

## How will the money raised by Association Sunday 2008 be used?

The success of the first Association Sunday, raising \$1.4 million from 623 congregations shows what can be possible when we come together to support our common goals.

Our second Association Sunday will raise funds to support Growing Our Spirit. Both Lay Theological Education and Excellence in Ministry will be the focus. The following specific initiatives were chosen based on a survey of Unitarian Universalist leaders -to which over 1,828 responded- whose 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> priorities are represented in this plan.

***“My hope is that Association Sunday will become a regular part of every congregation’s church year.”***

-President Bill Sinkford

### **50% of the funds raised for Association Sunday 2008 will support**

#### **Lay Theological Education**

- Congregations, districts and seminaries will have the opportunity to apply for grants to create programs which focus on spiritual and theological deepening
  - Preference will be given to programs which have a strong lay theological education component, that have built on an idea that has a proven track record of success, and that involve more than one UU congregation or entity.
  - Programs should be designed such that they can be replicated in other congregations; recipients of the grants will be asked to create resources and a case study that could be shared with others. The purpose of the grants is to support the creation of materials, rather than to provide for new staff positions.
  - Grants will begin to be available in the spring of 2009. Rev. Harlan Limpert, Director of District Services, will convene a team of representatives from the UUA, the UUMA, LREDA, the UU Funding Panel, and lay leaders to determine the application process and criteria.
  - Grants will be for a maximum of \$100,000 each.

How will the money raised by Association Sunday 2008 be used? (continued)

**50% of the funds raised for Association Sunday 2008 will be divided equally to support**

**Excellence in Ministry**

- The Unitarian Universalist Minister's Association new initiatives for continuing education programs for ordained leaders through their CENTER programs.
- Scholarships for promising students preparing for our ministry.
  - Students in candidate status are eligible to apply for a scholarship.
  - Scholarships will be in the amount of \$20,000 each (as many as funds make available).
  - Funds will be distributed in June of 2009 through the Ministerial and Professional Leadership Committee on Scholarships, which will include a UUMA representative.
  - The application process and criteria will be informed by a Summit on Excellence in Ministry, scheduled for December 2008.
- The Diversity of Ministry Team's Initiative to support our ministers of color.