



MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



Member Group Spotlight:

First Unitarian Universalist Church

The Greater Edwards Aquifer Alliance is proud to highlight the First Unitarian Universalist Church of San Antonio as one of our dedicated member organizations whose mission is to co-create a Community of love and justice within themselves, among their congregation, and throughout San Antonio.

We proudly share common interests—both rooted in care for our community, respect for the natural world, and a deep commitment to safeguarding the resources that sustain us all.

For the First Unitarian Universalist Church, environmental stewardship is an expression of their values: protecting the water, air, and land that future generations will depend on. At GEAA, we share that vision. By working together, we advance initiatives that defend the Edwards Aquifer, preserve open spaces, and promote sustainable practices that benefit both people and wildlife in South Texas.

We are grateful to partner with the First Unitarian Universalist Church in our shared work to ensure clean, abundant water and a healthy environment for all who call this region home.

History and Progress

Unitarians, and later Unitarian Universalists, have provided a safe and just environment for San Antonio congregations since the 1890s. A Unitarian society began in 1892, spearheaded by women who had formed a local chapter of the Unitarian Women's Alliance two years earlier. With the American Unitarian Association's support, in 1912 the Unitarian Church of San Antonio was founded, but disbanded after World War One. In 1945, a group of 25 San Antonio Unitarians formally established the First Unitarian Church of San Antonio (First UU).

In 1948 the church board adopted a resolution calling for the end of legal discrimination and segregation. This marked the start of many years of public activism on behalf of civil rights causes. In 1968, the First UU congregation voted to join Project Equality, an interfaith and interracial coalition that pressured San Antonio leaders to act on equal employment and police brutality.

In 1982, the First UU congregation voted to affiliate with churches all over the city in the Metropolitan Congregational Alliance, an interdenominational group dedicated to social justice. The group later merged with Communities Organized in Public Service to form the COPS-Metro Alliance, one of the most important and powerful local coalitions in San Antonio today. That same year, First UU established its

Community Responsibility Endowment Fund (CREF), which annually awards small grants to area nonprofits dedicated to causes aligned with First UU's values.

Years of effort led by the Green Team culminated with First UU earning designation as a "Green Sanctuary" in 2013. Only 25% of all UU churches have received this marker from the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA), which recognizes benchmarks in sustainable practices such as recycling, rainwater catchment, and ground maintenance.

The year 2020 marked First UU's 75th anniversary. First UU reopened after COVID-19 in fall 2021 with a series of exciting celebrations, marking its anniversary and renewing its commitment to its founding ideal of the beloved community.

Upcoming Events

- October 1st - Green Sanctuary Team Meeting, 7pm - 9pm
- October 2nd and 16th - Environmental Reading Group Meeting, 7pm-8pm

To see what other events First UU has planned, visit their events calendar [here](#).

Ways to Follow and Support

Learn more about First Unitarian Universalist Church by visiting their website [here](#).

To follow their progress, follow their [instagram](#) and [facebook page](#)

To support First UU and their mission, make a donation [here](#)

Latest News

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- [First UU Rock Garden](#)
- [Climate Grief and Radical Hope: A Love Letter to Future Generations](#)