



Congregation/Organization Name

Address

Website

Social Media

Year Established

Number of Members/Participants

Average Attendance: Adult

Children/Youth

Young Adult (18-35)

People of Color/Indigenous

Type of Community?

Congregation

Covenanted Community

Start-Up

Setting:

Urban

Suburban

Rural

Other

Explanation if "Other"

Contact Information (name and email)

Community Leader (e.g. Board President)

Email

Minister (if applicable)

Email

RE Professional (if applicable)

Email

Applicant (e.g. Change Leader/Facilitator of Breakthrough)

Email

Recommendations: When you email this form, please also attach two written recommendations: one from someone directly impacted by the innovation and another from someone outside your religious community (ie, UUA staff or community member) who is familiar with the innovation.

I understand that UUA and Regional Staff will be contacted to verify this application.

If applicable, the community leader, minister and religious education (RE) professional have been made aware of this application.

This application comes from the Board or a Board delegate, or has been approved by the Board of your UU community.

In this application, we are looking for Unitarian Universalist communities of all kinds-- congregations, covenanted communities or start-ups that have demonstrated new and better ways of meeting the needs of people who are currently underserved or not served at all in our religious communities. We're looking for innovative approaches of real significance that have succeeded in bringing new vitality to UU communities, and for the stories of successful change leadership that have brought them about. Stories that would be inspiring and useful to other UU communities trying to meet similar needs. This isn't about numerical growth, community size or even whole-community programming. We want to celebrate innovative ways UU communities are adapting to the challenges that they face in this changing religious landscape.



Sharing Your Story

Instructions: *The following questions are designed to be prompts to help us learn more about these five dimensions of your breakthrough: description, impact, change leadership, learning and sharing. You do not need to answer each prompt question in each section. However, feel free to use as much space as you need to answer these questions. The gray boxes will expand to accommodate your answers.*

- 1. DESCRIPTION:** Describe your breakthrough. What population does it serve that was previously unserved or underserved, and what unmet needs did you identify that are now being addressed? What aspects of your community programming, leadership, or model does your breakthrough encompass? How does it work? What specific changes do members experience that are increasing their sense of purpose and meaning in their lives, facilitating their spiritual growth, or increasing their engagement in the life of your religious community or the larger community you serve?
- 2. IMPACT:** How has this innovation helped you advance, expand or fulfill your UU community's mission? What specific outcomes did you intend your breakthrough to have, and how do you know that it's succeeding? What are the tangible indicators of increasing community vitality? Were there unintended outcomes, positive or negative? How has this breakthrough experience prepared your UU community for future challenges and change opportunities?
- 3. CHANGE LEADERSHIP:** Tell us about the process you used to create, implement, and evaluate this breakthrough. Who was on your breakthrough project team? How did you identify who you intended to serve and their unmet needs? How did you develop your creative approach to meeting those needs and who was involved? How did you bring other leaders, members and potential supporters along on the journey? What partnerships made it possible? What events or processes led to key breakthroughs in thinking or support? How did your UU community reach a decision to move forward? What kind of innovation practices, if any, did you employ (e.g. design thinking, prototyping, iterating, testing) along the way? What kind of community education, culture, systems and preparation was helpful in allowing this breakthrough to come about? What about the project team-- e.g. personal qualities of leaders or aspects of team composition and process-- enabled your success?

Applications should be sent to breakthrough@uua.org by December 1, 2018.



- 4. LEARNING:** What have you learned from your breakthrough? What factors contributed to your success? What would you have done differently? What did it teach you about change leadership? How did it shift your understanding of the challenges of the 21st century? What kind of support would you like to have from UU institutions for leading this kind of change in the future?

- 5. SHARING:** What do you think your breakthrough has to teach other UU communities about adapting to the challenges facing Unitarian Universalism today? Would you or others in your UU community who have familiarity with this breakthrough be willing to help other UU change leaders and UU communities with similar needs with advice, mentoring and support, and what, in particular, would you be willing to offer them