

What's Right for our Congregation? Levels of Campus Ministry Engagement

Adapted in January, 2012 from "Campus X".

The most important factor in determining how your congregation can support campus ministry work is how committed your membership, leadership, and staff is to doing it.

The other two factors—proximity to a campus and presence of UU students there—are secondary: there are many ways for any congregation to support meaningful campus ministry. This document will spell out what these many different ways are.

This resource is divided into four sections:

- A. Congregations Far from Campus: Level 1, Individual
- B. Congregations Far from Campus: Level 2, Group of Individuals
- C. Congregations Close to Campus: Level 1, Individual
- D. Congregations Close to Campus: Level 2, Group of Individuals

A. Congregations Far from Campus: Level 1

Things a single individual can do to support campus ministry – even if you're not near a campus!

Support students from your congregation who are headed for (or already in) college by:

- Making sure they receive your congregation's newsletter at their college address
- Participating in the Bridge Connections program, so that the UUA Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministries can forward the contact information of your bridging youth onto a congregation or campus ministry group near their new location <http://www.uua.org/re/youngadults/47778.shtml>
- Making sure they are welcomed back during services at semester/holiday breaks
- With the student's permission, calling the congregation nearest to their campus and letting them know of the student's presence

Build congregational support for campus ministry by:

- Encouraging your minister to preach about campus ministry
- Speaking about the importance of supporting campus ministry at congregational functions (in other committees you serve on, etc)
- Writing articles about campus ministry for your newsletter, with stories or quotes from the young adult students in your congregation
- Encouraging your congregation's religious professionals (director of religious education, office administrator, and/or minister) to contact recently bridged young adults who are new to the area when they are provided the bridgers' new contact-information by the UUA through the Bridge Connections program <http://www.uua.org/re/youngadults/47778.shtml>
- Establishing an annual budget allocation to your congregation's campus ministry outreach
- Encouraging members of your congregation to contribute financially to your congregation's campus ministry outreach
- Educating yourself and members of your congregation about campus ministry using resources from the UUA Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministries



B. Congregations Far from Campus: Level 2

Things a few people can do to support campus ministry – even if you’re not near a campus!

Support students from your congregation who are headed for (or already in) college by doing these things from Level 1:

- Making sure they receive your congregation’s newsletter at their college address
- Participating in the Bridge Connections program, so that the UUA Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministries can forward the contact information of your bridging youth onto a congregation or campus ministry group near their new location <http://www.uua.org/re/youngadults/47778.shtml>
- Making sure they are welcomed back during services at semester/holiday breaks
- With the student’s permission, calling the congregation nearest to their campus and letting them know of the student’s presence

plus:

- Sponsoring a bridging ceremony in which graduating seniors are welcomed into young adulthood or the congregations as a whole. (This is meant to differ from a graduation ceremony, which honors an “end” rather than a transition. See “Resources for Bridging from Youth to Young Adulthood” for more information: <http://www.uua.org/re/youngadults/47778.shtml>)
- Sending UU care packages to students at the beginning of semesters or around holidays. (Watch a video where one leader describes her congregation’s care package outreach efforts under “Webinar Recordings and Conference Call Action Items” on the campus ministry landing page, www.uua.org/campusministry. Title of webinar is Best Practices in CM, II: Long Distance Campus Ministry, presenter Betty Jeanne Rueters-Ward)

Build congregational support for campus ministry by doing these things from Level 1:

- Encouraging your minister to preach about campus ministry
- Speaking about the importance of supporting campus ministry at congregational functions (in other committees you serve on, etc)
- Writing articles about campus ministry for your newsletter, with stories or quotes from the young adult students in your congregation
- Encouraging your congregation’s religious professionals (director of religious education, office administrator, and/or minister) to contact recently bridged young adults who are new to the area when they are provided the bridgers’ new contact-information by the UUA through the Bridge Connections program <http://www.uua.org/re/youngadults/47778.shtml>
- Establishing an annual budget allocation to your congregation’s campus ministry outreach
- Encouraging members of your congregation to contribute financially to your congregation’s campus ministry outreach
- Educating yourself and members of your congregation about campus ministry using resources from the UUA Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministries



plus:

- Encouraging members of your congregation to become involved with your district's equivalent to a campus ministry steering committee (District Staff Page: <http://www.uua.org/directory/districts>)
- Attending online workshops or conference calls on campus ministry with the UUA Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministries (For more information go to the "Staying in the Know" link on the campus ministry landing page, www.uua.org/campusministry)
- Organizing a training for your congregation on campus ministry provided by local leaders or UUA District Staff or the Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministries. Invite nearby congregations to attend as well! (District Staff: <http://www.uua.org/directory/districts>; Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministries: ya-cm@uua.org)

C. Congregations Close to Campus: Level 1

Things a single individual can do to support campus ministry – if your congregation is near a campus

Support students from your congregation who are headed for (or already in) college by:

- Making sure they receive your congregation's newsletter at their college address
- Participating in the Bridge Connections program, so that the UUA Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministries can forward the contact information of your bridging youth onto a congregation or campus ministry group near their new location <http://www.uua.org/re/youngadults/47778.shtml>
- Making sure they are welcomed back during services at semester/holiday breaks
- With the student's permission, calling the congregation nearest to their campus and letting them know of the student's presence

Building congregational support for campus ministry by:

- Encouraging your minister to preach about campus ministry
- Speaking about the importance of supporting campus ministry at congregational functions (in other committees you serve on, etc)
- Writing articles about campus ministry for your newsletter, with stories or quotes from the young adult students in your congregation
- Encouraging your congregation's religious professionals (director of religious education, office administrator, and/or minister) to contact recently bridged young adults who are new to the area when they are provided the bridgers' new contact-information by the UUA through the Bridge Connections program <http://www.uua.org/re/youngadults/47778.shtml>
- Establishing an annual budget allocation to your congregation's campus ministry outreach
- Encouraging members of your congregation to contribute financially to your congregation's campus ministry outreach
- Educating yourself and members of your congregation about campus ministry using resources from the UUA Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministries
- Working to get support for campus ministry written into your congregation's official mission statements; outreach materials; job descriptions, etc.



