

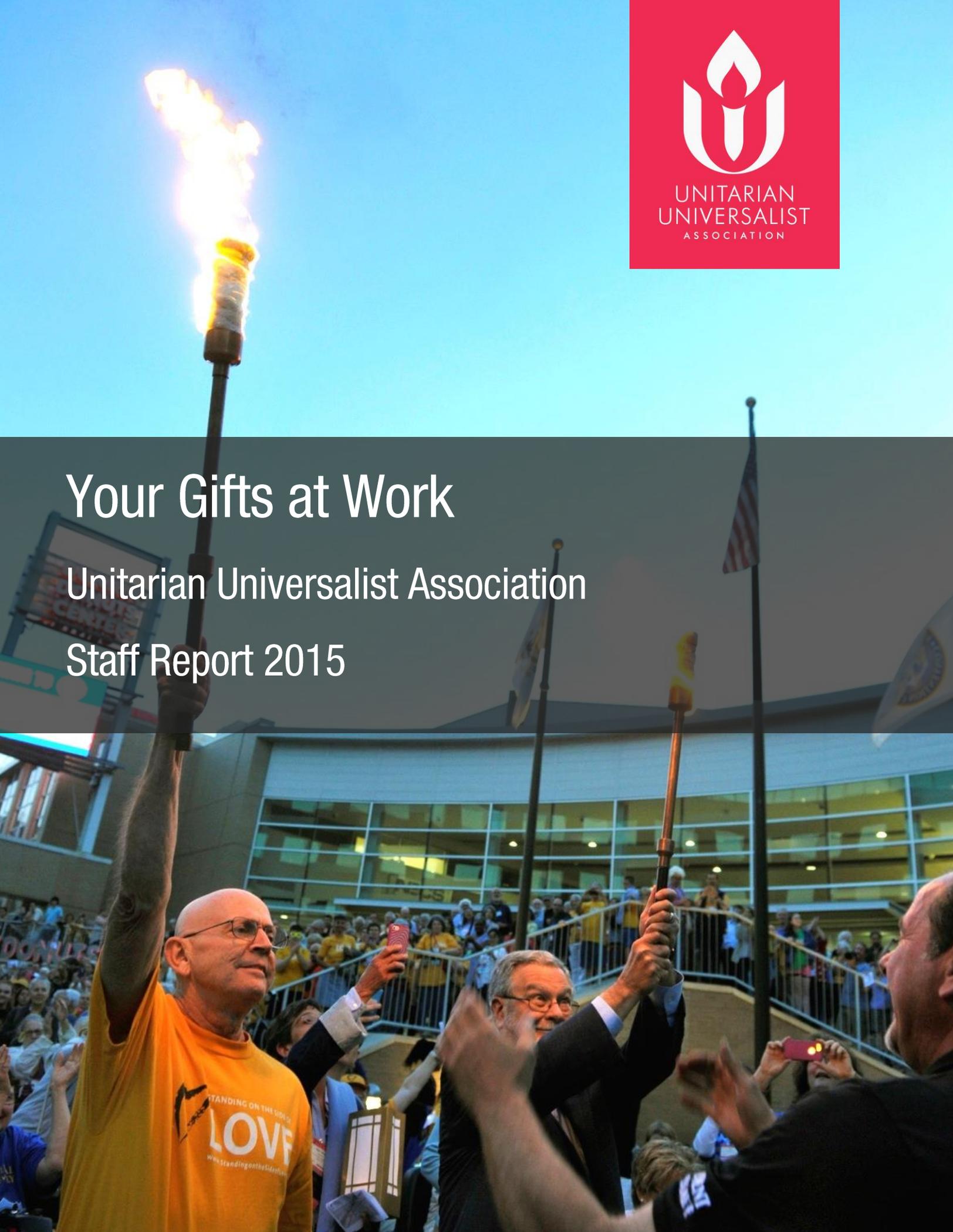


UNITARIAN  
UNIVERSALIST  
ASSOCIATION

# Your Gifts at Work

Unitarian Universalist Association

Staff Report 2015



# Table of Contents

- Introduction..... 3**
- Ministries and Faith Development ..... 5**
  - Summer Seminary .....5
  - Military Ministry .....8
- Communications.....12**
  - Public Relations .....12
  - A New UUA.org .....16
- Congregational Life .....18**
  - Innovative Learning Circles .....18
  - Multisite Ministries .....21
- Multicultural Growth and Witness .....24**
  - Standing on the Side of Love .....24
  - Commit2Respond.....29
- Stewardship and Development .....32**
  - Umbrella Giving .....32
  - Brave Souls: Pledge Over the Edge .....34
- Socially Responsible Investing.....36**
- Conclusion.....38**

# Introduction

The Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) promotes the growth, health, and social justice work of Unitarian Universalism. We lead through innovation and are proud of the creative ministry we are nurturing throughout our movement.

Your gifts through the Annual Program Fund, Friends of the UUA, and other generous contributions fuel our mission. This past year, you have made incredible achievements possible in every aspect of our Association, toward our global ends of:

**1.0** A healthy Unitarian Universalist community that is alive with transforming power, moving our communities and the world toward more love, justice, and peace in a manner which assures institutional sustainability.

**1.1** Congregations and communities that are covenanted, accountable, healthy, and mission driven.

**1.2** Congregations and communities are better able to achieve their missions and to spread awareness of Unitarian Universalist ideals and principles through their participation in covenanted networks of Unitarian Universalist congregations and communities.

**1.3** Congregations and communities are intentionally inclusive, multigenerational and multicultural.

**1.4** Congregations and communities engage in partnerships to counter systems of power, privilege and oppression.

**1.5** Congregations and communities have and use UUA resources to deepen the spiritual and religious exploration by people in their communities, to enhance the ministry of their members and to improve their operations.

