

Proposal – Online Membership Directory

An online version of the UUCOD directory would allow listed members and friends – *and only listed members and friends* – access from personal computers, tablets and cell phones 24/7. It would accommodate photos and create a 'living' directory that can be updated in real time, instead of just once a year.

Joni Paddock (project lead) and myself are promoting this project. I've typeset and printed the directory for the last 9 years.

A 'sample' has been implemented for Board review and consideration using the InstantChurchDirectory.com platform.

All of who you are is sacred.



All of who you are is welcome.



UUCOD

Unitarian Universalist Church of the Desert

The Bottom Line

- The proposed online directory ***is not intended to replace this year's printed directory for 2023-24.*** It is to be implemented on ***a trial basis in addition to the printed version,*** and introduced to the congregation organically over time.
- ***Next year, the Board can review implementation, acceptance and popularity*** and decide which version (or combination) works best for the congregation.
- ***No costs will be incurred by UUCOD for the coming year.*** That has been/will be donated.
- Other than some coordination, the ***Membership committee will not be burdened with implementation.*** Committed volunteers have stepped up to do the work. The Minister, Staff, Board, and about 30 members have already been entered.

Benefits

- The online directory would be a **living document**, updated in real time. Unlike the printed directory, which is always out of date, the online directory can always be (close to) current.
- Members will be encouraged to submit **pictures**. Many have been asking for this for years. In my mind this makes for a much more 'friendly' and accessible directory.
- A **members-only online portal** where members can make changes to their own info.
- **Changes by members will require review and approval** by an administrator (Membership) before going 'live.' Membership will, therefore, be kept apprised of changes as they occur, facilitating the maintenance of the MemInfo database.
- As Membership (and I) can attest, considerable time is required every year to contact members, update MemInfo, and typeset the printed directory. This would be largely eliminated with an online version.
- A PDF of a current version can be downloaded at any time and emailed or printed.
- **It is secure** (see one-page [Security Fact Sheet.](#))
- The cost of the service is only \$95.00 a year *starting the second year.* That will be a **significant savings over current annual printing costs of over \$300.00.**

Additional Information

- Download a [one-page Fact Sheet](#) or view [webpage](#).
- Download a one-page [Security Fact Sheet](#) or view [webpage](#).
- Download a PDF of a full [PowerPoint presentation](#).
- Instant Church Directory [software demos](#).
- [Additional information](#) from their website.

A preliminary implementation is now live. You are invited to login and look around.

To view the directory, **create a login** at members.instantchurchdirectory.com. **You must use your personal email address listed in last year's printed directory** for your account ID. No other email will work. You will receive an email to verify that you are, in fact, the recipient of the email address entered. Once you click on the link in the verification email, you will have member access.

It is also possible to download an app and access the directory from an [iPhone/iPad](#) or [Android](#) phone or tablet.

Please understand that the implementation is still in its infancy and woefully incomplete. Only a few members have been entered to date. You are among the first.

Specific Requests of the Board

1. **Permission to implement the online directory on a trial basis for up to a year**, or until the Board decides it should be dropped.
2. **Permission to communicate with congregation members regarding the online directory and member entries.** We will invite members to log on, check/update their information, and to upload pictures. We will also give each member the option to not have their information online if so desired.
3. **Approval for a dedicated organizational email, directory@uucod.org.** Membership would control email forwarding to individual(s) acting as directory and MemInfo admin(s).

I am planning to physically attend the meeting Tuesday to answer questions.

Thank you for your consideration,

Marty Gronewald, UUCOD directory producer for the last 9 years
760-238-0082 cell
Joni Paddock, Lead for the UUCOD Online Directory Project
(Currently in Europe)