

We don't know when. We don't know where. But we are trying to provide answers for "How?" As vaccinations for COVID-19 roll out, River of Grass members are thinking about getting together. This meeting protocol has been developed and can be found on our web ([RiverofGrassUU.org/teams-committees--small-groups.html](http://RiverofGrassUU.org/teams-committees--small-groups.html)). Contact Susan Juncosa at [vicepresident@riverofgrassuu.org](mailto:vicepresident@riverofgrassuu.org) for more information.

**Frequently Asked Questions - Small Groups - Outdoors only**

**1. Can I meet with my RoG friends?**

- That is your choice at all times. These recommendations are only for official River of Grass – sponsored gatherings.

**2. What's the first thing to consider when organizing an in-person event?**

- Is it necessary that the gathering be in person? Can the same purpose be achieved by meeting on Zoom? Is there a reason to meet other than the fact that we want to be together?

**3. My group has all been vaccinated with all shots and have waited the recommended times. Can we have an in-person meeting?**

- Yes, if you take these actions:

+ everyone signs the covenant and a list of attendees is made;

+ everyone keeps their masks on and maintains social distance;

+ no food or drink sharing;

+ If any members of the group do not want to attend in person, provision must be made for attendance by Zoom or other application.

**4. Seriously, Question 3? What's the point of all these precautions if everyone has a vaccination?**

- Seriously. At this time, it is unknown if vaccinated people can still pass along the virus or its' variants. So yeah. Follow the precautions.

**5. What about an indoor meeting?**

- At this time, no official River-of-Grass indoor gatherings should be held L

## **6. Can children come to the gathering?**

- At this time, there is no vaccine approved for children. They would have to maintain social distance and masking, etc. This might be a group decision.

### **Factors Considered in forming the Guidelines:**

All guidelines depend on both the public and the personal.

The public – the surrounding community – must meet certain standards for daily new cases, infection rate, test positivity percentage, contact tracing in place and hospital capacity.

Personal – each individual's state of health.

### **Scope of Recommendations:**

At this time, the recommendations are only for small gatherings in **outdoor** spaces in which social distancing protocol can be maintained.

### **Format of Recommendations:**

The team will develop a FAQ (Frequently Asked Questions) document to be posted on the web site and added to the weekly e-mail, which will be updated as needed.

### **Meeting Leader will do the following:**

- + send the covenant to attendees prior to the meeting;
- + set up space and have sanitizer/hand washing supplies available;
- + collect signed covenants or procure signed covenants at the start of meeting;
- + locations of outdoor gathering will be chosen with the physical needs of the attendees in mind and alternative Zoom links will be offered if needed;
- + review masking and social distancing.

### **Actions Prior to a Gathering**

A covenant shall be developed and sent to attendees which includes the following:

- + agrees to follow social distancing and masking protocols; and
- + has not traveled internationally in past two weeks; and
- + attendee will comply with any contact tracing which may ensue; and
- + is not experiencing any COVID symptoms.

### **Actions During a Gathering**

- + attendees will give meeting leader the signed covenant or sign a copy at the start of meeting;
- + Meeting attendees will follow masking and social distancing guidelines;
- + Meeting attendees will not share food or drink.

### **Actions after a Gathering**

- + Meeting leader will keep the covenants collected for two weeks;
- + Attendees will inform the meeting leader if they have Covid symptoms and/or a positive Covid test within two weeks after the meeting. Meeting leader will inform all attendees.

**Poetry Service - Apr 25<sup>th</sup>!** Do you enjoy poetry? Members are invited to submit a poem for our annual poetry reading service. The theme is "Becoming". Poems must be brief (no more than 4 minutes reading time) and in keeping with our UU principles. All poetry must have permission of the author or no known copyright restriction. Send submissions to Zena Tucker or email [membership@riverofgrassuu.org](mailto:membership@riverofgrassuu.org). **All poems must be received by Mar 30<sup>th</sup>.**



**UUA's New Day Rising Conference feedback Mar 15<sup>th</sup>** - Members of the Service, Social Justice



and Green Team will give feedback to the Congregation on the recent UUA's New Day Rising Conference. There were workshops, discussions, worship and caucusing during the conference. We identified our next faithful steps in changing White Supremacy culture as we create our Beloved UU Community. And we listened to testimonials from selected congregations around the continent as they shared their learnings, hopes and next steps in their quest for racial equity in their congregations. **Monday, March 15, at 6 pm; [Join Zoom Meeting](#); Meeting ID: 859 6845 8534 Passcode: 341838**; One tap mobile +16465588656,,85968458534# (Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85968458534>) If you have any questions, please contact Steve Jens-Rochow [ssjgt@riverofgrassuu.org](mailto:ssjgt@riverofgrassuu.org).

**Flowing River Sangha - We meet every Tuesday at 7:00 pm. Our next gathering will be on Tuesday, Mar 16<sup>th</sup> via zoom. <https://zoom.us/j/201911385>.** We will meet from 7:00 - 8:30 pm. This is an open-ended, drop-in group for all levels of meditation experience. Gary Gonzalez [meditation@riverofgrassuu.org](mailto:meditation@riverofgrassuu.org).