**1.6** There is an increase in the number of people served by Unitarian Universalist congregations and communities.

**1.7** There is an increase in the number of Unitarian Universalist congregations and communities.

**1.8** There is an increase in the number of inspired and ordained lay religious leaders equipped to effectively start and sustain new Unitarian Universalist congregations and communities.

**1.9** Unitarian Universalist institutions are healthy, vital, collaborative partners invested in the future of Unitarian Universalism, its principles and theologies.

Thank you. It is only through your support that the UUA can continue to make Unitarian Universalism thrive.

The report that follows describes just some of the innovative, exciting work that UUA staff is doing in partnership with you.

# Ministries and Faith Development

The UUA's Ministries and Faith Development team serves Unitarian Universalism by creating healthy, transformative, multigenerational, and diverse ministries and religious education. We support the development and credentialing of professional leaders; resource lifespan religious education, worship, advocacy, and social action; provide benefits services to congregational staff; and support congregations facing or planning changes in their professional ministry.

## Summer Seminary

Through Summer Seminary, the UUA is investing in future leaders by recognizing outstanding high school aged youth and inviting them to formally explore their call to ministry. In 2014 we brought together 16 emerging leaders for a soulful week of preaching, dialogue, and discernment. We built off the success of the 2013 pilot program, extending the programming by two days and enhancing that which had proved most powerful. Participants explored ministry in all its forms, learned about life as a religious professional, and connected with peers considering ministry, religious education, music leadership, social justice and other religious professional career paths. One of the highlights of Summer Seminary is the Preach-Off; you can view a video of 2014 winner Kara Marler's sermon here:

### Global End 1.8

Summer Seminary will increase the number of inspired ordained and lay religious leaders equipped to effectively start and sustain new Unitarian Universalist congregations and communities.



