

# Get Involved in UUism!

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*Edited by Ethan Field, Youth Office*

This resource is a guide for youth who want to get involved in UUism *beyond* YRUU. It is divided into four sections: **Congregational**, **District/Regional**, **National/Continental**, and **Affiliate Organizations**. Each category has more specific committees or positions one could hold, with a description, info from youth currently holding the position, contact information and resources for youth interested in that position, and in some cases the 'perks' to holding that position! There is also information in italics that is there to guide you in your search for UU involvement. Since this is a 'work in progress', please send us any additions, corrections, advice, or testimonials!

## Congregational Leadership Opportunities

You can get information about many of the opportunities in your congregation options simply by talking to members. Remember, **coffee hour** (or whatever your congregation calls the social time after the Sunday morning worship) can be a great opportunity to learn about the workings of your congregation and the opportunities you have to become a leader - or simply an active member - in your congregation community! Also it's very likely that your congregation has **committees** that aren't listed in this resource; don't let that deter you from joining them! Youth holding congregational leadership positions isn't a new idea, but is sometimes rare; read an article on the subject from the UU World here:

<http://www.uuworld.org/2004/03/conglife.html>. The article highlights the importance of having a congregation's religious professionals (Ministers, Directors of Religious Education, etc.) support youth involvement. Another great article called *Youth/Adult Collaborations Create Vital Youth Groups* can be found here: <http://www.uua.org/interconnections/nourishing/vol6-5-nourishing.html>

UUs tend to use a lot of **acronyms and abbreviations**, so if you don't happen to know what a particular collection of letters means, ask! You can find some commonly used acronyms at <http://www.uua.org/YRUU/resources/online/abc.htm>. Here's what one young adult had to say about his experience being an active member at his congregation and then wider community,

*"When I was a youth I served on my church's Board of Directors as the youth representative. I found that it was incredibly helpful in gaining experience dealing with adults and getting used to how churches run meetings, and my consistent presence and contributions to the Board helped the youth to gain a lot of respect in the church. As a result of my participation, I was offered a number of different positions/roles in the congregation and in [our district]. So my advice to any youth seeking a leadership position would be to first try to find positions at your local congregation and then go from there."*

## **Sunday School (RE) teacher** *(youth often have this position)*

**Description:** Teaching the children in your congregation about Unitarian Universalism. This job can range from (basically) babysitting very young children, to teaching the curriculum provided by the UUA and your congregation to elementary and middle school students, to even helping out with OWL (Our Whole Lives) or Coming of Age. *This is almost always a job where you will be working with at least one other person - in other words you will have help! If it's your first time, you could probably ask to be put with someone who has a lot of experience.*

**Contact:** Your congregation's minister/director of religious education (MRE/DRE). *You will probably be required to attend some sort of training/planning workshop with other RE teachers at your congregation, and will be greatly appreciated!*

**Perks:** If you didn't have the opportunity to go through UU Religious Education (RE), or a certain year of RE at your congregation, here's a chance to learn things you may not have known about Unitarian Universalism, or other religions. For example if you didn't get to do *Neighboring Faiths* or *Congregation Around the Corner*, but your congregation now offers it, teach it; you will be able to learn about and teach children about other religions, and visit other houses of worship. You'll also get to work with and get to know the younger generations in your congregation.

## **Member of the Choir** *(youth often have this position)*

**Description:** Going to choir rehearsals, and singing during worship services, can also involve being in plays/musicals/operettas. *Some congregations may require an audition, but most do not.*

**Contact:** The choir or music director at your congregation. *You will most likely need to register some time in either the summer or fall for the coming school year.*

**Perks:** You get to sing, make music for your congregation, sharpen your singing skills, and have fun!

## **Congregational Board of Trustees** *(youth sometimes have this position, and sometimes have a reserved space for youth on the board!)*

**Description:** The Board of Trustees (sometimes known as the Board of Directors, Standing Committee, Prudential Committee, Parish Council, etc.) is responsible for most of the major decisions for the congregation. They are the congregation's primary leadership, though what they spend their time on varies widely between congregations. They make or approve most policy decisions, except those made by the whole congregation's membership at the Annual Meeting. They are usually elected by the whole congregation at an annual meeting.

**Contact:** Chair of the Church Board, President of the Congregation

**Perks:** Be a part of the major decisions affecting your congregation!

*Some congregations have a reserved space on the Board for youth... in other congregations, youth cannot even serve on their church board because they are not old enough to be members! Find out what the situation is in your congregation, and work to make sure that there is no age requirement for Board membership. Before running for a position on the board, be sure to learn what the board is and what it does; it will help you make your case for youth representation. It helps to have some experience with some of the other leadership committee mentioned in this resource before running for election. You may need/want to undergo some leadership training before trying to run for a position on the Board.*

## Religious Education (RE) Committee

*(youth sometimes have this position - and if they don't, they should!)*

**Description:** The RE committee is the group that makes the decisions about everything related to Religious Education. They decide on things like curriculum, grade levels for various topics, RE registration, teachers, OWL (Our Whole Lives), coming of age, and much more.

**Contact:** Your congregation's minister/director of religious education (MRE/DRE), or the chair of the RE Committee (usually an elected position.)

**Perks:** Help improve the programs for younger folks, and make sure there are cool and interesting programs for young adults like you will be when you're 18!

