

Entrepreneur-in-Residence

uua.org/association/emerging/entrepreneur-residence

At a time when religion is changing in the United States, and when so many of the institutions that once brought neighbors together are falling apart, we are in desperate need of new models of community that will bridge our nation's racial, religious, and socio-economic divides and offer new forms of connection.

Unitarian Universalists have embraced this challenge and opportunity through religious entrepreneurialism. While we have much more work to do, new forms of religious community have finally taken flight. The Entrepreneur-in-Residence program represents a communal investment that will help those ministries remain in the air - and soar!



Summary

The UUA's Entrepreneur-in-Residence program is inspired by scholar-in-residence and artist-in-residence programs that support thought leaders to both advance their work and enable them to share their work with a wider community.

Entrepreneurs are chosen for a yearlong residency with the UUA. They receive \$20,000 to support their ongoing ministry and to share their inspiring stories with Unitarian Universalists across the country through workshops, writing and conversations. The program is targeted at the key time when entrepreneurs who have started new forms of faith community are ready to expand their reach and impact, and need some extra support.

Program Goals

UU entrepreneurial leaders will be more likely to sustain their efforts with strategic financial support that improves the low compensation and unreliable benefits that are common among faith-based entrepreneurial leaders. The residency hopes to make sure that:

- Innovative UU communities can better deepen and multiply their unique models. Working with the UUA, they gain access to communication channels and venues for sharing their stories;
- Individual entrepreneurs can more easily share their wisdom

with others. Often, the time when established entrepreneurs are most ready to deepen and share their work is the time when they are the most likely to be exhausted, overwhelmed and out of funds. This program takes on those limits so the promise of these leaders can flourish; and

- Leaders of traditional UU congregations and groups can be inspired by their most innovative peers. Seeing up close how a different model of a faith community can operate and advance UU principles is an invaluable tool for imagining new possibilities in their own context.

Role of the Entrepreneur-in-Residence

Enhance and expand their ministry

Entrepreneurial leaders often bear the burden of their community's success, either through lower salaries, inadequate health care or taking on a part-time position on top of the full-time work they are doing. The Entrepreneur-in-Residence grant will provide "a second wind." Leaders will be selected who have a clear plan to expand, share or multiply their model.

Share their expertise

Entrepreneurs-in-Residence will offer experiences to share their knowledge with UU congregational leaders. This will include teaching through workshops, blog posts, preaching, speaking engagements, as well as mentoring and peer review group participation.

Model "intra-preneurialism"

The program will focus on connecting the wisdom of Entrepreneurs-in-Residence to traditional congregational settings. One of entrepreneurialism's greatest gifts is the inspiration for existing institutions to evolve, not just providing alternatives to them. "Intrapreneurialism" describes the drive to bring entrepreneurialism into traditional structures. Entrepreneurs-in-Residence will be asked to develop an intrapreneurial support strategy.

2016-17 Entrepreneur-in-Residence

Rev. Erik Martinez Resly and The Sanctuaries, Washington, DC have been selected as the 2016-17 Entrepreneurs-in-Residence. The Sanctuaries is an interfaith artists community that "empowers people to live creative and soulful lives." Founded as a neighborhood ministry in 2013 by Rev. Erik, a UU minister, The Sanctuaries offers shared meals, artist collaborations and public performances. The



community has been featured in the New York Times, the Huffington Post, CBS News and Sojourners.

Read more at thesanctuaries.org.

Apply to be an Entrepreneur-in-Residence

Applications for the 2017-18 residency will be open April 1, 2017. The program encourages applications from leaders of entrepreneurial UU religious communities who:

- Have achieved organizational stability. Their organization or ministry is beyond the piloting stage and has a track record of success showing the longer-term viability of the model;
- Are looking to expand, share or multiply their model, and
- Are motivated to share their experience and expertise with the wider UU community.



The first Entrepreneur-in-Residence was selected in October 2016, and will be in residence through August 2017. This year will be considered a pilot year to explore and refine the program.

For more information, email conglife@uua.org or visit uua.org/association/emerging/entrepreneur-residence.

The Entrepreneur-in-Residence program is managed by the UUA's Congregational Life Staff Group.