Over the last two years, 32 youth have graduated from Summer Seminary and gone on to leadership opportunities at the UUA and in their congregations. Alex Jensen, one of

### Better Together

We are creating a rich experience for participants through a variety of collaborations. In 2014 we partnered with **Meadville Lombard** and **Chicago congregations** as both venues and sources for program presenters.

this year's graduates, writes, "Summer Seminary transformed my life by showing me that there were other high school youth out there who were passionate about the same things I am passionate about. It really brought me a sense of community in the wider UU world. I was so used to toying with the

idea of becoming a minister by myself. It was really profound and spiritual for me to find a bunch of other youth who were considering a similar call to mine. Summer Seminary gave me a breath of fresh air and really helped motivate me on my calling. I really feel sincere in pursuing my call to ministry, thanks to Summer Seminary."

A parent of one of this year's participants wrote that Summer Seminary "launched a year of self-evaluation and reflection as well as sharing of his talents and treasures with not only his church community but school community and his family...

*"This experience has had a ripple effect on Adam's life and ours as well."*

As Adam and others continue to grow and find new opportunities, that ripple effect will have an exponential impact on Unitarian Universalism. These empowered youth are creating spaces for multigenerational engagement and organizing. They will be the Unitarian Universalist leaders who create transformative faith homes for emerging generations.

## Military Ministry

The military is a tremendously diverse organization which consists largely of young adults who work under enormously stressful, ethically, and morally complicated conditions. Unitarian Universalists are uniquely positioned to serve in such a pluralistic environment, and the UUA is developing a rich ministry to meet this challenge.



*Kandahar Crossing UU Fellowship, Afghanistan*

Since 2010, we have nearly tripled the number of Unitarian Universalist chaplains serving in the military from 6 to 17. These ministers are providing excellent pastoral and prophetic leadership in a setting that Unitarian Universalists have largely ignored since the time of the Vietnam War, but that is a key part of the fabric of our

### Global End 1.6

Our military chaplains are exponentially increasing the number of people served by Unitarian Universalism.

society. Several of these chaplains have deployed with their troops to war zones. One chaplain writes that UUA support “makes it possible for us to do what we do and to be a voice for UU values in the military. We are at a critical juncture in the military chaplaincy...

*“Our voices are more relevant and needed than ever before.”*

The UUA’s Director of Ministries and Faith Development, the Rev. Sarah Lammert, serves as our Unitarian Universalist Endorser and was elected unanimously as Chair-Elect of the National Conference on Ministry to the Armed Forces (NCMAF). Members of the NCMAF serve as points of contact between the military and more than 200 religious denominations and faith groups, providing endorsement and oversight for clergy who serve as chaplains.

*Rev. Lammert is the second woman and the first Unitarian Universalist to lead the NCMAF organization.*

Our work extends beyond the military base to our congregations. The UUA published a six-session [Military Ministry Toolkit](#) online curriculum on how congregations and UU communities can genuinely welcome military members, veterans, and families. Our military chaplains are preaching in our congregations, leading worship and workshops at

### **Better Together**

We are strengthening Unitarian Universalist military ministry through a variety of partnerships. The **Church of the Larger Fellowship** offers an ongoing internship in military ministry and has a strong online presence supporting service members around the world. The **Unitarian Universalist Ministers Association** and the **Unitarian Universalist Society for Community Ministry** are supporting collegiality and continuing education opportunities for our chaplains.

General Assembly, and cultivating important relationships with their parish colleagues. The UUA is celebrating the vital work of our chaplains on the national stage: in 2014 we invited Chaplain (MAJ) Rebekah Montgomery, a lifelong Unitarian Universalist, to preach the Service of the Living Tradition sermon at General

Assembly. One veteran from the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Fairfax, Virginia, recently wrote,

“When I joined our congregation in 1996 I was told by several people that military service was incompatible with being what they called a good UU. As a retired Air Force officer and a defense contractor those words hurt. I and many of the other active duty,

reserve, and retired military and veterans obviously ignored this sentiment, but it still hurt years later. The Service of the Living Tradition seemed to me to bring to the GA a long delayed recognition of our chaplains and the often-dangerous places they go to minister and those who desperately need that ministering by us...

