

# UUFA Committee/Group Charter

Revised charter submitted by: Myrna Adams West, Goddess Group Leader

Date: 8.31.17

## 1. Name of Committee or Group: The Goddess Group

### 2. General Purpose:

The Goddess Group is a circle of women who are exploring their inner goddess through appreciation and participation in the arts, everything from crafts to fine art, to gardening and nature walks, to singing and dancing and drumming, to reading and writing, to cooking and sewing.

**3. Membership:** All women are welcome—members and friends of UUFA, as well as others from the surrounding community. Occasional participation by men and children is also welcome.

**4. Leadership:** Myrna Adams West is the current leader of the group, chosen by consensus when the group was formed in 2003 following the conclusion of study of the Unitarian Universalist Association curricula *Cakes for the Queen of Heaven* and *Rise Up & Call Her Name*. Myrna functions as chief facilitator/convener. Other leaders volunteer as needed to facilitate sessions on whatever topic or theme is current.

### 5. Meetings:

The Goddess Group gathers monthly on third Sundays from 1:30-3:30, usually in the Fellowship Hall of UUFA. However, times and locations are flexible.

Gatherings are announced in the Tapestry, the Sunday Order of Service, and the weekly email announcements, as well as on the UUFA website and by word of mouth from one woman to another. Myrna sends monthly reminders via email. The Goddess Group is also promoted by Christy Gray's weekly reminders to her "Tribe."

Gatherings include but are not limited to story, song, art, discussion, fellowship and fun.

Meaningful rituals have developed and evolved that ensure community building and trust. What happens at the gatherings is not secret, but it is confidential.

Decisions are made by the facilitator and/or by consensus of participants.

### 6. List the specific duties and responsibilities of the committee/group:

**Monthly Gatherings:** 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays at the Fellowship, unless otherwise noted. Various themes

**Annual Holiday Tea with the Goddess:** 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in December at Myrna's home. Reservations required.

**Sponsoring a DFACS Girl:** Each December, the Goddess Group sponsors a local child (preferably a girl), buying gifts the child (or parent) has requested with money donated by participants throughout the year.

**"Rise Up & Call Her Name, Parts 1 & 2":** *A Woman-Honoring Journey into Global Earth-Based Spiritualities* is a journey of thought and activity. It carries numerous qualities. Most important among these are:

- Bringing awareness of the processes of nature into our contemporary spiritual life
- Nurturing self-respect in women and respect for women in men by making known the range of emotions and actions attributed to female deities and the respect accorded them in many spiritual traditions
- Expanding respect for Earth-based spiritual traditions as well as the Earth-honoring aspects of several well-known religious belief systems
- Opening doors to cross-cultural interaction by fostering an appreciation for the richness of diversity

**"Becoming Women of Wisdom: Marking the Passage into the Crone Years":** This new thirteen-circle curriculum is designed to prepare women to take on the important role of Wise Women in their

communities. The process involves monthly gatherings to explore what it means to become a crone, culminating in a ritual celebrating our new status as Women of Wisdom.

*(expected to offer this new curriculum from the UU Women's Federation in 2012)*

**“Cakes for the Queen of Heaven”:** A course created for those who are interested in exploring women's religious history, the discussion focuses on significant religious issues of feminism such as domination and subordination, suppression of the female presence in Judaism and Christianity, and access to power; describing the ways in which these issues have affected our culture. Attitudes derived from religious philosophy and beliefs have had a profound effect on interpersonal relationships among women and men and on family patterns. They have had an equally profound effect on the power structures of all the institutions in our society. This program provides a vehicle by which adults may examine the historical roots of these phenomena and move toward affecting change in our society where that is judged to be desirable and necessary.”

*(next offering TBD)*

**Outreach:** From time to time, as the participants see a need and/or opportunity, the Goddess Group offers assistance, monetary or otherwise, to members of the local, national, or world community.

**Annual Goals, Objectives:** At each meeting and through email, face-to-face conversation, phone calls, etc., the facilitator invites input from all participants regarding themes, programs, ideas, concerns, projects, and community outreach.

**Goals include:**

- Monthly gatherings that include study of prepared curricula from sources such as the UU Women's Federation as well as curricula and projects created and produced by members of the Goddess Group.
- Tea with the Goddess in December
- Sponsorship of an DFACS Child in December

- 7. Accountability:** The Goddess Group is accountable to its members; however, the projects, programs, objectives, and concept should always remain within the scope of the mission and vision of UUFA and support the UU Principles.
- 8. Reporting requirements:** None
- 9. Relationship to professional staff and other committees/groups of UUFA:** The minister and other staff are always welcome to participate as their time and interests allow; however, with the exception of occasional assistance with copying or bookkeeping by the Congregation Administrator, little time or involvement of the paid staff is required. The Goddess Group falls jointly under the auspices of both the Spiritual Arts Cluster and the Lifespan Education Cluster.
- 10. Communications:** The Goddess Group communicates with the congregation through the Tapestry, OOS, email, website, Facebook, and word of mouth. Christy Gray also publishes information about the gatherings to her “Tribe.” Members of the Goddess Group often invite participation by other women of their acquaintance in the community.
- 11. What decision-making authority does the committee/group have?** The Goddess Group has no authority beyond responsibility to its own participants and to stay within the mission and vision of UUFA.
- 12. Spending authorities:** The Goddess Group collects a “Goddess Gift” at most meetings. The proceeds are deposited in a separate account by the Congregation Administrator. Expenditures must be accompanied by the proper form and receipt presented to the Congregation Administrator and are deducted from the collected funds. Some activities require that participants pay a fee to

offset costs of materials, such as notebooks, printing, or art supplies. The Goddess Gift offering is also used to supplement these fees or to offer scholarships so that all may participate.