



Unitarian Universalist Society of Martha's Vineyard

Application Information

Thank you for your interest in a position with the UUSMV. The information below will help you understand the culture of our congregation and direct you to our application materials.

Our Mission

We are an intentionally welcoming congregation of diverse faiths and shared values, fostering spiritual growth, community action, and universal justice.

Our Vision

We envision a flourishing and caring church community that...

- Lives our Unitarian Universalist Principles
- Supports a shared ministry and vibrant music program
- Promotes lifelong learning
- Expands our efforts to achieve a fully functional and inspirational chapel
- Extends our quest for universal justice to the Vineyard and beyond as we seek to widen our spiritual horizons.

We are a Welcoming Congregation

We, as a Welcoming Congregation, have chosen, through our words, our actions and the ways we engage our spirit, to fully open our doors and our hearts to the extraordinary richness and diversity of human life.

We affirm the inherent worth and dignity of every person.

We honor the differences among us, whether due to race, color, gender identification, sexual orientation, family status, age, mental or physical ability, class, national origin, or other bases for discrimination, without requiring adherence to any given interpretation of religion or to any specific religious belief or creed.

We celebrate our sense of community and the values that we share together, having affirmed this commitment.

Application Process

Please visit our website, www.uusmv.org and review the enclosed materials for information and to gain an understanding of the importance and vitality of the position.

Once you have submitted your application, a member of the recruitment and selection team will contact you to set up an interview.

Feel free to email us at uusmvre@gmail.com if you have any questions.

The Role of Music at the Unitarian Universalist Society of Martha's Vineyard

Music is present even when you walk into an empty Stevens Chapel. A grand piano graces the small stage under a large wooden arch and, behind the piano, the golden pipes of a Hook and Hastings organ rise to the ceiling. Between the organ and piano, chairs and benches for a choir are squished. Hymnbooks, modern and traditional, wait everywhere for a congregation to pick them up and sing.

When the steeple bell rings at the beginning of a service, usually a lone speaker, the service coordinator, handles secular matters – words of welcome, introduction of visitors, announcements (a fund drive, a reading group, volunteers for yard cleanup). When these mundane matters are checked off, the coordinator turns to the organist or pianist and says, “We will now enter a spirit of worship.”

The responsibility for this shift from merely taking care of business to looking for meaning in our lives, seeking solace from our sorrows, examining our values, and being part of a whole congregation and not just a person alone, – this is a job for music. From that moment on we are at worship, and music will be woven into the moments that follow, supporting the messages and themes, providing us a way to share our feelings by singing together, setting moods, and simply being beautiful. Music is central at UUSMV.

Our favorite hymn, based on how often we sing it, is “Spirit of Life, Come Unto Me.” Often we sing it quietly, seated. There is a plea in the lyrics. “Roots, hold me close. Wings, set me free.” We do not look to a particular religion to do this for us, nor to a particular musical tradition. But we want our music, holding us safe in its rhythms and harmony, its patterns and melodies, to help our spirits soar.

The leader of our music and our minister must work in close cooperation. Often our minister will roam up the center aisle during a hymn, singing himself, and, just before the final stanza shouting out, “Okay, let's hear it now,” or something like that. He knows that his morning message is just a part of the experience of worship. He is supporting music. Likewise, music needs to support the message and be part of a planned worship experience.

Our Shared Ministry

Our Covenant in Shared Ministry

We will...

- Be honest with sensitivity and respect
- Speak the truth with love
- Trust
- Use good communication
- Consult members and friends
- Respect the roles defined, share them with the congregation, and continue to clarify roles and responsibilities, as needed
 - Support Reverend Bill's roles and responsibilities for decision making when challenged
- Seek consensus
- Cultivate the constructive voice of all
- Open more communication channels
- Ask for help when needed and support each other
- Be mindful of the limits of a half time minister

Music

Minister has responsibility for music selected for Sunday services

- PC charters Music Committee which has consultative role and supports Minister, Music Director, and Worship Committee with music for services and supports lay leaders of other ministries with music.

Membership

- Minister leads selected aspects of membership: recognition ceremonies, pathways to membership, new UU classes.
- PC charters Membership Committee which leads membership and supports the Minister.

Lifelong Learning

Minister and PC share responsibility

- PC charters Lifelong Learning Committee which coordinates children's and adult programs.
- Minister provides consultative role and leads some activities.

Social Justice

PC has responsibility.

- Minister supports with consulting, advice, and prophetic voice.

Communication

PC has responsibility and charters the Communications Committee

- Minister has advisory and consultative role.

Pastoral Care

Minister has overall responsibility and determines need for and coaches lay pastoral care associates.

- PC charters Lay Pastoral Care.
- PC charters Hospitality & Caring Committee which supports pastoral care with caring activities.

Rites of Passage

Minister has responsibility

- PC sets policy for rites of passage
- Membership, Lifelong Learning, Music Committees support Minister with Rites of Passage.

Denominational Affairs

PC and Minister share responsibility

- PC selects Denominational Affairs Coordinator and GA delegates.
- PC participates in UUA and BCD leadership activities.
- Minister participates in UUA and BCD minister activities.

Right Relations

PC has primary responsibility

- Committee on Ministries is the Society's primary resource for right relations, supporting the Minister, PC, committee leaders, and members.
- All lay leaders share responsibility.

Governance & Stewardship

PC has legal responsibility for all operations.

- PC plans, sets policy, and charters committees and work groups.
- Trustees hold title to the property and are responsible for care, maintenance, and insurance.
- Minister is member of PC, participates in governance, and provides prophetic voice