

## What Keeps You Up At Night? Congregational Risk Management

Meet the Moment: Fall 2025 Wave Cohort

Lead Facilitator: Carey McDonald, UUA Executive Vice President ([cmcdonald@uua.org](mailto:cmcdonald@uua.org))

Description: Congregations are grappling with increasingly complex challenges and rising threats. This includes everything from harassment by right wing militias, to digital safety, to trouble securing insurance policies. The UUA has helped offer tools in each of these areas, yet leaders still consistently report feeling overwhelmed by these problems, both in planning in advance and in dealing with them when they arise. We will explore how to adapt simplified "risk management" frameworks for congregations, which streamlines the kinds of threats and risks to consider and creates a comprehensive and realistic approach to lowering risk (since there is no such thing as perfect safety). We will draw on what the UUA has learned from revamping its own enterprise risk management framework in the past few years.

### Key Questions

- What are the shared risks UU congregations are experiencing?
- What kinds of risks should UU congregations be prepared to take?
- Is an "enterprise risk management" approach useful for congregations? If so, how can we learn from and best support one another in using it?

### Cohort Sessions

- Monday, **September 22nd** at 11am PT/ 12pm MT/ 1pm CT/ 2pm ET (2 hours)
  - Topic: Overview of Risk Management – Meet the Moment overview, frameworks and theological grounding for risk, exploring enterprise risk management
  - *Participant Project: Map how your congregation addresses risk*
- Monday, **October 27th** at 11am PT/ 12pm MT/ 1pm CT/ 2pm ET (2 hours)
  - Topic: Identifying Risks – defining risk scenarios, frameworks for evaluating risk, UUA's internal risk management
  - *Participant Project: Draft your congregation's current risk matrix*
- Monday, **November 17th** at 11am PT/ 12pm MT/ 1pm CT/ 2pm ET (2 hours)
  - Topic: Reducing Risks – common strategies, checklists, UUA tools, and insurance options
  - *Participant Project: Identify key risk reduction tools for your risk matrix*
- Monday, **December 15th** at 11am PT/ 12pm MT/ 1pm CT/ 2pm ET (2 hours)

- Topic: Implementing Risk Management Practices – leaders' roles, avoiding pitfalls, case studies
- *Participant Project: Plan for engaging your congregation going forward*

## Expectations

- Wave cohorts are exploratory, interactive opportunities to dive deep into an issue – bring your best questions, creative ideas, thoughtful engagement and honest feedback!
- Participate in at least three of the four sessions
- Bring back what you're learning to other leaders in your congregation
- Complete participant project worksheets for each session, and closing participant survey
- We'll be discussing some of the hardest aspects of congregational life and leadership, which may be triggering. Take care of yourself, step out if you need to.

## Key Links

- [Nonprofit Risk Management Center](#)
- [Church Mutual Insurance – Risk Control Resources](#)
- UUA Resources
  - [Meet the Moment](#)
  - [Community Resilience Hub](#)
  - [Side With Love – Risk, Courage & Justice Facilitation Guide](#)