

Date: April 29, 2022
Title: Congregational Life Field Staff
Staff Group: Congregational Life, Central East Region
Reports To: Regional Lead, Central East Region
Location: Open in the southeast corner of the Central East Region, serving congregations in New York City, New Jersey and eastern Pennsylvania
Grade: 13, full-time with benefits

Purpose

To provide support and resources for congregations, missional communities, and Unitarian Universalist religious leaders, as well as for the organizational development and expansion of our faith for the Central East Region of the Unitarian Universalist Association.

Principal Responsibilities

1. As a member of the regional Congregational Life staff group, serves the Unitarian Universalist faith and values, our congregations, members, and other constituencies in the Central East Region of Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA). With the staff group, determines staffing and service priorities consistent with our UUA mission.
2. Works in covenant as a team member of the Central East Region of the UUA.
3. Provides direct support to congregational, community, and regional leaders through coaching, companioning, connecting, and challenging.
4. Supports vital, innovative, covenantal, purposeful congregational and cross-congregational ministries by providing or arranging for appropriate consultation and programming.
5. Assists/coaches/teaches congregations, communities, and clusters through appropriate online and in person workshops, webinars, and conferences.
6. Coaches and supports leaders and congregations through conflict, culture change, and maturational growth.
7. Along with other regional staff, actively encourages collaboration among congregations to share resources and strategies; helps to organize cross-congregational learning communities both by geography and affinity; facilitates and advocates covenantal support and accountability between congregations.
8. Organizes resources from the region and the UUA to meet congregational and community needs. Draws on congregational, cluster, regional, and national resources to provide a predictable and valued set of learning opportunities.
9. Works with the staff team to appropriately imagine and evolve towards the future of Unitarian Universalism.
10. Serves as or ensures a representative of the region and/or the UUA will be present for ceremonial functions, interfaith efforts, and to ancillary organizations as needed.
11. Participates actively in the UUA Congregational Life and regional staff teams, including retreats or other staff meetings.
12. Other principal responsibilities as indicated in the Addendum.
13. Performs additional duties as requested by the supervisor, the Director of Congregational Life, the Executive Vice President, or the President.

Qualifications

This is a Grade 13 position (expected hiring range of \$58,000 to \$71,500 commensurate with experience). Note that qualifications may be met as a result of lived experience, volunteer work, professional experience, and/or formal or informal training. Requirements include:

- Bachelor's degree or equivalent.
- In-depth knowledge and understanding of Unitarian Universalism; ability to speak and write confidently about Unitarian Universalism.
- Commitment to our Unitarian Universalist Association.
- A minimum of ten years' active involvement with Unitarian Universalist congregations and organizations.
- Personal religious depth.
- Ability to work flexibly and collaboratively as part of a regional staff team; proven track record as a good team member.
- Ability to lead and self-regulate in environments of high anxiety, conflict, and challenge.
- Ability to take initiative, to be self-directing, to set priorities, and to manage time well.

- Ability or willingness to learn how to be proactive in advocating for justice.
- Work or lived experience with communities of color or Indigenous peoples is of particular value.
- Eagerness to work in an organization in which the dismantling of systems of oppression such as white supremacy, trans/homophobia, and ableism is a high priority.
- A commitment to and understanding of organizational development.
- Knowledge and experience of group and organizational change dynamics; knowledge of how volunteer organizations operate.
- Excellent communications and public speaking skills, including use of presentation technologies and social media.
- Knowledge or willingness to learn the use of emerging communications and remote learning technologies.
- Significant travel required; ability to travel across regional boundaries.
- Must live in or be willing to relocate to the Central East Region within reasonable travel distance to congregations most served.

Note: We are particularly interested in candidates with significant experience in religious education and strong relationships with religious educators. We are also interested in candidates holding personal identities that help round out the diversity of our team.

How to Apply

People with disabilities, people of color, Indigenous people, Hispanic/Latinx, and LGBTQ candidates are encouraged to apply. The UUA is committed to developing a diverse and talented staff team. If you are excited about this role, but are unsure whether you meet 100% of the requirements, we encourage you to inquire and/or apply. Send cover letter and résumé—indicating “Congregational Life Field Staff-Central East Region” in the subject line—via email to careers@uua.org, via fax to (617) 948-6467, or to Human Resources, UUA, 24 Farnsworth Street, Boston, MA 02210. E-mail submissions preferred.

Note: Interviewing for this position will take place in the fall of 2022 with a mutually agreed upon start date between January and March, 2023. Please submit your application anytime up to September 6, 2022, when application review will begin.

About the UUA

The Unitarian Universalist Association is a progressive religious denomination headquartered in Boston’s waterfront Fort Point Innovation District. Our faith community of more than 1,000 self-governing congregations brings to the world a vision of religious freedom, tolerance, and social justice.

We offer an excellent benefits package: We pay 80% contribution towards health insurance premiums, 10% towards retirement (after one year), and have generous paid time-off policies. We are a great place to work and we value diversity. The UUA is an Equal Opportunity Employer and is committed to the full inclusion of all. As part of this commitment, the UUA will ensure that applicants and staff with disabilities are provided reasonable accommodations. If reasonable accommodation is needed to participate in the job application or interview process, to perform essential job functions, and/or to receive other benefits and privileges of employment, please contact the Office of Human Resources at (617) 948-4648 or humanresources@uua.org. For more information on the UUA, visit us online at UUA.org and uuworld.org.

About the Congregational Life Staff Group

The Congregational Life staff group is made up of our UUA’s field staff consultant teams divided into five collaborative regional teams (<https://www.uua.org/regions>). The core purpose of the Congregational Life staff team is to coach, connect, companion and challenge congregations, communities, and their leaders.

About the Central East Region

For information, visit us online at <https://www.uua.org/central-east>.

Support for the Mission and Values of the Association

The Unitarian Universalist Association is a progressive and historic religious denomination. While it is not generally required or expected that an applicant/employee identify as a Unitarian Universalist (UU) or be a member of a UU congregation in order to work at the UUA, all UUA staff members are expected to perform their job duties in accordance with the UUA’s

values, principles and mission. In particular the following points, drawn from the Seven UU Principles, are of particular importance for the UUA's work environment and staff culture:

- The inherent worth and dignity of every human being: We affirm the need for a human-centered workplace that allows our diverse staff to flourish. We also understand that our wider culture and society oppresses and denies human dignity, and we seek to counter the effects of that oppression in our hiring and workplace culture so that each person feels whole and valued.
- Justice, equity and compassion in human relations, and the goal of world community with peace, liberty and justice for all: We speak openly and publicly of our support for social and political issues, including LGBTQ equity, racial justice, climate justice, gender equity, and reproductive justice.
- The interdependent web of existence: We recognize that the liberation of all people is interwoven, and we work to counter patriarchy, white supremacy, colonialism, homophobia, transphobia, ableism, environmental exploitation, and other interrelated systems of marginalization.

Addendum

The principal role of this position will be to consult with a significant "primary contact" load of around 50 congregations. Other UUA projects and collaborations based on opportunities and interests that can fit into the employee's time can be added.

The area of congregational responsibility will include the metro New York City area including Long Island, New Jersey, and eastern Pennsylvania including Philadelphia.