

UUA General Assembly 2020 Workshop to Launch the
UUSCM Lay Chaplain UU Denominational Endorsement Process

The Unitarian Universalist Society for Community Ministries (UUSCM)



Is Launching a Second Option for:

Denominational Endorsement of Unitarian Universalist
Chaplains Seeking Board Certification from the
Association of Professional Chaplains (APC)

Note: We refer to this process as UUSCM **Lay** Chaplain Denominational Endorsement.

“Lay” is short-hand for

“Lay and Clergy Chaplains that are Unitarian Universalist not in Fellowship with the UUA.”

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Why is UUSCM creating this process?

- 1. Over 25% of our members are Chaplains.**
- 2. The UUA asked us to do it.** Currently, the only path to a UU Denominational Endorsement that is acceptable by the APC is a letter from the UUA stating you are a UU Fellowshiped Minister in good standing with the UUA.
- 3. The Board of Chaplaincy Certification, Inc. (BCCi) has a very robust process** for verifying an applicant has an appropriate combination of education, experience, professionalism and temperament to be a chaplain.
- 4. Limiting the role of UUSCM to UU Denominational Endorsement** makes the scale of the process reasonable with volunteers and limited staff support.
- 5. This process has been painfully missing from our denomination** and most denominations have this type of process.



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How is UUSCM Creating this Process?

A Task Force was formed to determine:

A. Is there a need?

B. What is the scope of this process? Endorsement, review, renewal and resending endorsement if needed.

C. Can we create a process that respects our shared Unitarian Universalist values and polity?

D. Can we Avoid perpetuating systemic oppression including but not limited to oppression based upon race, ethnicity, class, ability, theology, gender expression, and/or sexual orientation

E. Do we have the resources?

F. Draft the process documentation.

G. UUSCM Board Approval



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What is in this process?

- 1. Before application.** Become Informed. Talk with a mentor. Is this right for you?
- 2. Complete Requirements.** Many will be fulfilled by providing work you have already completed that meet some of our requirements. We will strive to minimize incremental work by accepting appropriate alternate methods of fulfillment.
- 3. Apply for Endorsement.** We strive to provide easy to understand forms and instructions. To provide consistency in applicant evaluation and to facilitate efficient use of our evaluators time, we will require the process be completed as designed.
- 4. Attending an Endorsement Interview** Interviews are held biannually in February & September, via teleconference.
- 5. Endorsement Decision Notification**
 - 1. Granted**
 - 2. Provisionally Granted**
 - 3. Delayed**
 - 4. Denied**
- 6. Maintaining Endorsement** by Submitting an Annual Report that confirms your chaplaincy continues to meet UU denominational endorsement requirements.
- 7. Renewing Endorsement** Every 5 years complete the Renewal Endorsement Process.



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Who are the stakeholders in this process?

1. Applicants
2. UUSCM Board
3. UUSCM Membership
4. UUSCM Lay Chaplain Denominational Endorsement Panel
5. UUA and UUSCM support staff
6. Lay Chaplain Mentors
7. Unitarian Universalist Association
8. Board of Chaplaincy Certification, Inc (BCCi), an affiliate of the Association of Professional Chaplains (APC)
9. Institutions relying on Board Certified Chaplains
10. Unitarian Universalist



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When is this process available?

1. Our GOAL is to

- Receive Applications starting October 2020
- Schedule Interviews in February of 2021

2. Developing a list of Potential Applicants including when they estimate wanting to apply will influence our timeline.



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UUSCM Lay Chaplain Denominational Endorsement Panel

- **7 individuals**
- **All are Unitarian Universalists (lay or ordained)**
- **At least 3 must have achieved BCCi board certification**
- **All are UUSCM members**
- **Representative of diverse perspectives** (including but not limited to age, experience, theology, geographical location, race, gender, sexual orientation, etc.)
- **Volunteer position** (possibly stipend)
- **Committee meets virtually on a bi-annual basis** (February/September)
- **Members are knowledgeable** about both the UUSCM endorsement process and BCCi certification process and keep themselves updated



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Next Steps

Go to the <https://uuscm.org/Endorsement>

1. Read the Application Process
2. Register as a Potential Applicant
3. Read a description of the Endorsement Panel Duties
4. Let us know you might volunteer for the
Lay Chaplain UU Denominational Endorsement Panel
5. Ask questions and provide comments.



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Thank You!

Questions?