

Talking Points for Presentation on Association Sunday 2009

- Today we celebrate Association Sunday to affirm our common bonds and purposes with UU congregations across the continent and beyond. Honoring that connection and common vision can be a spiritually fulfilling and empowering experience.
- In our liberal religious community, we help one another develop spiritually; our Association helps us do this more effectively. We are better together, as an Association of Congregations, and together we can have more of an influence on our country, which dearly needs more inclusive, spiritual values.
- We need to deepen and extend our racial, cultural and economic diversity as well. The focus of Association Sunday this year is on *Growing Our Diversity*. This may look different in different areas, but through this combined effort we can continue to build the beloved community.
- We need to *Grow Our Faith* in one another, in Unitarian Universalism, and in the good we can and should do for others.
- We need to *Grow Our Diversity*: racially, culturally, economically; we need to create spiritual communities that are more welcoming to ALL people.
- Ours is a message that can appeal to everyone, regardless of background. We need to improve our ability to share it with others.
- As President Bill Sinkford has said, “*Now Is the Time.... to Grow Our Faith....* To let the world know we are here, and to welcome those who seek our community of peace, justice, and love. Now is the time for our congregations to grow stronger and more effective because our religious values are sorely needed to help heal a wounded world.”
- To do this effectively we need to connect, feel the power, affirm our common bonds and purposes, and combine our resources to *Grow Our Diversity* and *Grow Our Faith*.
- As a congregation, our goal is to contribute an average of \$50.00 per member – and to raise \$1 million overall for leading-edge projects to help *Grow Our Diversity*.
- Through this year’s *Growth in Diversity* funding initiatives, we will expand the [*Building the World We Dream About*](#) curriculum and associated resources and training, 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 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.
- Today as part of the UUA’s comprehensive campaign, we have an opportunity to shape the future of our faith. Please give generously.

