

Growth Through Service

In the spirit of “leadership from the edges”, as opposed to “from the top”, the Leadership Development Committee has identified a powerful program model that has been successfully applied in other congregations. We have adapted it to our local situation and resources.

General framework for the GTS Program:

- UUCNRV Mission

Inspire spiritual and ethical growth.

Create compassionate community.

Transform our community and the world through courageous love.

- GTS Statement of Theological Grounding –

As Unitarian Universalists, we live out our faith through our service to others. True spiritual growth in our congregations often arises through our connectedness with others and through service with a higher purpose that is greater than our own individual needs. In this context, service to our spiritual community becomes a sacred experience, one in which our relationships are defined by a sense of caring, respect, commitment, and responsibility.

- Local commitment -

At UUCNRV, we encourage everyone to experience service as a way of finding expression for their own spirituality. To do that, we want to work with you to help you understand what service roles would contribute the most to your spiritual growth. That is why we are adopting the Growth Through Service program.

How it will work

- The goal is to assist congregants in identifying the characteristics of meaningful service for each of them. These characteristics will be compiled during a private chat with specially trained “conversationalists” from the Growth through Service team. Below are some examples of personal service keywords.

Art/Design
Communications skills
Cook/Bake
Family activities
Financial skills
Meet new people
Leadership
Music
One-time event prep/strike
Shop/Drive
Social justice activities
Strategic planning
Teaching
Social Media

Website skills
Work with children
Work with youth
Write/Edit

- We are creating a searchable database of service opportunities that will be kept current by various service team leaders. Each opportunity will be labeled with keywords that reflect the nature of the spiritual “payoff” that current volunteers assign to the tasks.
- We will not be seeking to sign up volunteers. This is an enabling program, not a recruiting program.