*This is a committee that should really have a youth member, especially one who went through RE at the congregation. It is extremely helpful to hear the opinions of someone who has recently gone through the program. If your congregation doesn't have a youth member on this committee talk to one of the chairs or your MRE/DRE and get one!*

## Social Justice Committees (youth sometimes have these positions)

### Social Justice: Welcoming Congregations

**Description:** The Welcoming Congregation Program is a volunteer program for congregations that see a need to become more inclusive towards bisexual, gay, lesbian, and/or transgender people. It consists of a series of workshops developed by the UUA. The goal of the workshops is to reduce prejudice by increasing understanding and acceptance among people of different sexual orientations. Some of the workshop titles include: How Homophobia Hurts Heterosexuals; Connections to Other Forms of Oppression; Gender Socialization and Homophobia; and Biblical Perspectives on Homosexuality. Many congregations offer the workshop series several consecutive times as an adult religious education curriculum open to all members and friends. In some congregations the workshop series (and later the entire program) are sponsored by a Welcoming Congregation Task Force/Committee created for just this purpose, while other congregations sponsor the workshop series through their Interweave chapters. In either case, the workshops are best facilitated by those that have experienced the curriculum.

**Resources:** <http://www.uua.org/obqltc/wcp/wc1expln.html>

### Social Justice: Journey Towards Wholeness / Anti-Racism (JTW/AR)

**Description:** *Journey Toward Wholeness* is the name for the UUA's entire anti-oppression, anti-racism multicultural initiative. There are several paths on this journey - the path to dismantle racism, to eradicate heterosexism, to abolish ableism, and to combat economic injustice.

Journey Toward Wholeness reflects a common, overarching process grounding our transformation and includes all of the programs, resources, strategies, committees, resolutions and alliances that make up Unitarian Universalism's anti-oppression efforts. Journey Toward Wholeness resources are available for leading us into an anti-oppressive way of life. The paths developed by the Faith In Action department (FIA) of the UUA include accessibility programs, anti-heterosexism/ homophobic programs, and anti-racism programs. For more info, contact the UUA's Congregational Services Staff group at [cde@uua.org](mailto:cde@uua.org).

**Resources:** <http://www.uua.org/re/reach/justice/jtw.html>

## **Social Justice: Green Sanctuary** (a.k.a. "Seventh Principle Project")

**Description:** A Green Sanctuary is a congregation that lives out its commitment to the Earth by creating a sustainable life style for its members as individuals and as a faith community. Sustainable living is not about our material comfort (though these choices are an important part of the overall life style); it is about choosing to live in a way that nurtures life, builds relationships, and rejects material consumption as the sole determinant of happiness.

**Resources:** <http://www.uuaspp.org/>

**Perks:** Do something about issues your passionate about within your congregation community.  
Help the environment

## **Worship Committee** (*youth sometimes have this position*)

**Description:** The Worship Committee carries out different tasks at different congregations, but their main goal is to do what they can to improve worship at the congregation. They can facilitate things like chalice lighting, readings, and announcements. The Worship Committee generally works with the minister/s to make the best worship services possible.

**Contact:** The minister/s for Sunday morning worship; the Worship Committee Chair

**Perks:** Better, more exciting worship services!

*If your youth group does not meet during Sunday morning worship, a youth voice on this committee is important. There are many congregations where youth attendance at Sunday services is very low. As a member of the worship committee you can contribute ideas of how to get the services more youth-friendly. If you don't think the worship services at your congregation are all they could be, or if you're not getting the spiritual nourishment from them you wish you were, this is the perfect committee for you!*

## **Membership Committee** (*youth sometimes have this position*)

**Description:** The membership committee manages the congregation's relationship to all of its members. They encourage new friends to join, guide new members find leadership and spiritual growth opportunities within the congregation, put together membership directories so the members can contact each other, etc.

**Contact:** Membership Committee Chair, Congregational Administrator

**Perks:** Get to know lots of different people in many different areas of the congregation. A youth could ensure that youth are included in the congregation's strategies for hospitality and welcoming. If you're an extrovert, this is a great place to put your skills to work.

## **Caring Committee** (*youth sometimes have this position*)

**Description:** The Caring Committee act as extensions of the a minister's pastoral care in large congregations in which the minister(s) can't possible provide care to all congregants. The Caring Committee find out who in the congregation is sick, injured, or suffering a loss, and visit those people and send them cards and flowers as appropriate. They also find out who is getting married, adding children to their families, or celebrating a graduation or other rite of passage, and help them celebrate. They also help keep the congregation informed about all the joys and concerns of the individual membership.

**Contact:** Caring Committee Chair or Congregational Minister

**Perks:** Build deep, meaningful relationships with people of all ages in your congregation!

## **Building and Grounds Committee** *(youth rarely have this position)*

**Description:** This committee deals with the physical workings of the congregation and surrounding land. They decide how and when the grass gets cut, the congregation gets painted, flowers get planted, information in the sermon box gets changed, the trash (and recycling!) gets dealt with, the floors get vacuumed, the kitchen and offices are well stocked, etc. the simple things that make the congregation run smoothly. This committee sometimes manages the food and drinks at coffee hour after the worship service, though sometimes that's managed by a **Hospitality Committee**.

**Contact:** The Building and Grounds Committee Chair, the Hospitality Committee Chair.

**Perks:** You get to have a say in what your congregation looks like and how it works, physically. If you think they should have say, entirely pink flowers on a walkway, or fairly-traded coffee after the service, then by being on this committee you can have that opinion make a difference!

## **Partner Congregation** *(youth sometimes have this position)*

**Description:** Many UU congregations in North America have a partner congregation in another country that they help out, and maintain contact with. "The Mission of the Unitarian Universalist Partner Congregation Council is to foster and support partner congregation relationships between North American congregations and congregations in all other countries where partnering is sought and welcomed."

**Contact:** Chair of the Church Board, President of the Congregation

*If your church does not have such a committee, you could start one! (see below) If you have interest in learning about Unitarianism in other countries this could be an amazing experience, you can have contact with people at your partner congregation, and who knows, even go to visit! Many communities who have a partner congregation do have trips to go and see them every few years, as well as having ministers or members of the partner congregation come visit, so meeting people from your partner congregation is very possible. See*

<http://www.uua.org/uupcc/docs/4-StepstoBecoming.pdf> for more information

## **Stewardship/Fundraising Committee** *(youth rarely have this position)*

**Description:** This committee is there to help the congregation get the resources and money it needs to survive, and provide the needed funds for congregation operation and outreach. They help organize fundraisers, budgeting, organize and run pledge drives, pledge record keeping, bookkeeping, and other financial matters.

