**Participant Application**

***2016-2018 Deadline for submission: 4/30/16***

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| Name: |  | |
| Home Address: |  | |
| Preferred Phone: |  | cell  home  work |
| Alternate Phone: |  | cell  home  work |
| Email: |  | |
| *Note: Most Quest communications will be by email. Please notify Jay (871-3765) or Patricia (288-4338) if this will create a problem.* | | |
| Current Occupation: |  | |

**Please answer the following questions.** These questions are designed to help *Quest* leaders get to know your background and experience, and to learn about your expectations for the program. The program can accommodate 18 participants, to be selected from the applications received. **Please type and attach your responses as separate pages.** Note the attached Participant Criteria for additional information.

1. Quest participants must be active in the life of the BUUF congregation. Briefly describe your involvement (Sunday services, social justice activities, attend or help with congregational activities, committee membership, chalice circles, etc.)
2. Briefly outline your spiritual/religious journey, and describe what has influenced your spiritual path.
3. The *Quest* Intentions provide the foundation for the program. It is important that participants enter the program prepared to be challenged, be open to new experiences, take personal responsibility for their spiritual growth, and be a caring and responsible member within a large group. Please review the Quest Intentions (attached and at <http://www.boiseuu.org/Quest/quest4.html>) and describe how you see your own personal goals matching with the Quest Intentions, and where you will find the “best fit" and the greatest challenge.
4. Participants are asked to make a significant investment of time, energy (physical and emotional), and commitment. You will be asked to place a very high priority on fully participating in all *Quest* activities. This will include a half day orientation during July, 2016, monthly Integration group meetings (the 2nd Monday of the month from 6:00-9:00pm in months that do not include retreats), scheduling time with a spiritual companion, a two-session class in UU Faith Formation and History (Monday August 8, 2016 from 7:00 to 9:00pm and Saturday August 27, 2016 from 10:00am to noon), and six off-campus retreats. It is especially important that you make a commitment to attend all of the retreats (except, of course, in the case of emergencies), to be held on the following dates which run from 3:00pm Friday to 3:00pm Sunday:

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| **September 23-25, 2016** | **September 22-24, 2017** |
| **January 20-22, 2017** | **January 19-21, 2018** |
| **April 28-30, 2017** | **April 27-29, 2018** |

Describe how these time commitments fit with the rest of your life.

1. It is the expectation that the participants will develop an ongoing spiritual practice (yoga nidra, mindfulness meditation or centering prayer). BUUF and *Quest* willprovide spiritual practice groups to help participants choose and develop a practice. If you have a spiritual practice, please describe it.
2. What will you bring to this program that will benefit others, your religious/spiritual community, and the *Quest* program?
3. If you have accessibility needs or concerns related to a disability, please help us understand more about this as it relates to your participation in *Quest.* What do you want us to consider in supporting you and what do you find you are able to do for yourself to create accessibility? It is our hope to find adaptations (or accommodations) that create an accessible environment for you and maintain the flow of the program.
4. Is there anything else you would like us to know about you?
5. Tuition for the 19 month program is $1488, payable in six installments. The first installment of $248.00 will be due in May, 2016 at the time of notification of acceptance. The remaining 5 installments of $248.00 will be due at the beginning of each of the first five retreats detailed above. Limited partial scholarships are available. If you need financial assistance, please send a letter of request with your application.

## The executive committee of the Quest ministry team will review applications, and you will receive notification by May 15, 2016. Thank you for your interest in *Quest!*

## **Please return the completed application to:**

## Jay Wechselberger, Quest Program Director, **by April 30, 2016** (no exceptions). You may scan and email it to him at [buuf.quest.program@gmail.com](mailto:buuf.quest.program@gmail.com), mail it to him at 8213 Duncan Lane, Boise,ID 83714, or leave it in the mailbox in the office marked “*Quest*”.

**Participant Criteria**

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| --- | --- |
| **Criterion** | **Where to look for it on the application** |
| You must be a participant in the life of the congregation. It is expected that… | **Question 1:** Describe the various way that you participate at BUUF |
| You demonstrate a commitment to spiritual development. | **Question 2**: Briefly outline your spiritual journey, and describe what has influenced your spiritual path. **Question 5**: Another expectation is that participants will develop an ongoing spiritual practice (yoga, mindfulness meditation and centering prayer). BUUF and *Quest* willprovide spiritual practice groups to help participants choose and develop a practice. If you have a spiritual practice, please describe it. |
| You expresses a willingness to engage in the *Quest* Intentions…, | **Question 3**: The *Quest* Intentions provide the foundation for the program. It is important that participants enter the program prepared to be challenged, be open to new experiences, take personal responsibility for their spiritual growth, and be a caring and responsible member within a large group. Please review the Quest Intentions at <http://www.boiseuu.org/Quest/quest4.html>, and attached, and describe how you see your own personal goals matching with the Quest Intentions, and where you will find the “best fit" and the greatest challenge.  **Question8**: Is there anything else you would like us to know about you? |
| You expresses an openness to new experiences…, |
| You exhibit a willingness for self-exploration and challenge…, |
| You reveal an ability to function well with others in a group situation. |
| You demonstrate a commitment to place a priority on being present at all *Quest* events. | **Question 4**: Participants are asked to make a significant investment of time, energy (physical and emotional), and commitment. … Describe how these time commitments fit with the rest of your life. |
| You show a commitment to growth. | **Question 6**: What will you bring to this program that will benefit others, your religious/spiritual community, and the Quest program? |

**Quest Intentions**

*“The fruit of transcending our small self is the awakening of reverence, a newfound spirit of compassion and holy interdependence.”*

~ Jack Kornfield

*Quest* participants, *Quest* leadership, and the UU faith community supporting *Quest* share in the commitment to these intentions.

***Honor Our Spiritual Selves***

* Cultivate a greater ability to be consistently more aware, accepting, compassionate, forgiving, and peaceful with oneself and others by committing to and engaging in individual spiritual practice and other shared experience.
* Seek and accept support in the commitment to a spiritual journey through: a positive and nurturing relationship with a spiritual companion, on-going participation in an integration group, and in spiritual practice groups.
* Acknowledge ambiguity and discomfort when they arise and seek support to engage in a process if discernment.

***Awaken Wisdom and Inherent Knowledge***

* Engage with presented content and readings.
* Learn with curiosity and wonder.
* Approach the familiar with open and expanded awareness – a “beginner’s mind.”
* Commit to and engage in an ongoing spiritual practice.

***Create Intentional Spiritual Community***

* Understand the developmental process of building intentional community.
* Take collective responsibility for creating sacred space.
* Acknowledge that trust and shared experience develop over time.
* Attend and be fully present at retreats, integration groups, program-related classes, potlucks, and other *Quest*-based opportunities.

***Embrace and Express Reverence for the Sacred Interdependent Web***

* Integrate insights and discoveries in interactions of day-to-day life.
* Experience a “newfound spirit of compassion and holy interdependence.”
* Commit to engaging with people, communities, and the natural world mindfully and with an increasing awareness of the complex interdependent nature of existence.
* Offer the sacredness of ourselves to help nourish the life of the world.
* Welcome the challenge of an on-going spiritual journey.

**As in all of life, these intentions are overlapping, intertwined, and interdependent.**