



UCV Chat Group Protocol

Purpose of the UCV Chat Group:

For members and friends of the Unitarian Church of Vancouver to discuss issues related to the church's mission, and to share information regarding church events and related activities.

Posting Standards for Chat Group Members:

All persons posting messages to the UCV chat group are expected to adhere to the following standards. Members who do not adhere to the standards may be denied posting privileges or have their postings removed at the discretion of a chat group moderator.

1. Be respectful of other members' beliefs.

1.1. Put thought and care into the messages you send.

1.2. If you disagree with another participant's views, you may engage in respectful discussion/debate on issues, but it is not appropriate to use profanity or make personal attacks on individuals or groups.

1.3. Use humour carefully because it can easily be misunderstood.

1.4. Make messages of a personal, rather than commercial, nature. Be cautious when promoting events and items that have monetary costs. Posting notices of events and items that are clearly of general interest is encouraged, even if monetary costs are associated, but general advertising for commercial purposes is not allowed.

2. Be respectful of other members' time.

2.1. Messages posted to the chat group should be for the benefit of the entire group, rather than one specific participant. Personal, or "me too", messages should be sent to individual participants, not posted to the chat group.

2.2. When sharing material written by someone else (e.g. a news article, especially if it is long) simply post the URL where the original material can be found on the Internet, instead of copying the whole text in your message.

3. Help to Create Clear Communication.

3.1. Use a subject line that clearly describes the content of the message you are posting.

3.2. When replying to another participant's message, quote as little of the previous message as possible, and delete all the extra text so readers do not have to wade through previous replies. Remember, all other participants on the chat group have already seen the message to which you are replying.

4. Identify yourself.

4.1. Anonymous messages are not in keeping with the spirit of community and responsible dialogue that we want to encourage. Please sign all of your messages.

*(These standards are based on those developed by the First Unitarian Church of Toronto.)
Approved by Unitarian Church of Vancouver Board of Trustees: 23 Aug 2005*

Standards for approving postings:

1. A person appointed by the UCV Board as a moderator or owner of the chat group has the authority to refuse any posting, which, in the judgment of the moderator or owner, is not in the interests of the Unitarian Church of Vancouver, or does not support the stated purpose of the chat group.
2. Postings shall be refused by a moderator or owner if, in that person's judgment, the posting appears to be:
 - 2.1. defamatory of any person or organization;
 - 2.2. inconsistent with the principles of Unitarian Universalism.
3. Postings may be refused by a moderator or owner if, in the judgment of that person, the posting is considered to be:
 - 3.1. too long;
 - 3.2. insufficiently related to the mission or activities of the church;
 - 3.3. excessively commercial in nature.
4. Postings will be accepted only if the member's real name is made known to a chat group moderator or owner.