UU Funding Program
Fall 2025

Fund for Unitarian Universalism

Association for UU Music Ministries $9,000 / *$4,000 TA*
Boston, MA
Worship Bands Convening & Outreach Campaign

Christian evangelical movements know the power of contemporary music and have invested heavily in it. While more than 200 UU congregations have worship bands playing for their services, until the Worship Bands Convening two years ago our faith had offered little support to them. UU band members often don't know each other. In 2023, for the first time, UU's playing in bands in their congregations, came together for a major gathering of contemporary UU music. AUUMM will build on this work with more professional outreach, better media, and scholarships to grow and enhance musical UUism.

Calgary Unitarians $8,000 / *$5,000 / $5,000 TA*
Calgary, AB
Activating the Canadian UU Ecosystem

To meaningfully engage UUs across Canada in an exciting and energetic culture of shared, experiential learning; build a culture of innovative action through the practice of experiments that honor, without being limited by their rich tradition and heritage; and to bring change leaders together, in person, to collaborate on strengthening and supporting the Canadian UU movement going forward.

Cedar Lane UU Congregation $10,000 / *$5,000 / $4,000 TA*
Bethesda, MD
South Asian Spiritual Fellowship

To build a sustainable, multigenerational, pluralistic, and multicultural fellowship for South Asian families within Cedar Lane and the larger DC community. This project grows out of the Spirit Experience, which has become one of the congregation's most vibrant ministries. It aims to expand the reach of Unitarian Universalism in the DC area by drawing new families, many of whom are multiracial and multifaith, into congregational life. It will help Unitarian Universalism live more fully into its commitment to equity by creating space for South Asian voices and practices that have often been marginalized in American religious life.

DRUUMM CALIFORNIA $12,000 / *$2,500 / $3,000 TA*
Oakland, CA
DRUUMM CALIFORNIA

The work of DRUUMM CA is to connect & empower UU leaders, with & without congregations, to support the need for an anti-racist, multiracial, multicultural Unitarian Universalism and world. This project aims to support the UU vision of creating an anti-racism, anti-oppression, multicultural beloved community by building a vibrant network of congregational, local, regional, and statewide UU BIPOC communities.

First Parish in Malden, Universalist $7,600 / *$2,000*
Malden, MA
Dinner Church at First Parish in Malden

To host a monthly dinner church service open to all members of the wider community. Our hope is to expand our ministry beyond Sunday morning, and to serve a wide variety of community members. Dinner church is a form of worship inviting participants to gather around the table for food, conversation, and ritual. It is a deeply embodied form of worship, both in the sharing of the meal and in the activities and rituals that are part of the service. Dinner church draws on the wisdom of everyone in the room through activities, rituals, and discussion questions that invite all to share from their own life stories and experiences. It is able to be accessible across generations, abilities, and identities by offering simple prompts and allowing everyone to go as deep as they feel comfortable.

Flaming Chalice International $10,000 / *$2,000 / $4,500 TA*
Ottawa, ON
Training of Emerging Francophone Leaders

For a 24 -week online Francophone UU theological and Leadership Training course designed to equip emerging Unitarian Universalist seekers with foundational knowledge in UUsm. Participants will engage in 2 hours of live sessions weekly, supplemented by curated readings and homework assignments. To program is designed in Canada and available for UUs anywhere to anyone with an internet connection, bringing together people from different communities and countries who speak French and who are curious about the Unitarian Universalist faith.

Harvard Unitarian Universalist Church $1,400 */ $1,000*
Harvard, MA
Mission: JET PIG

For a weeklong summer camp for children and youth to explore UU values through imaginative storytelling, creative play, problem solving, and rocketry. JET PIG Day Camp will strengthen Unitarian Universalism by "rocketing" UU values into the wider community of Harvard in a playful, accessible, and justice-centered way. The town and surrounding area is growing with new families, many from different economic backgrounds than the congregation has historically served. Offering a low-cost, values-driven summer program embodies a UU commitment to equity and inclusion while extending a genuine welcome to new neighbors, many of whom are unfamiliar with Unitarian Universalism.

Mirth and Dignity $10,000 */ $500 TA*
Toronto, ON
Joy & Peace Retreats

Since 2015, a Facebook group called the UU Hysterical Society has (with the support of UUFP) grown to nearly 300,000 members and has had a huge impact on peoples' perceptions of Unitarian Universalism. For those ten years, the UU Hysterical Society has been telling people about UUism and providing them with a lift in increasingly challenging times. Many, if not most, of the members of the UU Hysterical Society are not connected with a UU congregation or other spiritual home. Some grew up in UU communities but are not regular attenders as adults, and some live too far from a local UU congregation to attend regularly. Some are just not "church people". Building on the success of Moment of Joy/Peace posts, these retreats will offer a way for people who have found UUism through the group (and others) to explore UUism in a non-congregational setting. They will go deeper, build genuine community, and be replenished.

Peterborough UU Church *$5,000 / $3,000 TA*
Peterborough, NH
Accessible Chancel Project

to design and build a chancel (the raised area at the front of the sanctuary) that is fully accessible for worship leaders, speakers, musicians, performing artists and community members, while retaining the historic aesthetics of the church, making the sanctuary more accessible and flexible for Sunday services, while also making it more appealing to outside rentals. The work will be completed in time to celebrate the 200th anniversary of the building.

