

# Announcements

---

## *Welcoming Congregation*

For more than twenty years, the Welcoming Congregation Program has helped Unitarian Universalist congregations become more welcoming and inclusive of people of all sexual orientations and gender identities. River of Grass was recognized as a Welcoming Congregation in June 2002, after completing the tasks required by the UUA.

So much has changed in the lives of the LGBTQ+ peoples, the UUA thought it would be good to offer the opportunity to congregations to review, update and renew their commitment. This last year, our Welcoming Congregation Renewal Team has worked for this renewal. At our Annual Meeting, we voted unanimously to ask for recognition of our renewal to the Welcoming Congregation efforts.

Our application was approved and **we are a renewed Welcoming Congregation** as recognized by the UUA!

A big thank you to the Welcoming Congregation Team - Kathy Jens-Rochow, Steve Jens-Rochow, Marjie Loring, Esther Sampol, Kallie LeFever, Lou DeSantis, Rita Cherubini. And to the 29 people who registered for and participated in the Transgender Inclusion program.

*Congratulations River of Grass - our beloved renewed Welcoming Congregation.*



**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**

**Faith Development: 12:30: Pre-K - 1<sup>st</sup> graders; 1:30 pm: 2<sup>nd</sup> - 6<sup>th</sup> graders; 3:00 pm: teens**

This Sunday in our Faith Development classes, we'll begin our monthly discussions on creating a more just and fair world by renewing our commitment to dismantling a white supremacy culture and actively becoming anti-racist. This begins with noticing and celebrating our differences, and listening to black and brown voices. We'll engage in conversations that give us practice with speaking truths, and we'll delve deep in our hearts to begin change. I hope to see your children and youth join us in our quest. For more information, contact Karen Gonzalez at [ReligiousEducator@RiverofGrassUU.org](mailto:ReligiousEducator@RiverofGrassUU.org).

**Young Adults are meeting every Sunday at 6:30 pm virtually on Zoom** – Millennials, Gen Xers, and Gen Zs, are welcome to tune in to the YUUnG Adult Virtual Coffee Hour on **Sunday, Sep 20<sup>h</sup> at 6:30 pm**. Our 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.

**Free “Mindfulness for Today’s World” weekly online sessions** - Thursdays 6:00 - 7:00 pm for adults; [Zoom link for 6pm](#) For more info contact [Carolyn@InsightInstituteLLC.com](mailto:Carolyn@InsightInstituteLLC.com) or [Scott@InsightInstituteLLC.com](mailto:Scott@InsightInstituteLLC.com), or visit <https://www.insightinstitutellc.com>.

**Flowing River Sangha** – We meet every Tuesday at 7:00 pm. Our next gathering will be on **Tuesday, Sep 22<sup>nd</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).

**Proposed Change in Policies and Procedures** - The Board reviewed and approved a proposed change in our Policies & Procedures, adding the following paragraph. In accordance with our Policy on Policies, we need to have a congregational review before making the change.

**Proposed Change in red and articles following this change will be renumbered.**

## **9. Membership**

- A. The Minister is the only person authorized to sign up new members in the membership book except for person(s) specifically authorized by the Minister, or in the absence of the Minister, the Board President.
- B. In the absence of the Minister for a prolonged period, the President or Vice-president will have the responsibility of signing up new members.
- C. **A signed new member document, approved by the Minister, is a suitable substitute for signing the membership book. Name(s) and date of membership will be annotated in the membership book as the date the form was received by the Office Administrator.**

Please review and send any recommendations for change to [Board@riverofgrassuu.org](mailto:Board@riverofgrassuu.org) by Oct

17<sup>th</sup>.

**FUTURE HOME CAPITAL CAMPAIGN IS BEGINNING!** The Capital Campaign will begin on Sep 27<sup>th</sup> and ends on Nov 1<sup>st</sup>!

