

Mystic Grove Affinity Group □ 2017-2018 Charter

for Board of Trustees, Programming Team, & Leadership Committee reference□

respectfully submitted by□

Mary Murphy, Mystic Grove Chair□

mysticgrove@orlandouu.org

COMMITTEE NAME

The “Mystic Grove” is an affinity group providing educational, social, and ritual worship opportunities for those interested in learning more about Pagan/Heathen/earth-centered religious paths.

PLACE IN CHURCH ORGANIZATIONAL CHART

Mystic Grove → (affiliated with) Adult RE → Program Team → Board of Trustees → Congregation

MISSION/PURPOSE

- Provide a safe place for Pagans/Heathens to gather for worship and fellowship.
- Honor and give support to those on a Pagan/Heathen spiritual path.
- Maintain an environment where people of differing age groups and ability levels are free to participate.
- Share the collective wisdom of the past and the present.
- Provide Pagan/Heathen and Unitarian Universalist networking.
- Welcome those that follow alternative spiritual and philosophical paths.
- Provide opportunity for people to socialize, network, laugh, learn and celebrate.

MEMBERSHIP AND MEETINGS

Anyone with an interest is welcome to join the Mystic Grove. Meetings are the first Sunday of the month at 12:30 PM in the Wiggle Room.

We keep in touch with a Yahoo! Group. Email: mysticgrove@orlandouu.org to be added. The Chair oversees the group via the group mailing list, and members contribute to the planning of social events, classes, and worship rituals.

We maintain a public presence on the First Unitarian website (<https://www.orlandouu.org/groups/mystic-grove/>) and through Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/mysticgrovecfl/>) so people may know when Mystic Grove events are and know how to join. We also maintain our listing at CUUPS (<http://www.cuups.org>), Witchvox (<http://www.witchvox.com>) and Wordpress -- <https://mysticgrovecfl.wordpress.com>

Members in good standing may take part and cast votes during business meetings, may propose amendments to the Mystic Grove By Laws (attached) and may hold elected office in the Mystic Grove.

MEMBERSHIP REQUIREMENTS

- Membership shall be open to individuals regardless of race, color, sex, sexual orientation, physical disability, religious or national origin, social condition or gender identity.
- Members must be members in good standing with First Unitarian Church of Orlando or with another Unitarian Universalist organization.
- Members must affirm sympathy with the Principles and Purposes of the UUA and with the purpose of the Mystic Grove as stated in Mystic Grove Charter.
- Members shall attend at least four monthly meetings and one ritual per year.
- Membership is open to persons 16 years of age or older. Persons 16 or 17 years old may become members with written permission from both parents or their primary guardian. Parental participation is encouraged.
- Members shall pay five dollars upon joining Mystic Grove and five dollars in annual dues. (Dues are used to purchase supplies needed for worship rituals.)
- In special circumstances, dues and attendance requirements may be waived by approval of the officers of the Mystic Grove.

APPROPRIATE USE OF ROOMS, CHURCH NAME, ETC.

- As an affinity group affiliated with church, "Mystic Grove" is expected to follow church policies and procedures where applicable.
- "Mystic Grove" is granted permission to use on campus rooms for meetings or activities without paying rental with the understanding the program committees take priority over affinity groups when there are conflicting reservations.
- The group is expected to follow standard church procedure for making reservations, creating special events, fundraisers, or special collaborations with others groups.

- It is granted a church email address (mysticgrove@orlandouu.org) to make communication easier.
- It is granted a page on the church website to make communication easier. It is granted permission to list “Mystic Grove” events on the Order of Service, Eblast, and Oracle.
- Should the Board of Trustees decide to end affiliation with this group for any reason, all the above privileges will also be terminated.

LEADERSHIP

Affinity groups arrange their own leadership. Mystic Grove describes leadership duties and organization more fully in the Mystic Grove Bylaws. (See attached.)

The Board of Trustees does not expect Leadership Development Committee to have to develop leaders for affinity groups.

The leaders or chairs of affinity groups must be approved by the Board of Trustees in their annual charter in order to maintain church affiliation.

Current Mystic Grove leaders are:

- Mary Murphy (President and Chair)
- Cat Rigby (Vice President and Co-Chair)
- Carie Mendyk (Secretary/Treasurer)
- Toni Dockery (Historian)
- Lesley Howarth (Activities Coordinator)

Officer Job Descriptions are attached.

SPECIFIC DUTIES/ANNUAL OBJECTIVES FOR 2017-2018

Hold a monthly meeting on 1st Sundays for planning purposes□

Hold a Worship ritual marking 8 points on the Wheel of the Year. The 2017-2018 church programming year begins June 1, 2017 and ends with the May congregational meeting. The worship rituals within this frame are□

- Summer Solstice, Midsummer (June 25, 2017)□
- Lammas (August 7, 2017)
- Fall Equinox, Mabon (Sept 25, 2017)

- Samhain (Nov 6, 2017)
- Winter Solstice, Yule (Dec 21-22, 2017)
- Imbolc (Feb 5, 2018)
- Spring Equinox, Ostara (March 26, 2018)
- Beltane (May 7, 2018)

Hold a monthly Moon Circle class on fourth Fridays beginning in January 2018.

