

# 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?***

On October 4, participating ministers and lay leaders across the country are invited to speak to their congregations about the Unitarian Universalist Association and the campaign to grow Unitarian Universalism. We ask that you hold a service and take a special collection on that day to support the UUA's *Growth in Diversity* funding initiatives. And that you help inspire your congregation to generously support this important growth effort.

## ***Growing Our Diversity***

Let us continue our efforts to *Grow Our Faith*, and in so doing build the beloved community. Through this special service and collection to fund *Growth in Diversity* programs, we can develop spiritual communities that are more racially, culturally, and economically inclusive and welcoming to ALL people.

## ***What will be funded by Association Sunday 2009?***

This year, your generous contributions to Association Sunday will help strengthen Unitarian Universalism by:

- Expanding the *Building the World We Dream About* curriculum with additional resources and training.
- Supporting congregations which are working to create a Unitarian Universalism that is racially, culturally, and economically diverse; part of this support will be in the form of grants.
- Enabling UU congregations and districts to minister effectively to youth and young adults who identify as people of color or multiracial, and to their families, in the areas of spiritual development, racial/cultural identity development, and leadership development.

Without your contributions to Association Sunday 2009, these UUA initiatives will not be possible.

## ***How do I sign up?***

There are a number of simple ways that you can register your intent to participate in Association Sunday 2009 (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.) Please note that even if you have participated in past Association Sundays, you will still have to register your intent to participate again in 2009.

- \* Register online at <http://www.uua.org/associationsunday>.
- \* E-mail us at [associationsunday@uua.org](mailto:associationsunday@uua.org)
- \* Call us at (617) 948-6544.

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

## ***How is this Sunday collection different from other collections?***

Each Sunday's offering indicates how important a congregation is to its members. In addition, many of our congregations are taking special collections to support outside groups. We applaud this generosity and effort to acknowledge our connection with others. And we hope that, in the same spirit, your Association Sunday service will affirm our connections across our entire family of congregations—and promote the good we can do together. This Sunday is different because it affords us the opportunity as individuals to support our companion congregations and our Association—and no other groups do that!

## ***How will participating in Association Sunday affect our congregational fundraising?***

We believe that having a yearly service affirming our common bonds and giving individuals the opportunity to contribute to our growth will *encourage* support of the local congregation. As members feel more connected and experience more of the value of our religion and its larger purpose, their spirit of generosity will also grow.

## ***What should I ask for?***

Please ask for an average of \$50 per member. Some will need to give more because some will need to give less. You should also reference the national goal of \$1 million, and ask for help in reaching it to strengthen Unitarian Universalism. And finally, you should ask for an affirmation of our connection, purpose and spirit of generosity.

## ***What have past Association Sunday celebrations accomplished?***

The first Association Sunday in 2007 was historic; 626 congregations joined together, more than have ever celebrated a common service together, and raised over \$1.4 million to *Grow Our Numbers* through our national marketing campaign, growth grants to districts and our Diversity of Ministry Initiative. This past fall, 580 congregations celebrated Association Sunday 2008 and transcended tough economic conditions to raise over \$350,000 to *Grow Our Spirit*. Thanks to your generosity, we will now be able to offer grants to districts, congregations, and seminaries for lay theological education programs, help the Unitarian Universalist Ministers Association expand their initiatives for continuing education for ministers through their CENTER program, and offer scholarships to students preparing for UU ministry.

***“My hope is that Association Sunday will become a regular part of every congregation’s church year.”***

– Rev. Bill Sinkford

***“I invite your participation in Association Sunday. It is a bold step we can take together.”***

– Rev. Laurel Hallman

***“We can be the religion for our time. We can only do this together...as an Association. This is why I enthusiastically support Association Sunday.”***

– Rev. Peter Morales



Unitarian Universalist Association – Stewardship and Development Department

[www.uua.org](http://www.uua.org)