*“How can we ignore the people in uniform, often with no real alternative and yet filled with a desire to serve?”*

...This Service of the Living Tradition symbolically reconciled the UUA with us.”



*Chaplain (MAJ) Rebekah Montgomery*

# Communications

The UUA uses a variety of communications strategies to establish and strengthen religious community, grow membership, and raise awareness of Unitarian Universalism.

## Public Relations

The UUA amplifies Unitarian Universalism’s voice on the national stage and positions our faith as a leader on the most important justice issues of our day. This year, one of our biggest successes was sharing our message and sparking dialogue about immigration justice.

### Global End 1.2

Congregations and communities are better able to achieve their missions and to spread awareness of Unitarian Universalist ideals and principles through UUA public relations.

In August, the UUA brought together diverse religious leaders to send [a letter](#) to the White House urging President Obama to consider executive action to protect immigrant families. We wrote, “As a nation of immigrants, we must stand on the side of love with immigrant families. As a religious community, we cannot ignore the moral call to help those who are suffering...”

*“As citizens of the world, we must respect the inherent worth and dignity of all.”*

In November, President Obama issued executive action on immigration. President Morales issued [a statement](#) thanking President Obama and recognizing the many Unitarian Universalist voices “who spoke out through countless petitions, please, protests, and even civil disobedience around the country.”

Top news coverage included:

- “U.S. religious leaders embrace cause of immigrant children,” [The New York Times](#)
- “More than 100 religious, immigration activists arrested at White House,” [Religious New Service](#)
- “Mass Arrests Outside of White House as Protesters Ask Relief for Illegal Immigrants,” [Newswire](#)
- “Americans need to show compassion for immigrants,” [Washington Post](#)
- “Two national church leaders to speak at immigration conference in Akron,” [Akron Beacon Journal](#)

### Better Together

Our immigration justice advocacy has involved collaboration with leaders of the **United Church of Christ, Church World Service, the United Methodist Church, the Disciples of Christ** and more.

In October, the UUA and the UCC [recommitted to the Sanctuary movement](#). Arturo Armando Hernandez Garcia entered sanctuary at First Unitarian Society of Denver, Colorado, to avoid deportation and being torn apart from his family.

He said, "I have lived in the US for fifteen years. My wife and two daughters need me here at home with them, where I belong. I have taught my two daughters to work hard, be faithful, and show kindness and compassion to others..."

*"I am doing this not only to stop my own deportation, but also to help raise awareness that there are thousands of others like me being deported every day."*

Top news coverage included:

- "He lived in the U.S. for 15 years. Only church sanctuary saved him from deportation," [Washington Post](#)
- "Man facing deportation claims sanctuary in Denver church basement," [Denver Post](#)
- "Mexican claiming sanctuary in Unitarian church in Denver seeks amnesty," [TribLive](#)

President Morales highlighted the great work this congregation is doing around sanctuary in his holiday video:



The holiday video also had one of our highest reaches on Facebook:

**Unitarian Universalist Association**  
December 11, 2014 at 10:19am · 🌐

In a special holiday message, UUA President Rev. Peter Morales reminds us that the most important gift we can give is love. "We think of the holiday season as a time of giving and receiving gifts... The simple truth is that the most special gifts I have received are the love and support of others, not any of the things anyone has given me." <http://bit.ly/12R84bs>



**Rev. Peter Morales**  
President  
02:25 Unitarian Universalist Association

51,328 people reached Boost Post

Like · Comment · Share · 🍷 282 🗨️ 18 ➦ 376

**51,328** People Reached

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**14,486** Video Views

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**1,539** Likes, Comments & Shares