Hold Pagan Study Group classes on Thursdays on various topics. (Education planning meeting for Fall 2017 and Spring 2018 terms will happen in July or August 2017 once we know the church remodel situation.)

Sponsor Craft Circle (1st and 3rd Fridays at 6 PM in Room 9) for benefit of all interested in “crafty” socializing. BYO knitting, beading, sewing, models, etc. □

Sponsor “Pagan Movie Nite” on 3rd Sundays to screen movies of pagan interest once past the church remodel.

May co-sponsor other events in line with UU Principles and Mystic Grove purposes/ mission that come up during the year.

OUTCOME MEASUREMENTS □

“Mystic Grove” shall report on its success in meeting the annual objectives with an Annual Report to the minister for the Annual Congregational Meeting in May.

“Mystic Grove” also measures its success by the attendance of members at events. Should attendance drop to an unsustainable number (to be determined at such time), the group would disband and alert the Board of Trustees of this occurrence. □

ANNUAL BUDGET AND SPENDING AUTHORITIES

“Mystic Grove” receives no church funding. The Chair and Treasurer maintain its reserve account line. □

The Mystic Grove fiscal year shall correspond with the First Unitarian church year in the Eastern Standard Time Zone. □

Annual membership dues are \$5 per member. Membership dues help buy supplies for Worship Rituals. □

Should Mystic Grove organize any fundraising activities, it will abide by the church fundraising policies and procedures. □

To the extent that Mystic Grove offers income-producing events, all such profits shall be deposited to the general operating fund unless waived by the Board of Trustees.

REPORTING REQUIREMENTS TO THE PROGRAM TEAM

Mystic Grove reports annually to the Programming Team/minister by writing its annual report for the Annual May Congregational meeting packet each year.

Mystic Grove reports to the Program Team/minister at other times of the year as requested.

REPORTING REQUIREMENTS TO THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Mystic Grove reports to the Board of Trustees by submitting officer names at the start of the church year for vetting. (August 2017)

Mystic Grove reports to the Board of Trustees by writing its annual report for the Annual May Congregational meeting packet each year.

Mystic Grove reports to the Board of Trustees by providing most recent charter/bylaws on request.

REPORTING REQUIREMENTS TO THE CONGREGATION

Mystic Grove reports to the Congregation by writing its annual report for the Annual May Congregational meeting packet.

AUTHORITIES RESERVED TO THE BOARD

- The Board will promulgate appropriate congregation-wide policies with regard to all Affinity Groups. Additionally, the Board will decide whether to submit by-law revisions in accordance with the congregation's structure and by-laws.
- The Board reserves the right to review the Mystic Grove affinity group Chair(s) and Annual Charter to determine if the affinity group is in keeping with UU values and whether affiliation with the church will be renewed each year.
- The Board may remove any Mystic Grove member or terminate affiliation with the Mystic Grove group at its discretion.

RELATIONSHIPS TO OTHERS ON CAMPUS IN 2017-2018□

- Mystic Grove is a friend to Adult RE committee because Adult RE is the standing church committee that is the “sponsoring” church group for this affinity group.
- Mystic Grove is a friend to Adult RE committee by nature of being a educational group for those interested in learning more about Pagan/Heathen/earth-centered religious paths.
- Mystic Grove will maintain communication with Adult RE Committee as needed/required by Adult RE Chair and Mystic Grove Chair. (Expectation is low. General info brochure is expected to be enough so that newcomers and church members wanting to attend pagan classes know where to go and so the Adult RE schedule may include Mystic Grove activities.)
- Mystic Grove will maintain communication with Children’s RE Committee as needed/required by Director of Religious Education (DRE) and Mystic Grove Chair. (Expectation is low. General info brochure and consulting on pagan-related lesson plans as needed.)
- Mystic Grove is a friend to Membership Committee. Mystic Grove will maintain communication with Membership Committee as needed/required by Membership Chair and Mystic Grove Chair. (Expectation is low. General info brochure is expected to be enough so that newcomers to church interested in joining Mystic Grove know where to go.)
- Mystic Grove is a friend to Worship Committee. Mystic Grove will maintain communication with Worship Committee as needed/required by Worship Chair and Mystic Grove Chair. (Expectation is low. General info brochure is expected to be enough so that newcomers to church interested in attending Worship Rituals know where to go and for help in presenting the Annual Midsummer Service and Annual Yule service in the Sanctuary.)
- “Mystic Grove” is a friend to Green Team, the church ecojustice/environmental justice group since both are “earth oriented.” Mystic Grove will maintain communication with Green Team Committee as needed/required by Green Team Chair and Mystic Grove Chair for collaborative projects. (Relationship is already well established, particularly with mutual support of Earth Charter.)
- “Mystic Grove” does not require any professional staff as part of its functioning.

RELATIONSHIPS TO OFF CAMPUS GROUPS IN 2017-2018

- Mystic Grove maintains friendly relationships with other pagan groups in the area but has no formal partnerships to co-sponsor any events during the church remodel for the 2017-2018 year.