



Thinking about becoming a Faith Forward congregation?

Here are some tips for how to talk with your leaders and get their buy-in...

Faith Forward: From Visitor to Leader is a path that integrates membership growth, faith development, and leadership development. It was developed by First Unitarian Church of Dallas.

Faith Forward is:

- A clear path to connect visitors and members and develop new leaders. It answers the question we often hear from new members about “what’s next?”
- A way to deepen participants’ understanding of our UU faith, the congregation, and themselves. It increases the literacy of congregants, helping them understand who you are and where you want to go.
- Accessible to participants – all CORE Path sessions are stand-alone / open to drop-in attendees, and require no prior knowledge.
- Simple for congregations to implement. We’ve done the work for you in creating facilitator guides, participant handouts, videos, implementation guides, customizable promotional materials, facilitator training materials and more for the entire path.
- A network of congregations with whom you can connect for support. Included in the subscription are online facilitator trainings for your Faith Forward facilitators, as well as ongoing implementation support from the Faith Forward staff team.

How Faith Forward can impact your congregation:

- Participants in the path were 3X as likely to join our congregation.
- Higher retention rates for new members who participate in Faith Forward prior to joining.
- Newcomers make connections sooner, facilitating a sense of belonging and a deeper connection to the community.
- Members who joined after participating in Faith Forward had more knowledge of our congregation and Unitarian Universalism than past new members.
- Members are engaged, oriented, and equipped to take on service/leadership positions sooner.

What is required to get it started:

- One person (staff or lay leader) to coordinate schedule/logistics
- A couple facilitators to launch Inquirers (the number depends on congregational size and structure)
- Scalable to small to midsize congregations – put your whole congregation through the path, or offer sessions every other week instead of weekly. You can also focus on an area of need by choosing one of the a la carte options.
- The program can pay for itself, because informed members are also informed pledgers.

Contact us at faithforward@dallasuu.org if you have questions, or need additional guidance on how to talk with your congregation about Faith Forward. We look forward to hearing from you!