

Proposal for use of RE space as a zendo

Purpose: To establish dedicated spiritual space for meditation practice.

Specifics:

- Remove furniture and other items from the inner RE room.
- Set up a Buddhist altar that would remain in place. A shoji screen could be placed in front of the altar if the room is needed for other meetings.
- Zafus and zabutans (cushions) would remain set up in the room, as would some chairs.
- The room would be open to other meditators and meditation groups.
- We would provide our own tea, candles, and incense. We would extinguish all heat, flame and light prior to leaving the room.
- We would clean the room.
- Our intention is to rent and we are open to discussion about whether we would pay a “member rate” or a “building use exception” as outlined in the policy manual.
- Quarterly, we ask to rent the entire building Friday evening and all day Saturday for a retreat that would be open to UUCGT and the wider community. These retreats have been held at UUCGT in the past and were well received.
- We ask for a 1-year trial of this arrangement, beginning January 8, 2019

Supporting information:

“The living tradition we share draws from many sources: Wisdom from the world’s religions which inspires us in our ethical and spiritual life. UUA

- 1. We believe in the freedom of religious expression. All individuals should be encouraged to develop their own personal theology, and to present openly their religious opinions without fear of censure or reprisal.*
- 2. We believe in the toleration of religious ideas. All religions, in every age and culture, possess not only an intrinsic merit, but also a potential value for those who have learned the art of listening”. David O. Rankin, What Do Unitarians Believe?*

In keeping with this tradition, the UUCGT and its clergy have been long-term supporters of meditation practice. Several meditation groups already use the building. To extend this generosity by providing a dedicated spiritual space for formal practice, would be a powerful statement that the congregation wishes to be community leaders in supporting diverse traditions.

To know more about our sangha, please visit our website at <https://sokukojitc.org>

The website of the group started 11 years ago by a UUCGT member and still continuing to meet weekly is <http://tcommg.org>