<b>1,013</b> Likes	<b>282</b> On Post	<b>731</b> On Shares
<b>115</b> Comments	<b>18</b> On Post	<b>97</b> On Shares
<b>411</b> Shares	<b>376</b> On Post	<b>35</b> On Shares

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**3,131** Post Clicks

<b>745</b> Clicks to Play ⓘ	<b>53</b> Link Clicks	<b>2,333</b> Other Clicks ⓘ
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**NEGATIVE FEEDBACK**

<b>32</b> Hide Post	<b>9</b> Hide All Posts
<b>0</b> Report as Spam	<b>1</b> Unlike Page

## A New UUA.org

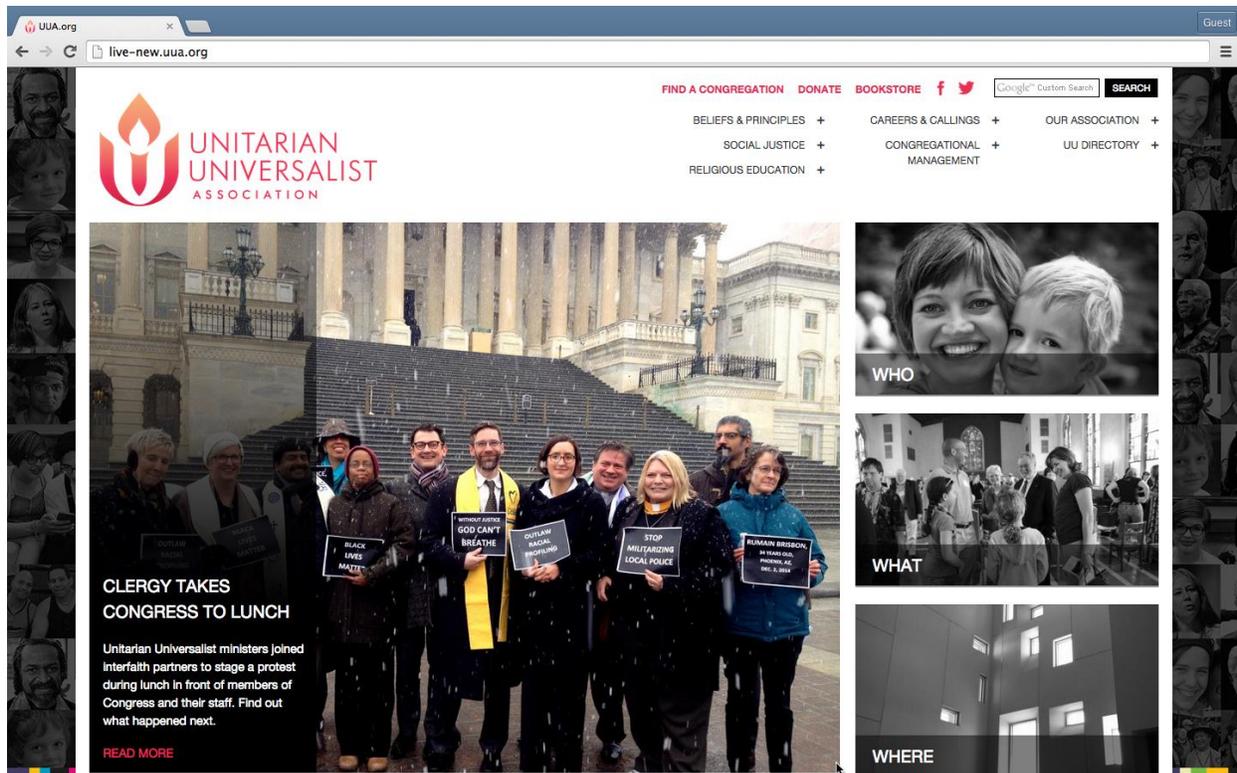
More than 1 million people visit UUA.org every year, and over 90% are first time visitors. Our website is truly the front door to Unitarian Universalism. This year, we are launching a new site and design that will go live in February 2015. Our goals are to:

