

First International Convocation of
WUnitarian Universalist
omen
& Progressive
Women of Faith

Weaving Global Partnerships To Enrich Women's Lives
February 26 - March 1, 2009 • Houston, Texas, USA

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DATE: 10 September 2008

TO: Ministers, Board Presidents, Administrators, Social Justice Chairs,
Women Congregation Leaders

SUBJECT: Plate Collection Request

FROM: Barbara Beach, Chair



On behalf of the International Convocation of Unitarian Universalist Women, I am asking for your help in raising scholarship funds for international attendees to the Convocation, which is being sponsored by UU organizations and international judicatories from around the world. There are approximately 350,000 UU's in countries beyond the boundaries of the U.S. Top U.S. and international women's religionists and theologians are coming from among these regions as well as from the U.S. for this exciting event, generating tremendous energy and enthusiasm.

This is the first such gathering of UU women in history and the chance to connect with UU women from around the world. Such connections can be transformative--opening up how we see others and how we come to recognize our potential for changing the world. The Convocation strives to create a worldwide learning community of U*U women, dedicated to enriching women's lives, worshiping together and sharing our stories, and supporting emerging leaders among us. Around the world women who live in conditions of poverty are sustained by their religious communities; and UU women are no exception. There is a need for networks of compassion, concern, affection, and love. We count on you to help others around the globe become a partner in this energy!

At this time, we have 40 women outside the U.S. and Canada who have requested financial assistance to attend the Convocation. To date, we have raised over \$50,000 to assist with their travel costs. However, because the requests for international scholarships have been so great, and because of the increase in travel costs, we are seeking an additional \$50,000 for this effort.

We are asking UU congregations to help us this fall by designating a plate collection to the scholarship fund. There are materials on our website at www.icuuw.com about our nonprofit status, and how to designate a plate offering for the scholarship fund including a pulpit announcement.

Thank you very much for your help in this endeavor. We look forward to hearing from you.