**Contact:** The Stewardship Committee Chair

**Perks:** Get some great experience in intergenerational, values-based fundraising. Share ideas for fundraising in a way that avoids reinforcing classism. Help get your congregation involved with the community.

*If you are interested in gaining funds for your congregation and youth group, this is the committee for you! It also gives you a chance to be creative in coming up with new ways to get congregation funds, for example; you think your congregation should have an annual kiddy carnival open to your town that could benefit the congregation -- maybe you're the first one to come up with this idea at your congregation! Joining the stewardship committee would give you a chance to put your plan into action, gaining needed money for your congregation, and fun for kids in your town!*

### **Finance Committee** *(youth rarely have this position)*

**Description:** This committee/s decides how the money of the congregation is gained and divided. Any financial decision must go through this committee. They Oversee and maintain records of congregation finances, generates financial statements, and advise the Board on financial matters.

**Contact:** The Finance Committee Chair, the congregational Administrator

**Perks:** A youth could help make sure a congregation is putting its money where its values are. For youth interested in finances and accounting, a chance to get practice working with large and complicated budgets, and fundraising.

### **Committee on Ministry** *(youth rarely have this position)*

**Description:** This committee is charged to monitor and evaluate the ministry on a regular and continuing basis. The total ministry encompasses the staff, lay leadership, and congregation at large and all aspects of the congregation's activities. They work to strengthen the quality of ministry within the congregation and serve as a communication channel between the minister and the congregation. The committee also often works closely with a **Search Committee** when a congregation is seeking a new minister.

**Contact:** The minister/s for Sunday morning worship; the Committee on Ministry Chair

**Perks:** Having (a) minister(s) who minister to folks of all ages in your congregation.

## District Leadership Opportunities

### What's a District?

This section discusses leadership opportunities in the Districts of the Unitarian Universalist Association. (The Canadian Unitarian Council is divided into regions, but those regions do not have separate governance from the CUC. Some of the ideas here might work for the CUC as a whole.) Don't know what District you're in? Go to [www.uua.org/dist](http://www.uua.org/dist) for location and contact information for your district staff. Each district has its own web page, which will show you the specific resources and committees in that district. The best way to get connected to many of these opportunities may be through your district youth committee. Some districts have *many* opportunities (see <http://www.mbdoua.org/committees/index.html> for an example). Many of these are district versions of the congregational committees mentioned above (e.g. RE, Finance, Youth, Social Justice.) The most important are:

**District Board of Trustees** *(youth sometimes have this position, and sometimes have a reserved space for youth on the board!)*

**Description:** The Board of Trustees is responsible for governance and for making policy decisions not made by the membership at the district Annual Meeting. Members are usually elected by delegates from all the congregations in the district at the district Annual Meeting.

**Contact:** District President, President of your Congregation

*This body is important, because they discuss offering services that congregations may not be able to do on their own (for instance, a congregation may not be able to have a paid youth advisor coordinator, but a district may be able to employ a part-time Youth Programs Coordinator who supports youth groups in that district and helps new youth groups start. They also make decisions which may affect your district Youth-Adult Committee or Youth Steering Committee.*

**Nominating Committee** *(youth sometimes have this position)*

**Description:** The Nominating Committee slates candidates for elected positions within the district. They seek nominees for District Officers and Directors. Not all districts have Nominating Committees

**Contact:** District Executive, local Board Chair, or congregational president.

Nominating committees need to develop contacts within as many congregations as possible, including youth! A strong, well-connected, attentive, year round nominating committee is the single most important change a district might make in order to strengthen leadership.

*The nominating committee is very important, but don't let that discourage you from running! As this article states, it's important to get new faces that represent different groups, and by being a youth on the nominating committee you have the chance to help get youth onto other committees in your district.*

## National Leadership Opportunities

Note: The dates and details listed here apply to the Unitarian Universalist Association . The processes, policies, and deadlines in the Canadian Unitarian Council (CUC) may differ. We are working on developing a similar resource for the CUC and will add those details as we get them.

**There are three ways to volunteer for service to the UUA at the national level:**

- 1) Run for the **UUA Board of Trustees** from your local district.
- 2) Run for Youth Trustee or for a Trustee-at-Large position, or a position on another elected committee. You can seek a nomination from the **UUA Nominating Committee**, or run by petition. Applications for nomination are due in August of every even-numbered year and nominations are made in October. Elections are held at the following General Assembly. Those who wish to run by petition must file by February 1 of the odd-numbered year (when General Assembly will be held). Details on how to run by petition are in the UUA bylaws and on the UUA web site: <http://www.uua.org/administration/nominating.html>
- 3) Apply for an appointment to a UUA committee by the UUA Board of Trustees through their **Committee on Committees**. Applications are due by August 20 of every odd-numbered year, appointments made in the following October, and take effect in January. . The Committee on Committees is also responsible for filling vacancies which occur during the year, so you can send information to the committee at any time for future consideration.

### **UUA Board of Trustees (BOT)** *(Has a youth member and a youth observer)*

**Description:** The major governing body of the UUA. The UUA is governed by a Board of Trustees consisting of District Trustees selected by the various districts and at-large trustees, elected by delegates to the annual General Assembly (GA). An elected moderator presides at the GA and at meetings of the Board of Trustees. There are two positions reserved for youth; a voting Youth Trustee At-Large who serves a two-year term and is selected through the normal Nominating Committee process, and a Youth Observer who is elected by General Assembly Youth Caucus for a one-year term, and who participates in BOT meetings but may not vote. See <http://www.uua.org/TRUS/> for further information.

