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**REPORT ON SURVEY OF UUA DISTRICT TRUSTEES
AND DISTRICT APF CHAIRS
ON BUILDING A TEAM EFFORT FOR THE "ASK"**

Introduction and Summary

In the spring of this year (2007), two surveys were taken on the subject of how UUA trustees representing districts and district APF chairs can best work together to improve "fair share" participation by congregations in the Annual Program Fund. The trustee survey was conducted by e-mail and received responses from most trustees. The consensus was that a team effort, utilizing trustee, chair and district president or district executive could be most effective. There was a moderate preference for president on the team, rather than exec; some said this was more in line with policy governance, which separates the governing function from the staff function.

A questionnaire was distributed to APF district chairs at the spring APF Committee meeting, asking for facts and opinions on three questions: (1) What is your relationship to your district board?; (2) How would you feel about an APF team that included yourself, the trustee and either/or the district president or district executive?; and (3) Are you also involved in the "ask" for district dues/fair share?

Question (1): "What is your relationship to your district board?"
There was a mixed response; practice seemed fairly evenly divided between those who are either ex-officio members of the district boards, or invited attendees to the meetings. Most seemed to feel that the ex-officio status would give the APF chair a stronger position from which to build congregational confidence and enthusiasm.

Question (2): "How would you feel about an APF team that included yourself, the trustee and either/or the district president or the district executive?" There was general enthusiasm for such teams that could work together to get congregations up to fair share, make calls together where needed, and perhaps do trainings for district boards and congregations.

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Question (3): "Are you involved in the 'ask' for district dues/fair share?" A majority were not, though several were. Those who were involved in both asks, felt the dual ask was a less confusing way to approach congregations.

To summarize: there is a definite feeling that the APF chair would benefit from greater visibility in the district through attendance at board meetings and the making of an annual report at the district meeting. If there were to exist a fully functioning "team" for APF solicitation, it might make a joint report and conduct workshops. A joint "ask" made sense to practically everyone. The present "separate ask" system "confuses" congregations and causes some to emphasize one over the other. There definitely needs to be an effort to begin putting teams together in each district as the new APF year gets underway.

Here are some quotes from trustees and chairs. First, the trustees: "We (myself and the chair) do not communicate much, sad to say, but I am quite willing to be more helpful." "The chair asked for my support in bringing a congregation up to fair share, and we were successful; I spoke to them directly, and there was a positive response." "Our district chair attends all board meetings and keeps everyone well informed; perhaps a team effort might bring more congregations up to fair share." "I'd be pleased if the APF chair felt comfortable in giving the trustee a call every now and then to touch base and let us know if we can help in any way. I'd also enjoy going on an occasional congregational call with the chair." "I feel our chair, although doing a good job, too often acts as though she's fighting the good fight all on her own, when a team effort might be more effective." "APF and District folks should work together in the ask."

And from the APF chairs: "I have had no contact with the district board after two years in this job." "I think a district team makes sense." "We are discussing a merger of the two 'asks'." "A new district president may not be comfortable with my ex-officio role on the board." "When my trustee was a minister, he was very helpful with other ministers who were not enthusiastic about fair share." "We need to educate every congregation about the two asks." "I have trouble connecting with the ministers." "No one takes the lead in developing a team effort." "I had thought of forming a district APF committee, but

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**the team effort of people already known in the district makes sense.”
“Developing every district relationship is up to me; it would be helpful if
other leaders in my district would view me as a colleague.”**

**This report will go to APF chairs and UUA trustees. The big question is
“who makes the first move?” and I can’t answer that. But I offer my
services in making connections in whatever way I can.**

**Charlie King, Board Liaison to the APF Committee
August 2007**