SF Contemplarium $20,000
San Francisco, CA
Operational Empowerment for Neighborhood Offerings

Over the past year of experimentation, the San Francisco Contemplarium has successfully prototyped a series of Neighborhood Rituals – gatherings and installations – to honor our human journey among neighbors. To harness the enthusiasm these offerings have generated and make them sustainable an Operations Lead will be hired to build a logistics and volunteer infrastructure. This role will be critical to unlocking the future work of the SF Contemplarium and how they continue to express and embody UU values in the broader neighborhood and world.

Trans& $8,000 / *$2,000 TA*
Lake Mary, FL
Rooted: Building Comm, Joy, Belonging, & Collective

FL has the second-largest trans population in the U.S., with nearly 95,000 adults identifying as transgender. Yet affirming spaces remain scarce, and trans Floridians face intensifying hostility. Within UU, at least 12 openly trans and nonbinary religious professionals serve in FL. Their presence is a powerful resource for resilience and leadership, and projects like this provide vital support to ensure trans leaders are sustained, connected, and able to thrive. Trans& Rooted strengthens Unitarian Universalism by demonstrating its relevance to trans and queer people in Central Florida, communities often alienated from traditional religious institutions yet longing for belonging, joy, and care. By creating a spiritual formation circle rooted in UU values, the project embodies Unitarian Universalism's commitment to justice, equity, interdependence, and love in a region where public witness is both urgent and risky.

Transforming Hearts Collective $16,000 / *$2,000TA*
Greenfield, MA
Deepening Trans Justice and Belonging Pilot Program for UU Congregations

For 9 years the Transforming Hearts Collective has supported UU congregations in reengaging with and deepening their Welcoming Congregation work, with a goal of congregational culture shift using an intersectional understanding of welcome. There are now dozens of congregations that have dedicated themselves to trans justice through continual engagement with their programs, involvement in Pink Haven, and other actions. This project will update/rework the existing Trans Inclusion in Congregations program to more optimally meet the needs of this moment. The goal is to create a deeper process where dedicated congregations gain the tools to move beyond basic welcome and inclusion to become places of protection, refuge, and justice for trans people.

UU Church of Fort Myers $3,000 / *$3,000*
Fort Myers, FL
Bridging Seasonal Waters

To make the 12-and-a-half-acre eco-preserve and arboretum more accessible by building a boardwalk/bridge over a wetlands area which floods during the Florida rainy season and to provide wheelchair accessibility. Acknowledging the significant climate change threats, they seek to offer expanded dedication to science and meditation. opening their grounds from dawn to dusk to the public. By inviting the community to enjoy Pokemon Go, walk among trees, see a play of The Lorax, or take part in meditation or a science project the project embodies a denomination that finds no conflict between evidence-based research, spiritual growth, and fun.

UU Church of St. Petersburg $10,000 / *$500 / $2,000 TA*
St. Petersburg, FL
What Are You Going Through? Young Adult Outreach Project

To seed and expand a younger adult program consisting of a spiritual meeting/discussion group, guest speakers, which will be recorded and offered as a podcast, and group activism with our local unhoused community. The project will combine digital media and in-person engagement, a podcast series will serve as an accessible entry point for younger audiences, featuring both UU and non-UU progressive voices whose presence will broaden appeal and create bridges across traditions. The long-term goal of this project is to expand awareness of Unitarian Universalism among younger generations and marginalized communities who are often unaware of or misinformed about our tradition. In doing so, they also aim to build a replicable, low-cost model that other small UU congregations can use to increase their own vitality and outreach in challenging political or social contexts. The group will welcome adults ages 18–35.

UU Church of Tucson $13,600 */ $2,500*
Tucson, AZ
Completing a Circle: Healing & Accountability Project

Our faith movement suffers when we do not have effective, liberatory ways to deal with harm. Denominational leadership has reflected to us a need to figure out how to do repair work: restoration and transformation for conflict and harm are faith development skills. This phase of the work represents the culmination of a four-year process of healing and accountability, working to understand long-term impacts of ministerial misconduct on the congregation and shift conflict engagement patterns.

UU Ministers Association $15,000
Boston, MA
A Time to Tend: A Retreat for UU Community Ministers

For a retreat focused entirely upon community ministers' needs for renewal, collegiality and professional development. Community ministers are representatives of the values of UUism in places where our faith can make a meaningful difference. In hospitals and hospices, in the military and educational institutions, in non-profit organizations of every kind, in tightly controlled prisons and wildly creative startups, in counseling and spiritual direction sessions with just one other person, and through powerful essays and stories reaching thousands through new and old media, our community ministers are representing UUism in the world. In this time when our faith is contemplating widening the path to ministry, community ministers are poised to help people imagine the incredible breadth and depth that a life in ministry can offer.

Challenge Grants are in italics, unless noted as TA

Total Grants - 16	**$182,100**
Total Challenge Grants -10	*$28,500*
Total TA Grants - 10	$30,000