

DEAF ACCESS COMMITTEE

(effective date: April 2003)

I. NAME OF COMMITTEE: Deaf Access Committee

II. GUIDING RATIONALE:

As a denomination, we affirm the inherent dignity and worth of every person. We believe in justice, equity, and compassion in human relations; we promote acceptance of one another and encouragement of spiritual growth in our congregations; and we respect the interdependent web of all existence. Ensuring that UUCSS is open and accessible to deaf people and their families is a natural manifestation of these guiding Unitarian Universalist principles.

III. PURPOSE OF THE COMMITTEE:

The purpose of the committee is to coordinate efforts to provide access and create a welcoming environment at UUCSS for the Deaf community.

IV. MEMBERSHIP, APPOINTMENTS, AND TERMS OF SERVICE:

- A. The committee is open to all members of the UUCSS community.
- B. It will consist of a minimum of 6 members who will be recruited by members of the Committee.
- C. Each member shall serve a one-year term minimum.
- D. The Committee Chair(s) will be identified by the members, recommended to the Program Council Chair, and, upon approval, submitted to the Board for appointment.
- E. The Chair(s) shall serve a one-year term; reappointment is possible.
- F. The Chair (or designated representative) will attend the Program Council meetings.

V. FREQUENCY OF MEETINGS:

The Committee will meet approximately once a month, as needed, for a minimum of 4 times during the church year.

VI. SPECIFIC TASKS AND REPORTING SCHEDULE:

- A. Schedule interpreters for Sunday services and selected special events
- B. Create opportunities for the congregation to learn more about ASL and Deaf Culture; e.g., ASL mini-sessions during coffee hour, special topics through adult RE and other venues, articles in *The Uniter*, displays on bulletin boards, etc.

- C. Help to promote UUCSS to the Deaf community within the Washington, DC, area
- D. Advise church leaders on matters regarding access for Deaf individuals
- E. Provide support to existing committees as they incorporate services to the Deaf community, e.g., religious education for children and adults, membership, worship services, and outreach
- F. Manage the Committee budget; seek out and monitor grants