

Talking Points for Association Sunday and the Annual Program Fund

- The Annual Program Fund (APF) supports the operating budget of the UUA. Our Association depends on these member congregations' annual contributions in order to carry out its mission. These funds support the budget for our ongoing programming, and are a sign of our covenant. These contributions are a matter of congregational responsibility, and therefore are a part of the congregations' operating budget.
- The funds raised through the special collection on Association Sunday (AS) are not for the operating budget of the UUA, but for new growth outreach projects as part of the *Now Is the Time!* comprehensive campaign.
- It is anticipated there will be five such annual Sunday services with special collections. However, these offerings rise out of a specific need (to grow), opportunity, and time (Now!); and we are asking congregations to participate only for the first year at this time.
- Congregations conduct annual stewardship campaigns for their operating budgets, and other fundraising activities such as special collections for special needs and visions. Experience shows that people set limits on what they will give to the operating budget, but will give something more for a special need or vision. (It is said, they find more money in their other pocket, where they were saving some.)
- Funds raised on AS are not to come from operating budgets, but from individuals who are motivated to contribute for this particular purpose (from their other pocket).
- We would not want a congregation to diminish its contribution to the APF because they give to AS. We know the success of the APF is essential to the ongoing work of our Association.
- We honor the decisions of individual congregations, but want to be clear that we do not want to make contributing to one or the other into an either/or proposition. We encourage congregations to do both, and believe that a clear understanding of their different purposes and processes makes this possible; we believe that our congregations can successfully support both the APF and AS.
- We believe that by affirming our common bonds and purposes, moving beyond a theology of scarcity, and continuing to develop a spirit of generosity, we lay a solid foundation for our faith for today and for tomorrow.