

UU Funding Program
Fund for Unitarian Universalism
Grants Made Spring 2021

All Souls Church Committee on Right Relations

Washington, DC

Transformative Justice Framework

\$7,000 Grant, \$5,000 Challenge

As the Widening the Circle of Concern Report names, “to keep Unitarian Universalism alive, we must center the voices that have been silenced or drowned out and dismantle elitist and exclusionary white privilege, which inhibits connection and creativity.” This project offers a reimagining of community accountability and allows a testing ground for how we live out our spiritual practice and collective congregational life. All Souls Church’s commitment to multicultural community and white supremacy culture make fertile ground for applying creative ways to address legacies of harm. The theory and framework created could directly address challenges throughout the UUA, and allow us to directly address persistent problems named by BIPOC UUs.

blk earth

Tulsa, OK

Liberatory Wellness Project

\$8,000 grant / \$1,000 challenge / \$2,000 TA

blk earth is a digital liaison for spiritual wellness foremost for black young adults (18-35 years). To launch a Unitarian Universalist centered, liberating, wellness retreat program. The project will create and pilot a new curriculum for both place-based and asynchronous retreat experiences for BIPOC UU and UU adjacent laypeople.

Church of the Larger Fellowship

Lake Oswego, OR

CLF Worthy Now Prison Ministry Invests in Faith Formation

\$10,000 grant / \$10,000 challenge

Worthy Now Prison Ministry Program currently serves over 1200 incarcerated Unitarian Universalists. They consistently receive request for faith development correspondence courses in Unitarian Universalist Paganism, Islam, and Humanism. This project seeks to create those materials in partnership with leading Unitarian Universalist scholars and groups.

First Church Belmont UU

Belmont, MA

The ComUUnity Collaborative

\$15,000 grant

The ComUUnity Collaborative will connect a group of small churches in the greater Boston area with opportunities for adult online growth and learning opportunities in order to deepen their connections to their own churches and to Unitarian Universalism.

Smaller congregations have been especially impacted by the pandemic. First Church will leverage new technologies and create opportunities for hundreds of UUs to connect to wonderful programming and deepen their connections to their communities and to Unitarian Universalism. This project will provide a robust and varied menu of programs for growth and learning to churches who otherwise would not have such opportunities.

First UU Society of San Francisco

San Francisco, CA

Young Adult Revival Network

\$14,100 grant

YARN is the successor to the Young Adult Ministry Initiative, a one-year effort to initiate a conversation about UU young adult ministry. YAMI officially launched in August 2019 and initially focused on connecting UU young adult ministry leaders. Then the pandemic hit in March 2020, and YAMI switched gears from supporting leaders to direct ministry, building an online community and network of UU young adults. In June 2020, the UUA's Committee on Institutional Change released their final report which included a searing indictment of the UUA's relationship with its young adult community, stating "A tragic and indefensible fact is that we have not reinstated a national youth leadership program or young adult program." Numerous young adults came together during GA 2020 to draft and pass the responsive resolution "*Supporting and Investing in Youth and Young Adults in Unitarian Universalism*," which called on the UUA to fund young adult ministry. In July 2020, nearly two dozen young adults gathered to pick up where the UUA left off and rebuild the network that once was, using the work the YAMI team did as a base. They christened their efforts the Young Adult Revival Network.

Mirth & Dignity

Saskatoon, SK

The Digital Ministry Project

\$11,500 Grant / \$3,000 Challenge

The Digital Ministry project will add an educational arm to Mirth and Dignity. The goal is to bring our knowledge of online community building and content creation to UUism as a whole. The focus is on strengthening Digital Shared Ministry within the organization, delivering services to congregations, and providing educational content designed to strengthen the Digital Ministry of individual UUs.

Murray Grove Association

Lanoka Harbor, NJ

Rise Up For Justice / Renew in Peace

\$7,000 Grant / \$1,500 Challenge

Because of the pandemic, the project pivoted from a concert series with the American Spiritual Ensemble to a virtual broadcast-quality event of presentations and workshops including "Racism as a Public Health Crisis", "Reparations", the UUA Commission on Institutional Change, "Liberation and Salvation". In early 2022 the workshops will be edited for continued discussion with UU online communities.

Pocatello Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

Pocatello, ID

Unitarian Universalist Community Presence--Phases 1 and 2

\$8,000 grant / \$2,500 Challenge

To continue UU visibility in the wider community, partnering with emerging community ministry AFC, Inc, and area interest groups of historically marginalized identities, and leading with interfaith and secular relationship development. They continue to build on their successful relationships with the Pocatello NAACP chapter, the campus club PEACE and its diversity programs, while striving to foster relationships with the local Indigenous People of the Shoshone-Bannock Tribe.

Sanctuary Boston

Boston, MA

Boston Area Campus Ministry Coordinator

\$13,000 grant

For a dedicated Campus Ministry Coordinator to connect with UUs at the 45 campuses in the Boston area. Many college students are looking for a spiritual home, many identify as “spiritual, but not religious,” but they still want spirituality in community. Sanctuary Boston connects with these ‘seekers’ all the time and is well-suited for reaching out to the ‘religious nones’ on campuses across the city. A Campus Ministry Coordinator will oversee training and equipping undergraduate student leaders to organize cross-campus ministry, run programs, and offer community care among students, coordinate student connections as a program of Sanctuary, connect with the Religious Life staff at Boston area colleges for outreach and resource sharing.

Sister Source, Inc.

Frederiksted, VI

Claiming Our Past, present, and Future; Congregational Research & Archival Project

\$10,000 grant / \$2,000 TA

The Congregational Research and Archival Project, a pilot program, partners with two congregations, First Unitarian Church of Chicago and UU Congregation of Atlanta to research the congregational presence of Black, Indigenous, and People of Color, and Trans/Non-Binary members with a focus on Black women and girls. Instead of researching historic personalities, it is time to invite the voices of those women and girls of color that are birth right UUs as well as those coming through our doors.

The Mountain Top: A UU BIPOC Community.

Parker, CO

The Mountain Top/UUs for Racial Justice

\$5,000 grant

This project will strengthen and lead The Mountain Top toward becoming a significant nationwide UU BIPOC community where members find support and grow fully into their spirituality in all its expressions through accessible worship, community building, education, and service, through the development of the necessary foundations and trusting relationships needed for deeper impact and sustainability.

UU Church of Silver Spring

Silver Spring, MD

Deaf Access Ministry

\$8,000 Grant / \$2,000 TA

Expanding a long-established Deaf Access Ministry in this time of virtual innovation will help UUCSS reach deaf people who do not live near accessible Unitarian Universalist congregations and continue to deepen our commitment to deaf access and leadership in our congregations.

UU Trauma Response Ministry

Easton, PA

UU Trauma Response Ministry Infrastructure Development II

\$20,000 grant / \$2,000 TA

UUTRM volunteers, specialized in trauma training, provide critical incident response, training, consultation, preparedness and on-site deployment to local congregations experiencing traumatic crises. Increased demand has placed greater administrative stress on volunteers. This grant will continue to build administrative infrastructure enhancing communications, fundraising, training and volunteer support. UUTRM has a 24/7 hotline, provides on-going support as well as seminars and resources. In the past year, 22 congregations have requested their support.

13 Grants / \$159,600 Total / \$23,000 Challenge / \$8,000 TA