- Improve seeker engagement: we want visitors to be enthusiastically welcomed and invited to connect more with Unitarian Universalist congregations and ministries. The new homepage will tell the Unitarian Universalist story and we are redesigning our introductory content. In 2014, people searched 157,000 times for a congregation on UUA.org. More and more, our website is how seekers find their way to congregations—and we must seize this opportunity.
- Make the site easier to use: we want lay and professional Unitarian Universalist leaders to have a simple, easy to navigate resources to find what they need and discover new materials across content areas. We are adding tags that tie content between pages to recommend books, religious education activities, *UU World* stories, General Assembly workshops, and Worship Web materials based on what the user is seeing.
- Create new possibilities: by moving to the open-source Drupal platform, we will have infinitely more options for things we can do on UUA.org, including

### Global End 1.5

Congregations and communities have and use UUA resources to deepen the spiritual and religious exploration by people in their communities.

multimedia integration, specialized sub-sites, discussion forums, and more. This will increase flexibility to respond to the rapid changes of the online landscape.



*New UUA.org homepage*

In creating the new website, the UUA is building off lessons learned over the last two decades. We have consistently tested usability of our site on a number of factors. For instance, our previous user-based home page menu guided people to content based on their self-identification as Member, Visitor, or Leader. Testing showed that this was confusing to navigate so we switched to a topic-based menu featuring subjects like Social Justice, Religious Education, and Beliefs & Principles. We are carrying these lessons forward to the new site.

## Congregational Life

Our Congregational Life team serves to cultivate connections between congregations, empower existing congregations to reach new levels of impact and creativity, and inspire and coach new models of “doing church.”

## Innovative Learning Circles

Innovation is everywhere in Unitarian Universalism, and the UUA plays a critical role in nurturing the best creative endeavors and helping us all learn from successes and failures. Our Innovative Learning Circles are an online, peer support system for our faith’s most innovative leaders. It is a structure for their ideas to cross-pollinate and grow.



*Multisite Ministry Innovative Learning Circle in action*

We began this program in 2012 with three experimental circles. This year, we have grown the program to include 12 circles focusing on a variety of topics, including:

- Multisite Ministries
- Beloved Community
- Multigenerational Ministry
- Developmental Ministry
- Lay Leadership Development
- Congregations and Beyond
- Emerging Congregations

### Global End 1.3

Innovative Learning Circles are cultivating leaders who build congregations and communities that are intentionally inclusive, multigenerational and multicultural.

Participants consistently report that the experience is helpful and gives them new, valuable tools for ministry. One minister described his insular congregation as afflicted with the "good enough syndrome."

*His circle helped him strategize ways to wake up the congregation and build ownership of a larger mission and yearning.*

## **Better Together**

We share learnings from this program more broadly through the [Growing Unitarian Universalism blog](#), General Assembly workshops, and collaborations with the Unitarian Universalist Ministers Association and the Canadian Unitarian Council.

He challenged his congregation and they responded: they are now emphasizing outreach and community and growing their social justice work. This minister credits his circle-mates with making this transformation possible.