**Qualifications of Trustees:** Each elected trustee shall be a member of a member congregation. An elected trustee representing a district shall reside in that district and shall be a member of a member congregation located in the district. A trustee who ceases to meet these qualifications shall be disqualified and the office declared vacant. The youth trustee at large shall be an individual aged 14 to 20 inclusive years at the time of election. Not more than one trustee shall be a member of the same member congregation. If a trustee becomes a member of a member congregation in which another trustee is already a member, such trustee shall be disqualified and the office declared vacant.

**Contact:** Contact the Youth Office at [yruu@uua.org](mailto:yruu@uua.org) or 617-948-4350 to be put in contact with the current Youth Trustee and Youth Observer.

*Youth may run for the Youth Trustee position, but there is no specific age requirement for any of the regular at-large positions, nor is there any national age requirement for District Trustees. In other words, you can run for the UUA BOT as Youth Trustee/Observer, or you can run for an At-Large position, or you can run for office in your District to become your district's Trustee!*

## **Committee on Committees (CoC) and Nominating Committee (Nom Com)**

(A former YRUU Steering Committee member now serves on the Nom Com)

**Description:** The **Committee on Committees** is made up of members from the UUA Board of Trustees, and appoints people to certain committees. For a list of Board-appointed committees, see <http://www.uua.org/administration/committees.html#bstand>

**Description:** The **Nominating Committee** (sometimes referred to as the "Nom Com") is an elected group of UUs that are not UUA employees or board members. The Nom Com recruits and selects nominees for all positions (except President and Moderator) which are elected by General Assembly. In general, the Nom Com fills positions, committees or commissions that require more independence from the UUA administration and Board of Trustees. For a list of Nom Com - nominated committees, see

<http://www.uua.org/administration/committees.html#elected>

Nom Com members are expected to recruit throughout the year. Meetings are held at General Assembly each year. The committee also meets for three days at another location in the fall.

**Total members = 9 (6 year terms); one-term limit"**

The committee seeks nominees who have demonstrated competence, leadership qualities, and devotion to Unitarian Universalism. Throughout the nomination and selection process, Nom Com members strive to balance such demographic factors as gender, ethnicity, cultural competency, age, geography, clergy or lay with the interests, needs and objectives of the Association as a whole.

*The Nom Com has explicitly made a commitment to having youth and young adult participation on both it and other elected committees of the UUA! If you're seeking nomination to a UUA Committee, it is wise to look at who will be going off the committee you're looking to join, and who is remaining. In your application, in addition to the basic qualifications needed to do a good job in the position you seek, tell the Nominating Committee how you would help to balance or diversify the committee in terms of ethnicity or cultural competency, geographical representation, age, sexual orientation, gender, physical ableness, theological outlook, or life experience.*

**Resource:** A full description and links, including application forms, are at

<http://www.uua.org/administration/nominating.html>

**Contact:** Nancy Lawrence, assistant to the UUA Executive Vice President. [nlawrence@uua.org](mailto:nlawrence@uua.org)

## **Commission on Appraisal (CoA)** *(currently has no youth)*

**Description:** The Commission is charged to "review any function or activity of the Association which in its judgment will benefit from an independent review and report its conclusions to a regular General Assembly." The Commission meets four times a year--once at General Assembly, and three working meetings held in Boston and other locations throughout the United States. "During most of our meetings, we hold open hearings to which we invite local UUs so we can hear as many of the different voices of our movement as possible. Grounded in the living tradition of our free faith, yet charged with acting independently, the Commission on Appraisal's mission is to provoke deep reflection, energizing and revitalizing Unitarian Universalism." The Commission's investigations continue throughout the year and may include hearings. It may operate at times almost like a mini-think tank in its broad consideration of issues. The Work of the Commission is vigorous and year-round, involving much research, writing, and consulting work, and requires people with good conceptual and analytical skills.

*The Commission is composed of nine elected members, plus the UUA President ex officio. Three members are elected in odd numbered years to serve a single six year term.*

**Total members** = 9 (elected for 6-year terms); 1 term limit.

**Resource:** <http://www.uua.org/coa/>

**Contact:** Email [coa@uua.org](mailto:coa@uua.org) . Contact the Youth Office to be put in contact with past or present youth or young adult members of the Commission.

## **Commission on Social Witness**

*(A recent former Youth Council member serves on this Commission)*

**Description:** The mission of the CSW is to help Unitarian Universalists put our Principles and Purposes into action, and to assist congregations and the Association express concern for social justice by:

1. Facilitating articulation of Study/Action Issues suggested by congregations and districts, and selected by the Congregational Directives for General Assembly Action poll and the General Assembly;
2. Helping educate UUs about issues addressed and the potential for social change inherent in Study/Action Issues, in cooperation with the UUA's Department of Faith in Action and UU social action committees in congregations and districts;
3. Reflecting to the General Assembly the careful consideration of Study/Action Issues by the congregations and districts by preparing revisions and draft Statements of Conscience;
4. Reporting Study/Action Issues and Statements of Conscience referred or passed by the General Assembly to local congregations and districts, and,
5. Facilitating the development and consideration of General Assembly Actions of Immediate Witness.

