

Announcement for Newsletters and Sundays

(1)

Introduction to Association Sunday!

Plan now to be in church on Sunday, _____, when we join with thousands of Unitarian Universalists across the nation celebrating our shared commitment on Association Sunday. In this service, we will strengthen the bonds of our common purpose and combine our resources to make Unitarian Universalism a stronger voice for liberal religious values in our country. We are better together!

Through Association Sunday, we increase our spirit and influence. Now more than ever, our values are needed to help heal the wounded world. So, we will be taking a special collection for the growth and vitality of our congregations. Funds raised will be used for important *Growth in Diversity* projects. We hope each person will contribute \$50. If you can't attend, please send in a check - envelopes will be available at your church. To donate online for Association Sunday, please visit <http://www.uua.org/giving>.

Short: (2)

Association Sunday is Coming!

Join together with thousands of Unitarian Universalists in affirming our common bonds and purposes on the third annual Association Sunday! Our liberal faith is needed to help heal our wounded world, and now is the time to pool our resources to help *Grow Our Diversity*, through new programs to develop spiritual communities that are more welcoming to ALL people. Funds raised by this Sunday's collection will be used by the Unitarian Universalist Association as part of the ongoing effort to *Grow Our Faith*.

With your participation in Association Sunday, we will continue our efforts to build the beloved community. Through this year's *Growth in Diversity* funding initiatives, we will 1. expand the [Building the World We Dream About](#) curriculum and associated resources and training, 2. support congregations that are working to create a Unitarian Universalism that is racially, culturally, and economically diverse; a part of this support will be in the form of grants, and 3. enable 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.

Come ready to give generously to help grow our diversity and faith; we are better together!

Longer: (3)

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Come ready to give generously to help grow our spirit and faith!

We are better together! And nothing has shown this better than the successes of the first two Association Sunday celebrations. 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 \$400,000 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. Through this incredible show of generosity, we have already taken a giant first step towards *Growing Our Faith*. Let us again celebrate our connections and work to continue this important progress through an even more successful Association Sunday 2009.

Your Association of Congregations is deeply grateful for your contributions to the Annual Program Fund each year, and truly couldn't function without them! But on this special day, we ask you to give generously in support of the visionary growth projects that will secure the future and vitality of our faith, and that cannot be funded by the operating budget alone. Come celebrate with us on Association Sunday, because we are better together!

Follow-Up: (4) (Follow-up post Association Sunday)

Together, we're growing our diversity and our faith! Deepest gratitude to all who participated in our annual Association Sunday service. Your contributions will help to increase the vibrancy of our movement and make our increasingly relevant message of peace, justice, and religious inclusiveness more readily accessible to the world, at a time when it is sorely needed.

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Thank you again for your exceptional support. And even if you missed Association Sunday, you haven't missed your opportunity to be a part of it. *Now is the Time* to contribute! Visit uua.org/giving or call toll free (888) 792-5885, because we are better together.

More information about Association Sunday can be found at:
<http://www.uua.org/giving/associationsunday/index.shtml>.

Or, call (617) 948-6544 or our toll free number, (888) 792-5885.



For Your Association Sunday Order of Service*

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Welcome, and let us celebrate!

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[*Order of Service inserts are also available online \(PDF\).](#)