

Ministerial Formation Network Discernment Group Leader Volunteer Job Description

Reports to: Associate Executive Director of the UUMA

Effective: September to June annually

Training: Attend two on-line orientation/training sessions (approximately four hours)

Job Summary:

MFN Discernment Group leaders will function as vocational advisors, discernment guides, and role models to the aspirants and candidates in their group. They will lead their groups in spiritual reflection, model and encourage collegiality, and offer referrals for further support to participants in their group as requested.

Essential Functions:

- Schedule and lead between 5 and 8 sessions for your discernment group between October and June (*complete session plans will be provided*)
- Create a setting in which group members can be appropriately vulnerable, intimate, trusting and accountable to each other, without concern of being evaluated by the UUA credentialing process
- Participate in a mid-year on-line check in with other Discernment Group leaders
- Communicate about the progress of your group with your MFN Liaison and the Associate Executive Director as requested
- Emphasize to aspirants, candidates and colleagues that all questions about ministerial fellowship and the ministerial credentialing process should be referred to the Ministerial Credentialing Office

Core Competencies:

Mission ownership: Demonstrates understanding and full support of the Unitarian Universalist mission, vision, values, history and beliefs.

Diversity Management: Works with all kinds of people equitably; ensures that processes and practices are adaptable to different needs, abilities and ways of working.

Spiritual Maturity: Practices integrity, trustworthiness, authenticity and humility; cultivates personal depth and spiritual grounding.

Spiritual Formation: Demonstrates an understanding of spiritual formation as process.

Interpersonal relationships. Relates well to all kinds of people and builds effective and constructive relationships.

Pastoral Care/Counseling: Demonstrates the ministry of presence; creates a spirit of openness that invites those who are troubled to confide in her/him/them and models respect for appropriate pastoral care boundaries.

Conflict Management: Understands the dynamics of human negotiation among conflicting interest groups and how to achieve mutual agreement.

Minimum Qualifications:

- Must be in Preliminary or Final Fellowship with the UUA and a member in good standing of the UUMA.
- Demonstrated leadership and social skills; a strong history of collegiality.
- Able to speak in groups and one-on-one settings.
- Able to use computers and other web-enabled devices for written and video communications.