



May 2009 Digest

Honor UUs in the Armed Services

“Each time I have to stand by the “Chaplain Corps” table strewn with religious and spiritual information for the National Guard Soldiers I support, I find myself yearning deeply for material that is representative of the open, diverse, nurturing, affirming and accepting ideas of the UU tradition...So many of our military service members are hungry for a community that allows them to develop and grow in a faith that fits who they are and what they believe.”

—Second Lieutenant Kelly Cummins, Chaplain Candidate

Not since 1942 has Unitarian Universalism provided resources to our service members or the chaplains who serve them. We are now seeking to publish a collection of materials that provides encouragement and comfort to Armed Service men and women in their times of need. Such a collection is an alternative to the usual religious literature that is readily and abundantly available to service members. Additionally, this collection would spread the word about our Unitarian Universalist values.

In order to begin publication of this handbook, we are seeking to raise \$25,000 before June 30, 2009 to produce, manufacture and distribute 20,000 copies at no charge to service members, military chaplains, and military chapels. [Read more.](#)

So far, the UUA has raised \$7,500 for this special project.

In honor of Memorial Day on May 25th, [donate now.](#)

Connecting Congregations on Association Sunday 2009

Sign up to be a ***Connecting Congregation*** and get matched with another UU congregation as part of your Association Sunday 2009 celebration! By doing so, you will affirm that we are an Association of Congregations and that through Association Sunday, we are strengthening our real connection to other congregations all over the world to which we are already connected by faith.

[Click here](#) for more information and suggestions on how to celebrate with your partner congregation on Association Sunday 2009 – through chalice lightings, video conferencing, fundraising challenges and more!

[Sign up to participate](#) on October 4th and become a ***Connecting Congregation***. As of May 19th, 2009, 230 congregations have already registered to help *Grow Our Faith* in Diversity.

And [click here](#) to read more about the relationship between the Annual Program Fund and Association Sunday.

Celebrate a Special Anniversary

Let us honor the fifth anniversary of marriage equality in the first state to legalize same-sex marriage! On May 17, 2004, Massachusetts granted full legal rights for committed same-sex couples, followed by Connecticut, Iowa, Vermont, and Maine over the last five years. We have much to celebrate—but our work has only just begun!

In keeping with the [first principle](#) of Unitarian Universalism, the UUA is proud to support nationwide public witness and social justice work in support of same-sex marriage through the [President's Freedom to Marry Fund](#). Since its inception in 2004, the Fund has supported 37 grants to Unitarian Universalist congregations and groups across the country for work in lobbying, advertising and educating about marriage equality.

Celebrate this special anniversary by making a gift to the [President's Freedom to Marry Fund](#)! Donate **\$1 for each of the 45 states** that has not yet legalized same-sex marriage—or since the number of states with marriage equality has doubled in the last month, double this donation! You can make your gift of **\$45, \$90**, or any level [here](#).

[Donate now.](#)

The Now is the Time Countdown

Every gift of *any* size makes a difference! Track our cash donation progress on the top half of our countdown graphic.

[Donate now.](#)



Track our legacy gifts progress on the lower half of our countdown graphic. Email giftplans@uua.org to become a Legacy Society member.

(Data as of May 18, 2009.)

Thank you for your profound generosity!