Promote Unitarian Universalism on campus by:

- Making sure that the congregation is listed in student handbooks or materials distributed by the religious life office, and on any surveys taken of incoming students.
- Making sure materials about UUism and your congregation are on display in the campus chapel or appropriate office (with offers of rides to services!) Consider labeling old UU World magazines with info about your congregation and distributing them on campus.
- Making sure that the campus chaplain or religious official knows about Unitarian Universalism and your congregation
- Finding out what steps are necessary to establish a UU student group on campus

Support UU students by:

- Offering or coordinating the provision of rides to services
- Sending welcome letters to UU students arriving on campus (the chaplain will often not release this info but will mail letters you write)
- Maintaining a database of students
- Making sure students get the congregation's newsletter

D. Congregations Close to Campus: Level 2

Things a small group of people can do to support campus ministry – if your congregation is near a campus

Support students from your congregation who are headed for (or already in) college by doing these things from Level A:

- Making sure they receive your congregation's newsletter at their college address
- Participating in the Bridge Connections program, so that the UUA Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministries can forward the contact information of your bridging youth onto a congregation or campus ministry group near their new location <http://www.uua.org/re/youngadults/47778.shtml>
- Making sure they are welcomed back during services at semester/holiday breaks
- With the student's permission, calling the congregation nearest to their campus and letting them know of the student's presence

plus:

- Sponsoring a bridging ceremony in which graduating seniors are welcomed into young adulthood or the congregations as a whole. (This is meant to differ from a graduation ceremony, which honors an "end" rather than a transition. See "Resources for Bridging from Youth to Young Adulthood" for more information: <http://www.uua.org/re/youngadults/47778.shtml>)
- Sending UU care packages to students at the beginning of semesters or around holidays. (Watch a video where one leader describes her congregation's outreach efforts under "Webinar Recordings and Conference Call Action Items" on the campus ministry landing page, www.uua.org/campusministry. Title of webinar is Best Practices in CM, II: Long Distance Campus Ministry, presenter Betty Jeanne Rueters-Ward)



Build congregational support for campus ministry by doing these things from Level 1:

- Encouraging your minister to preach about campus ministry
- Speaking about the importance of supporting campus ministry at congregational functions (in other committees you serve on, etc)
- Writing articles about campus ministry for your newsletter, with stories or quotes from the young adult students in your congregation
- Encouraging your congregation's religious professionals (director of religious education, office administrator, and/or minister) to contact recently bridged young adults who are new to the area when they are provided the bridgers' new contact-information by the UUA through the Bridge Connections program <http://www.uua.org/re/youngadults/47778.shtml>
- Establishing an annual budget allocation to your congregation's campus ministry outreach
- Encouraging members of your congregation to contribute financially to your congregation's campus ministry outreach
- Educating yourself and members of your congregation about campus ministry using resources from the UUA Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministries
- Working to get support for campus ministry written into your congregation's official mission statements; outreach materials; job descriptions, etc.

plus:

- Encouraging members of your congregation to become involved with your district's equivalent to a campus ministry steering committee (District Staff Page: <http://www.uua.org/directory/districts>)
- Attending online workshops or conference calls on campus ministry with the UUA Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministries (For more information go to the "Staying in the Know" link on the campus ministry landing page, www.uua.org/campusministry)
- Organizing a training for your congregation on campus ministry provided by local leaders or UUA District Staff or the Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministries. Invite nearby congregations to attend as well! (District Staff: <http://www.uua.org/directory/districts/>; Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministries: ya-cm@uua.org)

Promote UUism on campus by:

- Making sure that the congregation is listed in student handbooks or materials distributed by the religious life office, and on any surveys taken of incoming students.
- Making sure that materials about UUism and your congregation are on display in the campus chapel or appropriate office (with offers of rides to services!) Consider labeling old UU World magazines and distributing them on campus.
- Making sure that the campus chaplain or religious official knows about Unitarian Universalism and your congregation

Support UU students by doing these things from Level 1:

- Offering or coordinating the provision of rides to services
- Sending welcome letters to UU students arriving on campus (the chaplain will often not release this



info but will mail letters you write)

- Maintaining a database of students
- Making sure students get the congregation's newsletter

plus:

- Offering to provide food at events and/or host a holiday party on campus
- Sending UU care packages to students at the beginning of semesters or around holidays
- Sending welcome letters to UU students arriving on campus (the chaplain will often not release this info but will mail letters you write)
- Set up a booth or table (or help do so) at student activity fairs (usually held at the beginning of each semester)
- Establishing an annual budget allocation for the campus group

The Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministries can be reached at youngadults@uua.org, or at 617-948-4355.