We are now actively searching for a permanent home in West Broward County. The Future Home Team is working with a local agent to find accommodations that might work for us. As you recall, we gave up our location of almost ten years on Route 84 in Davie at the end of July when it made no sense to keep our rental contract for a space we could no longer utilize. All was packed up and is being stored waiting for the right time and the right space to be together again!

During the Campaign, you will be personally contacted by Campaign Stewards, friends of yours at River of Grass, to talk about your financial commitment to our New Home. Please welcome their calls. Your pledge can be paid in two or three year's time. Please check this space for further information in the coming weeks.

If you would like to be on the Steward Team, please email Kathy Jens-Rochow [CapitalCampaign@riverofgrassuu.org](mailto:CapitalCampaign@riverofgrassuu.org) or call 954-531-9540.

**Be a Trusted Voice for Safe and Fair Elections! Here's one very important thing that you can do to help assure safe and fair elections: Make sure the people you know have the information they need to vote.**

Between emails, texts, calls, and social media posts about the election, everyone is bombarded with information daily, and many people understandably shut down and tune out. Whose email will they open? One from someone they know and like and trust. That's you! Please reach out to friends and family to check that they have the voting information they need.

- Contact your friends and family in Florida and tell them to check their voter registration status, or register if they're not registered to vote, by October 5. [Click here for a sample email to Florida voters.](#)
- Contact your friends and family in other states to let them know where they can find voter information. [Click here for a sample email to voters in any state.](#)

Do please personalize your email. People are much more likely to act on your message if they feel that you are reaching out to them as individuals. And if you haven't requested your Florida Vote-by-Mail ballot yet, please do so today here -- <https://www.browardsoe.org/> -- don't miss your chance! You can avoid Post Office delays by dropping your Vote-by-Mail ballot in a secure drop box during Early Voting. To be involved in promoting safe and fair elections in 2020, contact the Elders Stand for Fair Elections Florida team at [FairElections-FL@eldersaction.org](mailto:FairElections-FL@eldersaction.org).

**Light the way for others by facilitating our Inquirers Series!** Make new friends, share your story and enthusiasm for our beloved community. We need UU to shine a light, make a way and support those who want to learn more about Unitarian Universalism and River of Grass. The series is on Wednesday evenings. Training is available. See Zena Tucker or email [membership@riverofgrassuu.org](mailto:membership@riverofgrassuu.org) to sign up.

**Faith Forward Inquirers Series is back!** The Faith Forward Inquirers Series meets on

Wednesdays 7:30 – 8:30 pm on Zoom, see the updated 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 **Sep 23<sup>rd</sup> and is FF Inquirers #5: Worship & Liturgical Year**. 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
9/23/20	7:30 - 8:30 pm	FF Inquirers#5: Worship & Liturgical Year
9/30/20	7:30 - 8:30 pm	FF Inquirers#6: Social Action & Community Service
10/7/20	7:30 - 8:30 pm	FF Inquirers#7: Pastoral Care and Small Groups
10/14/20	7:30 - 8:30 pm	FF Inquirers#8: Membership 101 & Congregational Life
10/28/20	7:30 - 8:30 pm	FF Inquirers#1: Q&A with Minister
11/4/20	7:30 - 8:30 pm	FF Inquirers#2: Unitarian Universalist History, Principles and Sources
11/11/20	7:30 - 8:30 pm	FF Inquirers#4: Faith Development for Children and Adults
12/2/20	7:30 - 8:30 pm	FF Inquirers#5: Worship & Liturgical Year
12/9/20	7:30 - 8:30 pm	FF Inquirers#6: Social Action & Community Service
1/6/21	7:30 - 8:30 pm	FF Inquirers#7: Pastoral Care and Small Groups
1/13/21	7:30 - 8:30 pm	FF Inquirers#8: Membership 101 & Congregational Life

**SSJGT, Service and Social Justice Green Team, Green Tip of the Week:** Change your car's air filter the next time you change the oil. Over time, air filters get clogged causing your engine to work harder - creating more greenhouse gas emissions and lowering your fuel economy. Save money on gas by spending money on a new air filter.