



**Unitarian Universalists of Transylvania County**  
**Vision Statement 2020 - 2025**

**Envisioning Our Future**

UUTC is a covenantal, thriving, welcoming, richly diverse UU congregation in the heart of Brevard, NC.

The church offers programs and services that affirm and serve across ages, races, ethnicities, religious backgrounds, abilities, sexual orientations and gender identities. Its Members and Friends are deeply connected through love for one another and for the larger community.

UUTC congregants joyfully share their passions, talents, time and money in the service of the church and its mission.

While UUTC's mission describes who we are, this vision shows where we are going over the next three to five years.

**Worship**

UUTC offers creative, inspiring, authentic, multigenerational worship services with challenging sermons. The outstanding music program always lifts our spirits.

Our goal is to support spiritual learning and growth for all. In any sermon you are apt to hear references to God, and readings from the world's great religions or diverse secular sources.

We come together in acceptance and love for one another, making our worship a safe place to hear a radical message. Services lift us out of our mundane preoccupations, make us aware of what our lives are truly about, and help us discern the light cutting through the darkness.

**Education and Learning**

Our Children's Religious Exploration (CRE) program offers vibrant, engaging and innovative education that nurtures, provokes independent thinking, and encourages spiritual growth for children and youth of all ages.

Adult programming inspires spiritual discovery. It includes learning about our UU heritage; studying the Seven UU Principles, making connections with the global UU community, and exploring other religious traditions and contemporary spiritual writings. UUTC's education and learning programs strive to form intergenerational connections.

Lifelong learning is offered through adult programs, practices, readings and small group discussions. UUTC has developed strong ties with other UU churches in the region; we share learning and social justice opportunities and activities with them. UUTC also has a strong relationship with the Mountain Retreat and Learning Center and benefits from its various programs and resources.

We have established a strong strategic Leadership Development and Training program to nurture leaders in the congregation. UUTC annually recruits and trains a substantial number of Members to prepare for ongoing leadership and to encourage fresh new perspectives.

## **Spiritual Growth**

Caring for one another in our beloved community is a core spiritual practice for Unitarian Universalists. We are a heart-centered church which understands that we all long to know and be known, love and be loved, serve and be served, celebrate and be celebrated. Our pastor, a trained lay team, and caring Members offer support and compassion to those who are in crisis, experiencing grief or loss, or going through distressing transitions.

To enhance spiritual growth in this world of challenges and ever-changing dynamics, we offer a variety of small group ministries and adult religious exploration opportunities. We embrace wisdom from our own UU traditions as well as multiple world religions, belief systems, arts and philosophies.

## **Social Justice**

In all areas of our ministry UUTC maintains a strong focus on justice issues. Members and Friends participate in social justice activities from the local to international levels. Our congregation welcomes inclusion of immigrants, the LGBTQ community and people with disabilities.

Services on Sundays often address justice issues directly, challenging us to a healthier relationship with often uncomfortable truths.

## **Finances**

UUTC is committed to fiscal responsibility and a balanced operating budget. Strong pledges support the budget; Members and Friends are investing ever-greater percentages of their resources to ensure the sustainability and growth of UUTC.

The strong Stewardship Team regularly educates Members and Friends about the responsibility and privilege of meeting the financial needs of UUTC and its ministries, as well as the importance of providing a congregational Fair Share contribution to UUA. The Team annually offers various fund-raising opportunities and programs.

All Members and Friends are encouraged to become informed stakeholders in UUTC's financial planning and to give to the level of their ability. These actions contribute to the stability of UUTC's finances.

The church maintains growing endowments and adequate capital reserves to support its strategic plan and to accomplish its mission and vision. It supports denominational affairs at regional, national and international levels.

### **Congregational Development**

The growing number of Members and Friends provides both energy and financial resources to maintain UUTC's viability. The congregation spans all ages, including a large contingent of retired individuals as well as a healthy presence of young families.

We aspire to overcome racial and ethnic discrimination in all aspects of congregational life. UUTC is committed to supporting the full participation of all its congregants in its governance, ministries and programs. This includes those from historically marginalized and under-represented groups.

UUTC collaborates with local non-profit organizations to strive collectively to meet the community's goals. To integrate the church into the larger community, UUTC hosts activities at other venues. Teams participate in community events and local nonprofit missions.

### **Staff, Infrastructure and Facilities**

UUTC's organizational structure continues to mature to levels appropriate for its size and financial ability.

The Board and Minister are committed to attracting and retaining highly-qualified staff. We have a Director of Operations who works with the Minister to develop church leadership and manage the organization. The Director of Operations is supported by staff responsible for accounting, marketing, and other administrative functions.

Additional staff funding ensures the continuity of excellence in our music and CRE programs. UUTC compensates all paid staff with a living wage.

A welcoming, safe, and accessible entranceway leads into our main building, with warm natural light throughout. UUTC offers convenient, secure and accessible parking.

Our facility is configured to support the expanding needs for programming. Youth have their own home base for programs, activities, and discussions. We host a variety of events, giving visitors with no other connection to UUTC (or, in some cases, any organized religion) a chance to experience our community.

We optimize the use of current space with activities scheduled throughout the week, while at the same time plan for the addition of more space to advance youth and adult programs. Our facilities are increasingly used by others whose principles align with our Seven Principles.

UUTC's thriving congregation, strong financial base, dedicated staff and volunteers, and welcoming facilities are the cornerstones of a church that is a beacon for spiritual growth and social justice for those who come through its doors and also for the community beyond.