Inland Northwest Unitarian Universalist Community

WE'D LOVE YOUR VOICE

Your voice belongs on the Governing Circle.

You don't need a finance background, a law degree, or years of board experience. You need what you already have: care for this community, and a willingness to show up for it.

We're welcoming new trustees. INUUC's Governing Circle currently has five trustees, meeting our bylaws' minimum, and we'd love to grow toward our ideal of seven. If you've been waiting for a sign, this is it.

Holding the whole of our shared life in view, so the rest of us can get on with living it, isn't flashy work. It's also some of the most meaningful you can do here.

Here's what makes it different from most boards you've served on. INUUC governs by Sociocracy, a system built specifically so that leadership doesn't pool in the same few experienced hands. Roles are clearly defined. Decisions are made by consent, not by who's been around longest or who talks the most. And every question genuinely gets weighed, including yours.

That's not a slogan. It's how the structure actually works.

No Experience Required, and Here's Why That's True

- Clearly defined roles (leader, facilitator, secretary, delegate), assigned at the start of each church year, so no one trustee carries the whole job alone
- Decisions are made by consent: your concerns get heard and weighed, not outvoted
- A growing handbook and orientation help you find your footing in your first few meetings
- Current trustees remember being new, and are glad to walk alongside you

What Serving Actually Looks Like

Twice a month, in the evening, five to seven trustees sit down together. Someone lights the chalice. Everyone checks in. Then the Circle works through whatever the moment calls for, and closes with a round of gratitudes before the chalice goes out.

What falls in between ranges more widely than you'd expect. Some of it is genuinely weighty: approving a budget, supporting our minister and staff, deciding how to structure a new lease. Some of it is small and human in a way that says a lot about who we are. This past year, when the Circle set up a scholarship fund for kids heading to summer camp, the real conversation wasn't about the dollar amount. It was about whether asking an eight-year-old for a thank-you note or a presentation would feel like a gift or an obligation. They chose gift. That's the kind of care this room brings to its work, on questions large and small alike.

> *This year, the Governing Circle ran its entire Annual Congregational Meeting on consent, start to finish, with no fallback to Robert's Rules. For those who remember how uncertain those first years of Sociocracy felt, that's real proof this way of being together has taken root here.*

Why This Is a Values Question, Not Just a Logistics One

Serving on the Governing Circle is one of the more direct ways to live out what we say we believe. The inherent worth and dignity of every person shows up in consent decision-making: no one's real concern gets steamrolled because it's inconvenient. Justice and equity show up in a principle Sociocracy calls mattering, not marginality, the commitment that every voice actually counts, not only the ones we're used to hearing. And our respect for the right of conscience shows up in how the Circle treats objections: as a gift that improves a decision, never as an obstacle to overcome.

Is This You?

You'd be a good fit if...

You care what happens to INUUC, you can commit to showing up regularly, typically for a two-year term, and you're willing to listen as much as you speak.

You don't need...

Prior board experience, a background in finance or law, or any particular credential. The structure is built to meet you where you are.

Ready to take the next step?

We'd love to hear from you whenever you're ready, this isn't limited to a single season. The Leadership Development Circle welcomes interest and nominations year-round.

01

Talk with any current Governing Circle member about what it's really like

02

Questions, or interested down the road? Email the Leadership Development Circle at leadershipdevelopment@inuuc.org

03

Ready to serve now? Email the Governing Circle directly at gc@inuuc.org

We're not looking for the most experienced person in the room. We're looking for the next person willing to help hold this community's future with care. That could be you.