

UU Funding Program
Fund for Unitarian Universalism
Grants Made Fall 2021

Cedar Lane Unitarian Universalist Church

Bethesda, MD

The Spirit Experience

\$9,500 Grant / \$5,500 Challenge

The Spirit Experience seeks to unite people from diverse cultures and spiritual backgrounds to celebrate and share the collective spirit of life, love, and faith. The goals are: to serve as a container for spiritual enrichment, as a place where people feel a sense of belonging, where hearts are enlivened and spirits moved to manifest the Unitarian Universalist vision of “world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all.”; to provide a spiritual environment of multicultural welcome and affirmation in our effort in all aspects of congregational life; to deepen commitment to embody the 8th Principle - being an antiracist, antioppressive religious community; to establish Cedar Lane as a place of inclusion for multiracial and multifaith families; to embody what it means to truly center BIPOC voices in worship.

Channing Murray Foundation

Urbana, IL

The Constellation Project: A Radically Inclusive Approach to Campus Ministry

\$17,850 Grant / \$2,000 Challenge

The Constellation Project, as part of a campus ministry, provides students with accessible and innovative pathways to engage with UUism. Guided by UU principles, Channing-Murray will launch a radically inclusive calendar of events that leads with our values and follows with beloved community. For decades, young adult membership and institutional support for campus ministry have waned, a trend that has significantly impacted Channing-Murray situated at the heart of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. As one of the few brick and mortar campus ministries in the denomination, they have struggled to maintain a consistent UU young adult group, mainly through meetups featuring coffee and treats. Secularism, as a global trend, calls UUs to approach emerging-adult ministry in new ways. Channing-Murray strives to weave UU spirituality through a weekly calendar of events. By advertising programs on racial justice, food insecurity, and environmentalism, they lead with UU values to find common ground with both UU and non-UU students alike.

DRUUMM - Diverse & Revolutionary UU Multicultural Ministries

Lake Oswego, OR

Invisible No More

\$5,000 Grant / \$5,000 Challenge

For Unitarian Universalism to meet its prophetic potential of creating beloved community, we must now make the invisible visible. *Invisible No More* will do this by illuminating the presence and contributions of API UUs and documenting their incredible journeys. By putting the spotlight on API UU leaders, they envision a new Unitarian Universalism—one reflecting many cultures—Chinese, Korean, Japanese, Indian, Pakistani, Vietnamese, etc. They work to acknowledge API UU contributions and foster an environment where more API UUs feel invited to come forward with their own talents and gifts to advance our faith. In doing so, they anticipate a surge of interest and awareness of UUism in the unchurched API communities—“UUs in waiting.”

This project was inspired 20 years ago with a visit to the Beacon Street HQ of the UUA. On the walls were many images of white, most male UU icons. Not a single image of any BIPOC person could be found in the home of a faith that espouses inclusivity, equity, and racial justice.

International Convocation of Unitarian Universalist Women

Seattle, WA

*Young U*U Women Leaders Engaged for Social Change in Their Communities and the Global Arena*

\$14,900 Grant

The virtual program will include approx. 20 (twenty) participants aged 18 to 35, chosen by national U*U women’s associations and IWC’s network. They will involve young adult U*Us (who identify as women, including those who are trans and non-binary) from Canada, Hungary, Kenya, India, the Philippines, Romania, U.S. (countries with a U*U presence) as well as representatives of the European Unitarian Universalists and South America. The planned interactive, intergenerational mentoring program comprises virtual meetups, workshops, and events with speakers.

The goal is to build and strengthen connections and networks of young U*U women leaders on a local and global level and bring the voices of young adult U*U women into global discussions.

Linden Tree Productions

Stow, MA

Why Are You You?

\$5,000 Grant / \$10,000 Challenge

“Why Are You You?” captures the essence of what it meant to be a part of the Young Religious Unitarian Universalists (YRUU), a youth empowerment movement that operated within the Unitarian Universalists Association from the program’s inception in 1983 to its disbandment in 2008. This model program trained young mentors to

work alongside teens, providing a safe place for members to explore self-expression, have a voice and gain agency in the world through honing leadership skills.

“Why Are You You?” will tell the story of how the games, the worship times, the programs and the popular conferences shaped the lives of those who attended and gave them a sense of purpose and belonging. “Why Are You You?” producers plan to visit youth groups in the Unitarian Universalist churches to collect footage for the project and share the legacy that two of the three filmmakers experienced in their formative adolescent years.

With the access to the Unitarian Universalist churches around the country, they hope to market this film to share with their congregations. Plans include attending General Assembly to share the vision, interviewing people to help tell our story and hosting film screenings.

North Universalist Chapel Society

Woodstock, VT

Brave Light Youth Exchange Project

\$20,000 Grant

Brave Light is a youth exchange project that brings 25 youth from central Vermont into relationship with 25 youth from the Boston area. Through weekend conferences, these groups focus on relationship building, personal development, and values clarification. They will also learn about cultural, racial, and class differences as well as the systemic forces that shape contemporary life, environmentalism and sustainability. They will learn about courage, cross-cultural connection and deep friendship. In these days of such division, *Brave Light* offers fearlessness and hope to the next generation rising.

Universalist Church of the Philippines

Negros Oriental,

Nataban Food Forest Project (NFFP)

\$18,000 Grant

The Nataban land is a 17-hectare property of the church originally owned by the Quimada family. It was later sold by the family to the UU Church of the Philippines. This place was historical as the birthplace of our Universalist faith and the Universalist Church of the Philippines was founded there in 1955. This place was very valuable to Filipino UUs. Sadly, the original church building no longer exist, but they are planning to construct a replica of the church in the exact location where it stood mightily before. This proposal aims to establish a *Food Forest* as part of our long term goal to develop a permaculture on the land. The *Nataban Food Forest Project* will strengthen food security, improve the biodiversity in the area, provide livelihood opportunities, and promote eco-tourism in the city.

Unitarian Universalist Wellspring, Inc.

Orlando, FL

Spiritual Support for Mid-Size Congregations

\$15,000 Grant

Over 45 UU congregations have participated in at least one of the eight UU Wellspring courses with over 75% of the congregations continuing to offer at least one of the UU Wellspring courses, many offering multiple years. Wellspring has successfully developed and implemented five advanced programs among a core set of UU congregations: Deep Questions; Faithful Actions; Sacred Arts; Spiritual Ancestors; Spiritual Practices; as well as two shorter programs: Young Adult Experience; and Youth Experience.

This project focuses on underserved UU communities and provides support and accessibility to diverse UU communities. The offering include a revised and more sustainable retreat, two online groups: one to serve BIPOC and one to seed more congregations, and holding a first-year program and youth program free of charge to 15 mid-sized congregations. The grant will allow several hundred UUs to stay connected to our faith in a challenging time.

TOTAL: 8 GRANTS \$127,750 / \$22,500 Challenge Grants