

Strengthening Your Congregation Through District Resources

GA Theme Task Force

Society presidents -- when trying to solve a problem in your church or on your board, do you feel totally alone? Well, you're not. Your UUA District can help. Here's the handout from a workshop given by a District Executive, a District President, and a Church President.

A Sampling of District Resources and Activities

Direct Contact

- Regular Board Liaison contact with congregational leaders
- Contact by District Executive, R.E. Consultant, and District Office staff

Communication

- District newsletter
- Informational letters, flyers, and packets sent from district office
- District Directory
- District Resources Guide

On-line Resources

- District e-mail list server
- District Web page

Ministry

- Regular consultations between District Executive and ministers
- Consultation with Board Chair / Board Members / Committee on Ministry by D.E.
- Assistance from D.E. in hiring part time minister
- D.E. start-up covenanting process for minister and church board
- D.E. post-sabbatical covenanting process for minister and board
- Printed resources on ministry provided by D.E.
- D.E. transition interview with board when a minister leaves
- D.E. exit interview with minister
- District UUMA meetings and retreats

Religious Education

- District R.E. Committee - meetings, support, workshops
- District library for children, youth, and adult programming
- Support from district R.E. Consultant and District Executive
- New DRE Handbook

- District R.E. Scholarships to attend training events

Youth/Young Adult Programming

- YRUU Leadership Development Conference
- Annual Youth Conference
- District youth committee and newsletter
- District training for AYS leaders
- Young Adult Retreats and other events
- District support for campus ministry

Growth and Membership Development

- District Executive consultation
- District Growth Consultant
- District Extension Committee
- "Sharing Our UU Faith", "Planning for Growth", and other growth workshops Chalice Lighters Grants

Leadership Training and Organizational Development

- District or regional Leadership Schools
- District scholarship to Leadership School
- District Executive: board retreats, workshops
- Printed resources provided by D.E.
- Leadership Development Conference
- Mission statement process workshop by District Executive

Conflict Management

- Phone consultation with District Executive
- Congregational visit by D.E.
- District Crisis Management Teams
- Congregational assessment by D.E. or other district staff member
- Printed resources provided by D.E. or other staff
- D.E. along with District President, District APF Chair, and/or UUA Trustee to help resolve or improve problem

Fundraising

- D.E. consultation and workshops about finances, annual canvass, fundraising ideas
- Inform about possible capital campaign consultants; referral to UUA staff
- Printed resources provided by D.E.

Church Administration

- Consultation about staffing (job description, accountability, goal setting) with D.E.
- District Compensation Consultant
- Administrators/church secretaries attend District Administrators' Conference

Sunday Services and Other Rituals

- Sunday service led by District Executive, District President, District Trustee, others
- District Pulpit Supply List
- Printed resources provided by D.E.
- District office referrals of ministers who do weddings, memorial services

District Events and Gatherings

- Annual Meeting
- Workshops
- District- and cluster-wide meetings with church leaders and other officers
- Unsung UU Award and other District member recognition awards
- District Women's meetings and retreats
- District sponsorship of congregational or multi-congregational workshops
- Cluster sponsorship
- District Welcoming Congregation Committee

Camps and Retreat Centers

- Several districts have them and/or summer Institutes

Note: not all services and activities are available in every district.