

What is CUUPS?

CUUPS is the acronym for Covenant of Unitarian Universalist Pagans. Founded in 1985 by Pagan Unitarian Universalists, CUUPS affiliated with the UUA in 1987, became a recognized non-profit corporation in 1998, and has 501c-3 status. There are currently 70 chapters throughout the United States, with 30 chapters in development.

Purposes of CUUPS

- ❖ Enabling networking among Pagan-identified UUs;
- ❖ Providing UU outreach to the broader Pagan Community;
- ❖ Providing educational materials on Paganism for UU congregations and the general public;
- ❖ Promoting Pagan and Jewish/Christian dialog;
- ❖ Encouraging the development of theo/allogical and liturgical materials based on earth-and-Nature-centered religious and spiritual perspectives;
- ❖ Encouraging greater use of music, dance, visual arts, poetry, story, and creative ritual in UU worship and celebration;
- ❖ Providing support for Pagan-identified UU religious professionals and ministerial students;
- ❖ Fostering healing relationships with our Mother the Earth and all Her children.

What Does CUUPS-TwinCities Do?

Short answer: Whatever the membership decides!

We're especially proud of our Kids 'N Kin program, a family-style Pagan alternative to Sunday school, exploring ideas and values together every week. Pagan kids enjoy crafting, stories and ritual. Pagan parents enjoy the same while networking with other Pagan parents. It's a great way to introduce kids to family-friendly Paganism.

For descriptions of our rituals, classes, continuing programs, ad-free listservs, calendar of events and more, go to

<http://www.paganinstitute.org/cuups.html>

Why Should I Join CUUPS TwinCities?

If you are a practicing Twin Cities Area Pagan looking for a community, or just interested in learning more about Paganism, CUUPS is for you! We are a diverse group of individuals of all ages and a wide variety of backgrounds.

Membership in CUUPS gives you access to our members only listserv and special events. Full Moons are members-only to facilitate more complex workings and personal sharing within our Pagan fellowship.

Members of CUUPS are partners in creating our community, sharing and shaping goals and activities. We are empowering one another by creating structures which embody our values and meet our needs. Together, we are experimenting in making ever more effective, participatory group rituals. And we are developing resources to facilitate serious dialog in the vital and growing pagan community.

How do I Join?

CUUPS doesn't have strict membership and registration regulations. We welcome men and women of all classes and ethnicities and sexual orientations. There is no creedal test for membership. The level and form of your participation is up to you.

But CUUPS isn't for everyone. Since each member has a vote and helps make our decisions, we DO require that members support our Purposes and are in substantial agreement with the Seven Principles of Unitarian Universalism.

We offer a free, short and informative orientation for our new members, to acquaint them with CUUPS, UU principles, and Paganism.. Prospective members must attend the orientation and 2 rituals - New Moon, Kids 'N Kin, or Quarter/Cross-Quarter festivals. At the following Full Moon ritual, you will be formally welcomed into membership.

You can belong to CUUPS and a coven or practicing family Pagan group at the same time. We don't require that you rescind other religious affiliations. We encourage, but don't require membership in a UU congregation. We also encourage, but don't require membership in our mother organization, CUUPS, Inc. (www.cuups.org).

There is a small membership fee for joining CUUPS-Twin Cities. Single, Family, and Low-income memberships are available.

Advice for Newcomers

You got up your courage and are at a ritual... Now what do you do? Whether you came alone, or with a long-time member, there's always a period of adjustment. How do you relax and get into the ritual?

Come a little early and introduce yourself. Ask questions. Walk up to someone and say, "Hi, I'm (your name) and I'm new. Can you tell me about this ritual?" Or ask about the altar set-up, ritual tools or banners.

Come to at least four rituals or meetings. CUUPS has so much going on that only one or two visits can't possibly give an indication of the scope of our activities.

Explore our website!

Read our monthly newsletter!
CUUPS-TwinCities Pagan News serves the whole Minnesota Pagan community by publishing local news and public pagan events, as well as our own chapter news. Go to www.paganinstitute.org/ezone.html
All mysteries will be revealed!

Attend orientation. It's the best way to keep from "sticking out like a sore thumb."

Take a class or join a specialized group. Ritual planning, crafting, publicity, and families all have their own group within CUUPS. These have their own ad-free listservs most of which are described on our website at <http://www.paganinstitute.org/C-Lists.html>

We are experimenting with ritual and community building, so there's plenty of opportunity to try something new or contribute something that has

worked for you. If there is something that you are interested in or good at, let a member know! We love to embrace and develop our CUUPS member's talents, and showcase them whenever possible! Perhaps other members are looking for just the expertise you have, or have something that will help develop your talent. CUUPS is a great place to network!

Support CUUPS financially. People take you seriously when you "put your money where your mouth is." Since CUUPS is a democratic organization, what you think and want as a member, matters to us as a group. With all the benefits CUUPS provides, it's truly one of the best spiritual investments around!

CUUPS is what our members make us... And we'd like YOU for a member!

For more information

You'll find answers to many questions and a membership application on our homepage:
<http://www.paganinstitute.org/cuups.html>

By Phone: 763-493-3634

Reach us by US Mail at :

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Minneapolis, MN 55403

Discover CUUPS, Inc. at www.cuups.org

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WE ARE
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<http://www.paganinstitute.org/cuups>