**Total Members:** Five members, three elected by GA and two appointed by the BOT.

*District Youth Social Action Coordinators and other youth who are really into Social Justice work would be ideal for this Commission!*

**Resource:** <http://www.uua.org/csw>

**Contact:** [socialwitness@uua.org](mailto:socialwitness@uua.org)

## **GA Planning Committee**

*(Currently has no youth. A former Youth Office staff member serves on this Committee)*

### **Description:**

1. The Planning Committee selects the theme for each General Assembly, reviews the site, and sets the daily schedule. The committee determines which organizations affiliated with the UUA may present program material. In addition, the committee oversees the annual Ware Lecture, Opening Events, music, ambiance, and evening activities. The UUA Board, based on recommendations by the Planning Committee, selects sites four to five years in advance.
2. This committee works with the General Assembly Administrator to determine overall General Assembly schedule, propose future sites, prepare the agenda and coordinate programming. During GA, the committee oversees programming and business sessions.
3. Members should have an ability to deal well with people and work collaboratively under stress. Experience with coordinating major events and programs is a great plus. Planning Committee work is practically year-round. There are four meetings, three of which are four days each, in September, February, and April, all at GA sites. In June, members are committed to 8 days at GA.
4. **Total members** = 10 (8 elected for 4-year terms, 2 appointed for 2-year terms); permitted 2 consecutive terms.

*Are you creative, have great ideas about how GA should look be run, what music you will be hearing, what signs will be directing you? This is the place for you!*

**Resources:** <http://www.uua.org/ga/staff.html#pc>

**Contact:** gaoffice@uua.org

## Associate Organizations

The UUA Board of Trustees grants **associate membership** to major organizations that fulfill the following criteria: the organization's membership or constituency consists of individuals located throughout the Association; its purposes and programs are auxiliary to and supportive of the principles of the Association; and the organization pledges itself to financially support the Association.

### **UU Service Committee (UUSC)** Cambridge, MA [www.uusc.org](http://www.uusc.org)

Firmly grounded in Unitarian Universalist values, UUSC promotes and protects human rights in the United States and internationally. Through advocacy, partnership, and education, UUSC empowers women; supports the struggles of oppressed racial, ethnic, and indigenous groups; and defends the rights of children. In addition, it is fostering a new generation of social justice leaders. UUSC also responds strategically to disasters, especially where human rights are threatened. UUSC works in partnership with grassroots organizations in the United States and overseas to confront oppression, supporting local leadership rather than imposing external solutions. UUSC also organizes U.S. citizens to speak out for human rights locally and nationally. And it advocates with U.S. decision makers for policies that strengthen human rights at home and abroad. UUSC has a long and successful history of helping Unitarian Universalists put their faith into action, guided by the UU principles that affirm the worth, dignity, and human rights of every person.

### **UU United Nations Organization (UU-UNO)** New York, NY <http://www.uu-uno.org/>

The UU-UNO speaks, acts, and bears witness on behalf of Unitarian Universalists at the United Nations. It educates its constituents on the structure, functions, and actions of the UN. Staff members attend briefings under the UU-UNO's NGO status, and communicate their findings through mailings, an annual seminar, and the provision of UN related materials. The office seeks to uphold and defend the principles of the UUA regarding world community, peace, liberty, and justice, as well as to strengthen the UN in its invaluable efforts. The UU-UNO attempts to keep its members informed and involved by facilitating workshops and worship programs, publishing periodic newsletters and Action Alerts, providing physical materials upon request, and maintaining an up-to-date website. Hands on involvement in the UU-UNO's work is offered at the Annual intergenerational seminar, the UU-UNO sponsored events at the UUA General Assembly, and in the office internships available to dedicated youth and young adults. Financially dependent on individual and congregation contributions, the UU-UNO continues its work with particular focus this year on the Middle East, HIV/AIDS and International Rule of Law.

### **UU Women's Federation (UUWF)** Boston, MA <http://www.uua.org/UUWF/>

The Unitarian Universalist Women's Federation recently voted to change from a membership services organization to a grant-giving organization at a specially-called meeting of the membership, held June 26, 2004 in conjunction with General Assembly at Long Beach, CA. The Restructuring Task Force recommendations were passed unanimously. They included the election of a 5-member Board of Trustees, a 4-member Grants Panel and, passing a revision of the bylaws that conformed to the new structure. The UU Women's Federation expects the first grant-giving cycle to start in the fall of 2005. Grant applications will be considered provided a UUWF member is involved in the project and the focus is in alignment with the mission and goals of UUWF.

**Contact:** Ellen Spencer, UUWF Executive Administrator, (617)948-4692 or [espencer@uua.org](mailto:espencer@uua.org) or Arlene Johnson at [AJohnsonPR@cox.net](mailto:AJohnsonPR@cox.net)

## Affiliate Organizations

The UUA Board of Trustees may grant independent affiliate status to independently constituted and operated organizations whose purposes and intentions are found to be in sympathy with the principles of the Association and who support the Association by paying an annual contribution. The Office of the Executive Vice President maintains a list of current independent affiliates and coordinates the annual review of each organization's status as an independent affiliate.

*There are far more Affiliate Organizations than are listed below, but these are the most likely ones for youth interest! For a complete list of affiliate organizations, and for updated contact information for each group, see:*

<http://www.uua.org/administration/independentaffiliate.html>

### **Diverse Revolutionary UU Multicultural Ministries (DRUUMM)**

Janice Marie Johnson, 405A 17th Street, Brooklyn, NY 11215

[info@DRUUMM.org](mailto:info@DRUUMM.org)

<http://www.druumm.org/>

In 1997 a racially diverse group of approximately 30 religious professionals (ministers, religious educators, seminarians, UUA and UUSC staff) responded to the growing need to affirm and strengthen the racially diverse community within Unitarian Universalism by creating an organization that would bring Unitarian Universalists who are People of Color into religious community with one another. Today, DRUUMM members include religious professionals, adults of all ages, youth, and children. DRUUMM's mission is to provide support and advocacy for People of Color as well as leadership for creating an anti-racist Unitarian Universalist identity and practice. This is accomplished through a variety of programs, services, and relationship building. A Ministry Working Group addresses the needs of ministers and seminarians.

