

Association Sunday

We are better together!

Please join us by participating in this special service dedicated to the UUA's comprehensive campaign to grow Unitarian Universalism.

What happens on Association Sunday?

Ministers and lay leaders across the country are invited to affirm our common bonds and purposes by speaking to their congregations about the value of our Association, and our efforts to Grow Our Faith. As part of the service, we ask that a special collection be taken, and that people be encouraged to give generously.

What will be funded by Association Sunday 2008?

Our second Association Sunday scheduled for October 12, 2008 will raise funds to support projects focused on deepening our Shared Ministry. The theme is *Growing Our Spirit*. The following specific initiatives were chosen based on a survey of Unitarian Universalist leaders - to which over 1,828 responded - whose 1st and 2nd priorities are represented in this plan.

50% of the funds raised for Association Sunday 2008 will support Lay Theological Education programs :

- 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 for the UUA, will convene a team in collaboration with 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.

50% of the funds raised will be divided equally among the following Excellence in Ministry programs :

- 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.

FOR MINISTERS

What were the results of the first Association Sunday?

Association Sunday 2007 was a phenomenal success! **626** participating congregations and other UU groups representing over **128,000** Unitarian Universalists from across the country joined together in an inspirational showing of fellowship with one another and generously contributed over **1.4 million dollars** to Association Sunday 2007.

How was the money raised by Association Sunday 2007 spent?

As promised, half of this year's total has helped to increase awareness of Unitarian Universalism through our national awareness campaign, which included the *Time* magazine ads. Approximately one quarter of the funds will support our Diversity of Ministry Initiative. And approximately one quarter has been sent to our districts for projects that will help your congregation and others share our liberal religion with those who seek it. Because of some specific designated gifts, the actual breakdown of the dollar amounts are \$706,346.34 to the national awareness campaign, \$333,840.73 to districts, and \$372,505.62 to the Diversity of Ministry Initiative.

What should I ask for?

Ask for an average of \$50 per member, which means that some will need to give more because some will need to give less for us to reach our goal of one million dollars. Ask for an affirmation of our connection, purpose and spirit of generosity.

How is this Sunday collection different from other collections?

Our Sunday offerings indicate what we care about and connect us. In most congregations, the offering is for the local church or fellowship, though some congregations do have special collections for outside groups. This special collection is for our other congregations and our movement as a whole. Some of our congregations have greater needs than our own while some have greater opportunities which can be supported through this collection. This Sunday is different because it affords us the opportunity as individuals to connect with and support other congregations and our Association.

How do I sign up?

There are a couple of simple ways that you can register your intent to participate in Association Sunday 2008 (All registrations should have the prior approval of your minister or board president, depending on your congregation's specific procedures for managing special services and collections).

- * Register online at <http://www.uua.org/associationsunday>.
- * E-mail us at associationsunday@uua.org or call (617) 948-6544.

Once you sign up, you can visit our website for a variety of resources to help you plan a successful service.

“My hope is that Association Sunday will become a regular part of every congregation's church year.” –President Bill Sinkford