**Free “Mindfulness for Today’s World” weekly online sessions:**

Thursdays 6:00 - 7:00 pm for adults, [zoom link for Thursday night at 6 pm](#)

For more information or to register contact [Carolyn@InsightInstituteLLC.com](mailto:Carolyn@InsightInstituteLLC.com) or [Scott@InsightInstituteLLC.com](mailto:Scott@InsightInstituteLLC.com), or visit <http://www.insightinstitutellc.com/>

**The River of Grass Men's Group** is open to all men. The Men's Group Men's Group meets via Zoom every 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the month at 7:00 pm. **Next Thursday, Mar 18<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm we will meet on Zoom** and discuss our topic: "Leisure." As preparation, you might make a list of what you do for leisure, now and before COVID. At each session, we launch into a topic that is designed to encourage personal sharing. <https://us04web.zoom.us/j/670022402> The Meeting Room opens up at 6:30 pm before the Host arrives. For more info, please contact Kip Barkley [mensgroup@riverofgrassuu.org](mailto:mensgroup@riverofgrassuu.org). Please let us know if you plan to try to make it.

**Have you heard about our Faith Forward Inquirers Series?** We meet on Wednesdays from 7:30 – 8:30 pm on Zoom, see the schedule below! Faith Forward Inquirers Series is a rotation of seven conversations about our congregation and Unitarian Universalism. The series is designed for visitors and newcomers who are looking for a general introduction, and yet the sessions are appealing to veteran members who want more information about our beloved community. New members and inquirers are encouraged to attend. Classes are not mandatory for membership but are highly recommended! Our next class is scheduled for **Mar 24<sup>th</sup> and is FF Inquirers #6: Social Action & Community Service**. For more information, email Zena Tucker, [membership@riverofgrassuu.org](mailto:membership@riverofgrassuu.org). Zoom link for our session is: [ZOOM Link for RoG Inquirers](#).

Date	Time	Event
3/24/21	7:30 - 8:30 pm	FF Inquirers#6: Social Action & Community Service
3/31/21	7:30 - 8:30 pm	FF Inquirers#7: Pastoral Care and Small Groups
4/7/21	7:30 - 8:30 pm	FF Inquirers#8: Membership 101 & Congregational Life

4/28/21	7:30 - 8:30 pm	FF Inquirers#4: Faith Development for Children and Adults
5/5/21	7:30 - 8:30 pm	FF Inquirers#5: Worship & Liturgical Year
5/12/21	7:30 - 8:30 pm	FF Inquirers#1: Q&A with Minister
5/26/21	7:30 - 8:30 pm	FF Inquirers#6: Social Action & Community Service
6/2/21	7:30 - 8:30 pm	FF Inquirers#7: Pastoral Care and Small Groups
6/9/21	7:30 - 8:30 pm	FF Inquirers#8: Membership 101 & Congregational Life

**River of Grass New Mailing Address** - We have our post office box and are forwarding all of our mail there now. Our new mailing address is listed on our website as a footer on each page and in the [contact us page](#) if you need to look it up.

**River of Grass UU Congregation, 3225 N Hiatus Rd, Unit 452485, Sunrise, Florida 33345**

**SSJGT, Service and Social Justice Green Team, Green Tip of the Week:** Use reusable water bottles, rather than disposable plastic bottles or cups. Simply refill a reusable water bottle from your faucet or a water fountain. It's easy, it helps keep you hydrated, and it's green.

**Capital Campaign Contributions:** We have set up several methods for you to make your pledges/contributions to the Capital Campaign. The table below details the various methods, including charges that the River accrues when this payment method is used. We are here to help with any questions you may have. Feel free to contact our office administrator, Sandy Blair Chibnick, via email at [office@riverofgrassuu.org](mailto:office@riverofgrassuu.org).

Monetary Donations		
Method	How	Processing fees paid by River of Grass
Check	Write CC on memo line Mail to River of Grass: 3225 N Hiatus Rd, Unit 452485 Sunrise, FL 33345	\$0
Checking account via Vanco	Set up payment on our <a href="#">Donations page</a> . Designate on the Capital Campaign line	\$0.45 per transaction plus processing fee 1%
Credit Card via Vanco	Set up payment on our <a href="#">Donations page</a> . Designate amount on the Capital Campaign line.	\$0.45 per transaction plus credit card processing fee: American Express: 3.5% Visa/MasterCard: 2.75%
PayPal	<a href="https://www.paypal.com/paypalme/my/profile">https://www.paypal.com/paypalme/my/profile</a> In the notes write "Capital Campaign"	Varies based on method of payment
Zelle	Use your bank to set up \$ transfer. Send Zelle payment to <a href="mailto:CapitalCampaign@riverofgrassuu.org">CapitalCampaign@riverofgrassuu.org</a> .	\$0
Securities	Any questions contact Northstar Financial Planners: <i>Allen Giese, Steve Tepper, or Stacy Saavedra at (954) 693-0030</i>	

	<p>Securities should be transferred per instructions from the donor's brokerage or advisor using the following DTC and A/C numbers as the destination</p> <p><b>#0188 - TD Ameritrade Institutional</b></p> <p><b>A/C #944110334</b></p> <p><b>RIVER OF GRASS UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION, INC.</b></p> <p>The donor should notify the CC Team and the Office Administrator of the details of the donation by emailing <a href="mailto:CapitalCapaign@riverofgrassuu.org">CapitalCapaign@riverofgrassuu.org</a>.</p>
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