**Talking Points for Religious Educators**

**from the UUA Faith Development Office webinar,**

**“Meet the Stewardship and Development Office,” March, 2016**

* + *We are enriched by the practice of generosity in our personal and our congregational lives, and as an Association. We recognize that the cultivation of generosity is part of the religious journey and integral to what it means to be Unitarian Universalist.*
	+ As the Religious Education leadership of the church, we know that you may be in a position to help educate your congregants about the importance of APF (and district/regional dues). We are here to help. Here are some basic points that we hope you will find useful.
	+ Congregational support of APF (GIFT in the Southern Region) is the fulfillment of a **promise that has already been made**. From the UUA bylaws: “A congregation becomes a member upon acceptance by the Board of Trustees of the Association of its written application for membership in which it subscribes to the principles of and pledges to support the Association.” Our principles and purposes close with this promise: “As free congregations we enter into…covenant, promising to one another our mutual trust and support.”
	+ Your gifts to APF benefit all of our congregations. The entire structure of our Association is built on the promise of full congregational participation in APF, and everything the UUA offers, Association-wide, is made possible by your congregational support. **Other congregations depend upon you, as you depend on them.**
	+ APF (and district/regional dues) is the single largest source of income for the UUA, and makes all of the programs and services that are provided possible. The list is far too comprehensive to fit here, but at this link you can find more information. [www.uua.org/giving/apf/why-we-give](http://www.uua.org/giving/apf/why-we-give)
	+ Our understanding of the Annual Program Fund cannot simply be transactional; we are an Association of Congregations, and we are bound together in covenant. Our full support of APF is the living embodiment of this promise. **You are needed!** Only together, in our full strength, can we amplify the best of Unitarian Universalism.
	+ Please visit our website [www.uua.org/giving/apf](http://www.uua.org/giving/apf) for resources to educate your congregation about APF, and for a video thank you that we hope every congregation will show to their leadership.
	+ We are here to partner with you. Please don’t hesitate to contact us. Thank you for all that you do for our faith! — Rev. Vail Weller, Congregational Giving Director vweller@uua.org