

**Unitarian Fellowship of Lawrence
Charter of the Spiritual Celebration Team (SCT)**

1. Purpose

Working creatively and collaboratively with each other and the minister, members of the Spiritual Celebration Team (SCT) provide trained support for consistently high quality Sunday services—a key communal event and public face of the Fellowship. Shared ministry is honored as a reality in congregation life, through the opportunity to hear different voices, new viewpoints, and a wide range of service themes. SCT members think deeply about the life of the congregation and present themes which consider the literature and music of the world and how they are relevant to our community and contemporary events. Theological differences become a source of strength rather than division when members are able to share thoughtfully and directly.

Primary goals of the team:

- To ensure consistently high-quality, meaningful Sunday services throughout the year, enhancing the communal life of the Fellowship and honoring Unitarian Universalist principles and tradition;
- To offer a welcoming environment for the sharing of diverse ideas and experiences of what is sacred, mystery, and wonder.

2. Program Area

Sunday Meetings

3. Membership

The minister is a standing member of the SCT.

Membership is open to any member of the Fellowship. When recruiting for the team, attempts are made for the composition of the team to reflect the composition of the congregation, such as gender or theological identification.

4. Team Leaders

The Team Leader is selected by the team.

Primary responsibilities of the Team Leader:

- To work with the minister and SCT members to plan the agenda for regular planning meetings;
- To facilitate budget discussions among team members to decide on the annual budget request;
- To represent the team at Leadership meetings.

5. Activities, Duties, and Responsibilities

Members are nurtured in their ability to articulate their spiritual journey and to participate in each others' journeys. They are able to develop both depth and skill in the worship arts, have the opportunity to explore significant religious themes, and learn to effectively introduce readings, music, meditation, ritual, poetry, and personal reflection. SCT members may come to know their own spiritual selves more intimately as they connect with colleagues through deeply sharing life experience, perspectives, and resources. If desired (though not required), members may learn to speak from the heart in front of the congregation, develop their writing skills, and enhance their creative thinking.

Primary responsibilities:

- To work with the minister to plan and facilitate Sunday services and the Christmas Eve service;
- On lay-led Sundays, to collaborate to plan and lead services, either personally and/or by recruiting and assisting competent speakers, readers, chalice lighters, etc;

- To consult with the music director regarding service themes, hymns, and appropriate music;
- To attend creative planning and training retreats;
- To assist in choosing service themes for the year;
- To work collaboratively with each other and the minister to deal with issues affecting the quality of the services.

6. Authority Delegated or Retained

Funding is received through the annual budget. The minister and the team leader have the authority to sign vouchers for the team.

Standard Team Procedures

1. The Spiritual Celebration Team meets at least once during the first quarter of the Fellowship year to approve and communicate a written plan to the Program Council that is consistent with its charter and supports the mission, vision and goals of the Fellowship.
2. Each spring when the budget is being developed for the next fiscal year, the Spiritual Celebration Team will submit its request through the Sunday Morning Coordinator of the Program Council. The Spiritual Celebration Team retains the right to appeal budget decisions.
3. The Spiritual Celebration Team prepares an annual report to the Congregation and submits its report through the Program Council.
4. In connection with preparation of its annual report, the Spiritual Celebration Team assesses its activities and charter and provides any recommendations to the Program Council.

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Date this charter was approved by the Spiritual Celebration Team: October 6, 2012

Date this charter was reviewed and approved by the Program Council: November 1, 2012

Date this charter was approved by the Executive Board: November 5, 2012