### **Latino/Latina UU Networking Association (LUUNA)**

c/o Rev. José Ballester, 46 Greentree Lane #13, S. Weymouth, MA 02190-2024

[luunaysol@aol.com](mailto:luunaysol@aol.com)

LUUNA is multicultural continental association of Unitarian Universalists dedicated to:

- 1) Attracting more Latina/os to our Unitarian Universalist tradition and for enhancing their participation within it by providing support, guidance, fellowship and advocacy.
- 2) Educating the larger Unitarian Universalist community about Latina/o history, culture and diversity; and facilitating Unitarian Universalist involvement in current issues that affect the various Latina/o communities.
- 3) Sharing aspects of Latina/o spiritual heritage, personal journeys and emerging UU Latina/o Liberation Theology with the larger Unitarian Universalist community thus enriching the worship, mission, and spirituality of our chosen faith.
- 4) Interacting with the Unitarian Universalist Association and other Unitarian Universalist organizations in order to enhance the justice-making abilities of LUUNA and the aforementioned organizations.
- 5) Interacting with other justice-making and multicultural organizations in order to bring about effective social change within our Unitarian Universalist movement so that it can truly become multicultural and empowering of traditionally marginalized and under-represented communities.

Membership in LUUNA is not restricted to Latina/os; it is open to all persons who are in sympathy with the aforementioned purposes, without regard to race, color, sex, age, sexual orientation, gender identity, ethnic or national origin, marital status, physical or mental disability, citizenship, political affiliation and shall not require any adherence to any particular interpretation of religion or to any particular religious belief or creed.

### **Interweave**

c/o Jane Dwinell, 167 Milk St., 406, Boston, MA 02109

[sky@vtlink.net](mailto:sky@vtlink.net) <http://www.qrd.org/qrd/www/orgs/uua/uu-interweave.html>

Interweave was founded in Washington, DC, at the 1971 UUA General Assembly. A Membership Organization affiliated with the UUA, Interweave is comprised of bisexual, gay, heterosexual, lesbian, and transgender people allied to confront oppression and to celebrate the lives of its members. Interweave publishes a regular newsletter, *Interweave World*, and holds regular meetings at General Assembly and at its annual convocation in February. The organization is committed to work in areas of internalized homophobia, anti-racism, and ministry concerning bisexual, gay, lesbian, and transgender issues. There is also an annual sermon contest.

### **Covenant of UU Pagans (CUUPS)**

Mary Gelfand, 504 895-6252 Judy Craft, 713 589-2080

8190 Beechmont Ave, Ste A PMB 335, Cincinnati, Ohio 45255-6117

[cuups@uua.org](mailto:cuups@uua.org), [cuups\\_membership@earthlink.net](mailto:cuups_membership@earthlink.net) <http://www.cuups.org/>

CUUPS was formed at the 1985 UUA General Assembly and incorporated as a not for profit organization in 1997. CUUPS works to enrich and strengthen the religious pluralism of Unitarian Universalism; promote the study and practice of contemporary Pagan and Earth- and nature-centered spirituality; enable networking among pagan-identified UU's; develop educational/liturgical materials on Pagan spirituality for UU Congregations; encourage theological inquiry into the contemporary Pagan resurgence; promote inter-religious dialogue; and work for the healing of the Earth. Members and friends receive the quarterly CUUPS Newsletter, which reports continental and local chapter activities and explores contemporary Paganism. Write to the above address for more information

### **UU Christian Fellowship**

PO Box 629, Lancaster, MA 01523, (978) 365-2427

<http://www.uua.org/uucf/>

The Unitarian Universalist Christian Fellowship has the mission of serving and encouraging all persons within Unitarian Universalist congregations who seek to engage the Christian tradition and to explore Christian spirituality. For over 50 years, the UUCF has provided worship resources, study materials and fellowship to committed UU Christians and seekers alike. The UUCF publishes a scholarly journal: *The Unitarian-Universalist Christian* and a lively bi-monthly newsletter: *The Good News*. The UUCF sponsors events and forums at each General Assembly and conducts a biennial Revival Conference. Local chapters exist within individual congregations and at regional and district levels. President, the Rev. Thomas Schade.

### **HUUMANISTS Association**

Roy Speckhardt, 1777 T. Street, NW, Washington, DC 20009, (800) 837-3792

[rspeckhardt@americanhumanist.org](mailto:rspeckhardt@americanhumanist.org) <http://www.americanhumanist.org/hsfamily/huumanist.html>

Founded in 1965 as an affiliate of the UUA, our state purpose is: "To enhance, promote, practice and enjoy humanism in liberal religion, and to provide a continental organization for those who consider themselves humanists within the UUA. To this end, HUUMANISTS shall defend and protect freedom of thought in Unitarian Universalism, arrange programs, forums and lectures, encourage humanist writing to give voice to humanistic values, encourage the establishment of local humanist groups, maintain a humanist presence on the internet, and hold discussion groups, seminars, worships and conferences."

### **UUs for a Just Economic Community (UUJEC)**

Pam Kelly, Director 110 Arlington Street, Boston, MA 02116, (617) 542-0643

[pam@uujec.org](mailto:pam@uujec.org)      <http://www.uujec.org/>

Over 1000 UUs have created a grassroots network to foster systemic change, encouraging UU congregations to work toward economic justice. Our vision is of networks of small democratic communities of solidarity, action and reflection, moving toward a goal of global justice and sustainability. We foster that vision with a new 6 session adult and youth curriculum, our newsletter and web site, an annual conference, a presence at General Assembly, pulpit programs, and networks of contacts, chapters and organizers linked by a list serve and ongoing relationships. We have identified three major areas of concern: The Working Family Agenda, seeking to establish religion/labor coalitions and Worker Memorial Day in the Congregation year; Media and Democracy (addressing corporate ownership of the media and how that affects freedom of speech), education UUs on the effects of media monopoly; and Globalization, fostering cross-border solidarity.

