

SAMPLE NEWSLETTER ARTICLE FOR CONGREGATION ANNUAL PROGRAM FUND BUDGETING

Instructions: Simply insert your congregation's name, district name, and current numbers where highlighted. Add any other info relevant to your congregation's interests and use of UUA resources and services.

Our Congregation's Contribution to the UUA Annual Program Fund

The <congregation name> is a member of the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) joining in partnership with more than 1,000 congregations that have covenanted to support one another. Together we can do what no one congregation can do alone. The needs of all of our congregations - small, midsize, and large; historic congregations like ours chartered in 1645 or the newest congregation in Tennessee just admitted to membership – are widely varied, and will change over time. Think of what it means to a brand new congregation to know they are joining a movement that includes congregations like ours! Or what it means to a small congregation with a handful of members, that is 200 miles from the next closest UU congregation. It means they—and we—are not alone.

Some of the services that are currently or recently most applicable to the <congregation name> include:

Ministry and Professional Leadership – Providing counsel, leadership, and resources for ministers and other religious professionals, and supporting education, credentialing and settlement for ministers and religious educators. As examples, <name of congregation> has used UUA settlement resources to find <minister and/or DRE names>. The Personnel Committee often turns to the UUA for information, compensation guidelines and comparisons.

Publishing – Deepens and spreads our faith and values through publications such as UU World magazine, pamphlets and other publications.

Lifespan Faith Development – Provides lifespan curricula, worship materials and other resources to nurture UU identity, spiritual growth, and communities of justice and love.

Advocacy and Witness – Promotes our social justice values in the wider world through media advocacy, public education, partnerships with other organizations, and enabling local congregations to do the same.

Identity Based Ministries – Provides education curricula, workshops, worship and ceremonial guides and consultation for religious professionals and congregations who are engaged in anti-racist, anti-oppressive, multicultural transformation of congregations.

The priorities and the allocation of budget to these programs are approved by the Association's volunteer Board of Trustees, elected by our districts and

congregations. Each member congregation is asked to contribute to the **Annual Program Fund (APF)**. The amount of each congregation's "Fair Share" is determined by the UUA Board of Trustees, currently a requested contribution of \$56 per member. These annual contributions constitute nearly fifty percent of the Association's unrestricted funding. The <congregation name> pledge for the upcoming fiscal year is \$XXXX. An additional \$XX is paid to the < District name> to support local connections and resources, for a total of \$XX per member, which last year totaled over \$XXXXX. We have a history of upholding our covenant with the other congregations in the Association by paying our full "fair share" for the past <number> years.