

What is “Commissioned”?

Commissioned Lay Community Ministers are laity who are in a covenantal ministerial relationship with a Unitarian Universalist congregation. Their commitment to service may be within or beyond their congregation or both.

Some Commissioned Lay Community Ministers are or have been clergy in other denominations, and many hold Master of Divinity Degrees or other advanced degrees. Many are employed in religious leadership positions (such as institutional chaplains).

Commissioned Lay Community Ministers may use either secular or academic titles, or, optionally, use the title “Deacon.” Some may wear the distinctive stole of the Diaconate (a stole worn over the left shoulder as a sash) when engaging in ceremonial activities.



The UUSCM is a UU movement of lay ministers and ordained clergy committed to promoting a broad spectrum of healing and social justice ministries.

In parallel to UUSCM Commissioning **UUSCM Credentialing**

is currently under study. At the request of UUA staff, our first focus is working to develop a process that may be used by UU Chaplains, who are not in Fellowship with the UUA, who would like to become Board Certified by the Association of Professional Chaplains. The UUSCM would provide UU Denominational Endorsement as part of the rigorous APC certification process. UUSCM sees this as an excellent example of a way to help members leverage extensive professional development in community ministry professions that do not require being in Fellowship with the UUA.

You Can Find Us Online at

uuscm.org

or on Facebook:

[www.facebook.com/](http://www.facebook.com/UUSocietyforCommunityMinistries/)

UUSocietyforCommunityMinistries/



Commissioning



**A Commissioned UU
Lay Community Minister
establishes and
maintains a
Covenantal Relationship
with a
UU Congregation.**

“Service is our prayer”

Who Benefits from Commissioning a Community Ministry?

The Community that you serve

As a Commissioned Lay UU Minister, you enhance your standing with the community you serve by formalizing your relationship with your UU congregation and demonstrate your commitment to professional practice through your UUSCM membership.

Your Congregation

Through your ministry, your congregation will extend its ministry and presence in the world. Your covenant may include ways in which you directly serve members of your congregation.

Your Colleagues

Through your ministry, the impact of your parish minister’s ministry will be extended and supported.

You

In addition to making a difference in the world, you are likely to find new meaning and depth in your Unitarian Universalist faith.



How Can I Become a Commissioned Community Minister?

Commissioned Lay Community Ministers are commissioned by a congregation. Guidance, support and resources are available from UUSCM.

Identify your community ministry.

How are you serving within and beyond the walls of your congregation?

See Examples in Graphic —>

Develop a covenant.

With your congregation’s minister(s) and lay leadership, develop a covenant. How will you, the parish minister(s), and other members be accountable to one another?

Commissioning ceremony.

This establishes and celebrates the covenantal relationship between your Commissioned Lay Community Ministry and your congregation. You maintain your congregational covenantal relationship. Your membership in UUSCM offers an organizational home, ongoing resources and support for your Commissioned Lay Community Ministry.

How can I learn more?

Contact us at

UUSCM.Commissioning@gmail.com

What Kinds of Lay Community Ministries Might Be Commissioned?



Any ministry that is reaching beyond the walls of the congregation.

What are you already doing in the world that you would call a ministry?

Where is the world hurting? What special gifts do you bring?

What are you called and inspired to do?

Want to learn more?

We’d love to chat.

uuscmministry@gmail.com