List serves: for UUJEC Activists/Organizers - [uujeco@uaa.org](mailto:uujeco@uaa.org), for information only:

<mailto:uujeco@uaa.org>. MA-UUJEC Director: Rev. John Gilmore, [johngilmore@uujec.org](mailto:johngilmore@uujec.org); PA UUJEC

Staff: Michelle Fields, [UUJECPAstateside@aol.com](mailto:UUJECPAstateside@aol.com) <http://www.uujec.net/>

### **Faithful Fools Street Ministry**

Rev. Kathryn Jorgensen, 230 Hyde Street, San Francisco, CA 94102 (415) 474-0508

[faithfulfools@value.net](mailto:faithfulfools@value.net)      [www.faithfulfools.org](http://www.faithfulfools.org)

The Faithful Fools Street Ministry is a ministry of presence in the Tenderloin of San Francisco. Founded in 1998 by the Rev. Kay Jorgensen and Sr. Carmen Barsody, OSF, the ministry seeks to engage people from all walks of life in questioning assumptions and shattering myths about homelessness, poverty, and all those things that separate us. This is done through the practice of street retreats, daily accompaniment, and bearing witness through the arts, social and political advocacy, and organizing. We offer workshops and street retreats to groups around the country, and have recently expanded our program to include global economic issues in relationship with people working for justice and peace in Nicaragua. See our web site for more information about our ministry and its programs.

### **Unitarian Universalists for Alternatives to the Death Penalty**

Tim Staton, P.O. Box 2337 Chester, VA 23831 (804) 748-3265

[TimUUAPD@aol.com](mailto:TimUUAPD@aol.com)

Unitarian Universalists for Alternative to the Death Penalty, organized in 1996, is a social action group seeking to give witness to the five UUA resolutions of past years calling for an end to capital punishment. Our mission is providing education and resources so that we may be well prepared to speak and act in ways that shed a truthful light on this issue, and refute the myths that surround it; urging participation in state and local groups that oppose the death penalty, and where no local chapters exist, provide help in organizing them; raising the consciousness of our congregations through workshops, programs, and sermons; and demonstrating how the principles of Unitarian Universalism are affirmed and promoted by our participation in this effort.

### **Unitarian Universalists for Justice in the Middle East**

PO Box 510, Peterborough, NH 03458      <http://www.uujme.org/>

Donald McInnes, Cambridge, MA [djmcinnes@mindspring.com](mailto:djmcinnes@mindspring.com)

Samir Moukaddam, Georgia [samirmouk@earthlink.net](mailto:samirmouk@earthlink.net)

Unitarian Universalists for Justice in the Middle East is an organization of concerned UU's working for peace and justice in the Middle East, including a settlement that would affirm the equality, dignity and freedom of all peoples involved.

### **The Unitarian Universalist Poets Cooperative**

Jennifer Bosveld, co-director, Nita Penfold, co-director, Pudding House Publications  
81 Shadymere Lane, Columbus, OH, (614) 986-1881

[info@puddinghouse.com](mailto:info@puddinghouse.com)      <http://www.puddinghouse.com>

This collective of American UU poets invites a broad range of people interested in writing, teaching, publishing, and reading poetry. Launched in 1996 by the publication of the first contemporary national anthology of UU poets, *The Unitarian Universalist Poets: A Contemporary American Survey* (Jennifer Bosveld, Editor), this group invites all poets with diverse writing interests, styles, and levels of expertise. The cooperative maintains a website newsletter; sponsors an annual award for the best anthology from any publisher that demonstrates UU Principles and Purposes; shares news of readings, workshops, conferences, and calls for poems that might appeal especially to Unitarian Universalists; plans presentations for GA, SUUSI, and regional poetry events; and maintains archives including vertical files, books, and some letters by UU poets. Poems are published in affiliate publishing projects at Pudding House Publications. Poets may support website and GA involvement. Please enclose a self-addressed stamped envelope for response to any communication.

### **Unitarian Universalists for Drug Policy Reform**

Unitarian Universalists for Drug Policy Reform (UUDPR)

7127 Carroll Ave., #4, Takoma Park, MD 20912

[charlesthomas@uudpr.org](mailto:charlesthomas@uudpr.org)      <http://www.uudpr.org/>

UUDPR assists congregations and individual UUs across the continent with the activities promoted by the drug war Study Action Issue that passed at GA in 2000. UUDPR's purpose is to give witness to the UUA's three drug policy resolutions passed since 1970, and to otherwise oppose the cruel, costly, and counterproductive war on drugs by helping UUs become more effective voices for compassionate, non-punitive, and non-coercive alternatives. UUDPR maintains a web page, runs workshops and a booth at GA, and provides written materials, email updates, public speakers, and consultation. Contributions may be sent to Frances Burford, Treasurer, at 2016 Main, #PH3, Houston, TX 77002.

### **Unitarian Universalists for Ethical Treatment of Animals (UFETA)**

c/o LoraKim Joyner, President, 4425 Byron St. El Paso, TX 79930 (915) 562-4001

[amoloros@juno.com](mailto:amoloros@juno.com)      <http://www.uua.org/ufeta/>

UFETA was formed to enliven "respect for the interdependent web" through increasing awareness of the complex justice issues regarding nonhuman animals. We believe with Gandhi that "the greatness of a civilization is measured by how its animals are treated." Vanishing wildlife, decreasing biodiversity, factory farms, animal research for profit, and companion animal abuse are all symptoms of a culture that is disconnected from understanding the worth and dignity of all beings. UFETA seeks to affect change through dialog, education, advocacy, and promotion of a spirituality that encompasses our beloved community of mixed species.

### **Unitarian Universalists for Juvenile Justice**

Jan Christian 937 Vallecito Drive, Ventura, CA 93001 (805) 653-0134

UUJJ was created to educate Unitarian Universalists about current juvenile justice issues, to interpret these issues within the context of UU Principles and resolutions, and to suggest ways for UUs to promote policies that are consistent with these Principles and resolutions. In addition to efforts within the denomination, UUJJ networks with other communities of faith and grassroots organizations to promote a restorative (as opposed to retributive) model of justice.

### **Unitarian Universalist Men's Network (UUMeN)**

Jim Jaeger PO Box 3070, Madison, WI 53704

[jjjaeger@mailbag.com](mailto:jjjaeger@mailbag.com) <http://www.uumen.org/>

The Unitarian Universalist Men's Network (UUMeN) is an affiliate organization of the UUA. The aim of UUMeN is to promote ministry and programming for men who are members or affiliates of UU Congregations or are interested in men's programming, without regard to their personal religious affiliation. UUMeN promotes mature masculinity which calls men to their authentic selves and to act responsibly in their homes, churches and communities. UUMeN conducts programs at GA and District Conferences; publishes MaleCall (a quarterly newsletter); has a booth at GA; promotes and supports men's programming in congregations; and promotes an awareness of men's issues among clergy including an annual sermon contest. For more information contact UUMeN at the contact numbers listed above.

### **US Chapter of the International Association for Religious Freedom**

Dr. Doris Hunter, 14 Concord Ave. Cambridge, MA 02130

<http://www.iarf.net/>

The purpose of the International Association for Religious Freedom (IARF) is to work for freedom of religion and belief because it is a precious human right that potentially enables the best within our religious lives, our search for truth or enlightenment, to flourish. The IARF works with groups from different religious traditions or beliefs and communities suffering from religious persecution or discrimination.

## **Other Organizations of UUs**

These are organizations, often at start-up phase, that are not formally affiliated with the Association but are composed of Unitarian Universalists and are designed to support specific endeavors and interests. *Note: The UUA does not necessarily endorse the organizations listed below; they are listed for informational purposes only.*

### **Linked Identities Networking in Coalition (LINC)**

LINC is a coalition of associate, sponsored, and affiliate organizations of the UUA working together to effect positive change in the UUA and the wider world. We are:

*The Continental UU Young Adult Network (C\*UUYAN)* [www.uuyan.org](http://www.uuyan.org)

*Diverse Revolutionary UU Multicultural Ministries (DRUUMM)* [www.druumm.org](http://www.druumm.org)

*Interweave* (an association for BLGT UU's and allies) <http://www.qrd.org/qrd/www/orgs/uua/uu-interweave.html>

*UU Women's Federation (UUWF)* [www.uua.org/uuwf](http://www.uua.org/uuwf)

*Young Religious Unitarian Universalists (YRUU)* [www.uua.org/yruu](http://www.uua.org/yruu)

### **Continental Youth Advisor Network**

Jesse Jaeger, 25 Beacon Street, Boston, MA 02108 (617) 948-4359 [jjjaeger@uua.org](mailto:jjjaeger@uua.org)

The Continental Youth Advisor Network is a continental network of Unitarian Universalist adults who do ministry with youth. The goal of the Continental Youth Advisor Network is to help organize district advisor networks that will provide a place for youths to find support amongst their peers. The Continental Youth Advisor Network will help assess what resources youth advisors need to assist the Youth Office staff in developing other ways to support youth advisors and youth ministry. The Youth Advisor Network also seeks to support the mission and vision of YRUU and UUA Youth Ministries.

### **UU Buddhist Fellowship (UUBF)**

Unitarian Universalist Buddhist Fellowship (UUBF),

c/o First Unitarian Universalist Society, 405 Washington Ave., Albany, NY 12206-2604

Rev. Samuel A. Trumbore (518) 463-7135 [strunbore@uumin.org](mailto:strunbore@uumin.org) <http://www.uua.org/uubf/>

The UUBF exists to facilitate dialogue among UU Buddhists and others interested in Buddhism and its practices. The UUBF is open to all Unitarian Universalists who are Buddhists of any tradition or who are interested in learning more about Buddhism. The UUBF publishes a newsletter, the UU Sangha, and offers classes and workshops at General Assembly. If you wish to join the UUBF or subscribe to the newsletter, please contact the Rev. Samuel Trumbore, 405 Washington Ave., Albany, NY 12206, Richard Swanson, our treasurer at: 823 Main St. , Colchester, VT 05446. For further information contact Sam Trumbore using the above information.

### **UU Homeschoolers**

Theresa Willingham, 5910 Hammocki Woods Drive Odessa, FL 33556

[pubmail@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:pubmail@tampabay.rr.com)

<http://www.uuhomeschool.org/>

The purpose of UU Homeschoolers is to provide a sanctuary where open minds can consider alternatives to traditional public education. Members range from UU families who may or may not be home-schooling to those who are interested in homeschooling but may or may not be UU. Our aim is to develop a network of like-minded alternative educators and to support UU and alternative learners in their efforts to teach and learn in the ways that suit them best. The group also acts as an educational clearinghouse where we may share ideas, links, and resources. We believe that learning outside of the public school system is a viable educational choice that is compatible with Unitarian Universalist philosophy.

### **Unitarian Universalists for Polyamory Awareness**

2111 Lido Circle; Stockton, CA 95207-6014

[uupa@uupa.org](mailto:uupa@uupa.org) <http://www.uupa.org/>

Unitarian Universalists for Polyamory Awareness (UUPA) has as its mission to serve the Unitarian Universalist community of polyamorous people by providing support, promoting education and encouraging spiritual wholeness regarding polyamory. UUPA defines polyamory as the philosophy and practice of loving or relating intimately to more than one other person at a time with honesty and integrity. UUPA advocates for any form of relationship or family structure - whether monogamous or multi-partner - which is characterized by free and responsible choice, mutual consent of all involved and sincere adherence to personal philosophical values.