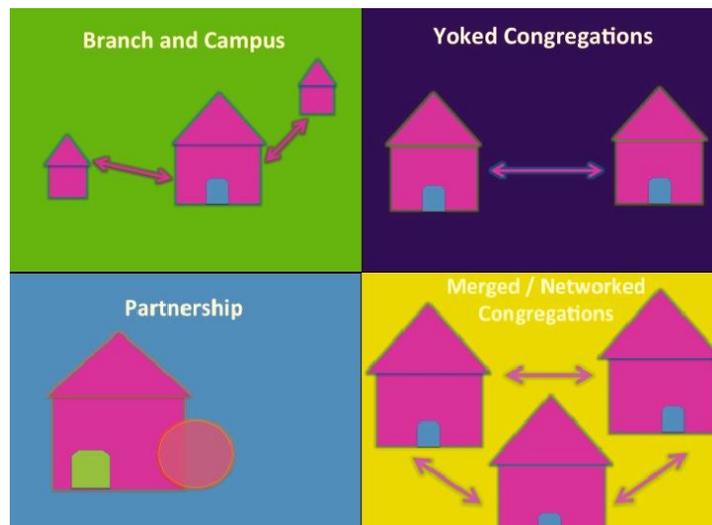
## Multisite Ministries

Our Unitarian Universalist belief in the power of interdependence has not yet influenced our models of church as fully as it can. As Unitarian Universalism prepares for the increasingly challenging economics of “doing church,” we need congregations to share programming, vision and staff. More importantly, multisite networks allow us to embody our commitment to covenantal connection and our theology of interdependence more deeply.

We see dozens of multisite networks emerging in the next 7-10 years. These will take various forms: satellite campuses; “yoking” existing congregations together; mergers; networked congregations keeping their own budgets and boards, but sharing staff and programming; partnering; virtual church; and more.

### Global End 1.7

Multisite ministries are growing the number of Unitarian Universalist communities.



These congregations will not be satisfied with simply sharing a couple of staff members for efficiency's sake. Rather, they will be leaders of our movement, striving to deepen the architecture of our interdependence. They will combine staff and coordinate programming with the goal of sharing "congregational DNA." Some will even seek to become "one church in many locations." They will see those they serve not just as the members already in the pews, but as the entire region in which they live.

*To achieve this vision, the UUA will be leading systemic change throughout our movement.*

This will involve our seminaries, settlement system, fellowshipping process and continuing education programming.

We are currently supporting and sustaining existing and new multisite efforts. We are introducing programming that includes a centralized online hub to house and connect all UU multisite efforts; online material sharing systems; learning circles; a Congregational Life Multisite Consultant Team, mentor and accountability relationships; ongoing workshop and conference opportunities; and a pilot program for 4-6 "emerging" multisite communities.

One of the unanticipated outcomes of this program so far has been the enthusiasm interim ministers have shown for preparing congregations for multisite ministry as part

of an interim specialty. We are planning to build on these early successes by developing specific strategies through the UUA Transitions Office.

Program participants unanimously report that they have gotten enormous value from connecting and witnessing each other's pioneering struggles and blessings. The discernment, covenanting, and incredible depth and breadth of communication integral to launching and continuing a multisite ministry are making our religious communities stronger.

## Multicultural Growth and Witness

The UUA's Multicultural Growth and Witness team empowers Unitarian Universalist congregations and community leaders to minister effectively in our multicultural world. We create justice-seeking, radically inclusive communities; live our faith through service, education, witness, advocacy, and congregation-based community organizing; and dismantle racism, heterosexism, classism, and ableism at home and in our larger society.

## Standing on the Side of Love

The UUA's Standing on the Side of Love (SSL) social justice campaign begins in people's hearts and moves to the public square. SSL harnesses love's power to work for an end to bigotry and oppression against people because of their identity. We build progressive power, inspire nonpartisan civic engagement, and organize multigenerational communities into action, like this Reeb Project flash mob for voting rights:

### Global End 1.4

Congregations and communities engage in SSL partnerships to counter systems of power, privilege and oppression.



We conducted a survey in the fall of 2014 to approximately 75,000 email and social media supporters, Unitarian Universalist clergy, and lay leaders. Results highlighted the many ways that SSL supporters (both Unitarian Universalist and not) interact with the campaign:

- 60% used SSL signage in their physical space as an outreach tool.
- 70% forwarded SSL materials over email or social media to their friends or colleagues;
- 55% were engaged with a social justice committee at their congregation that made use of SSL materials.

- 40% used SSL materials on their own congregational website or social media presence as an outreach tool.
- 50% used SSL materials during a worship service or had an entire SSL-based worship service.
- 63% used SSL material at a social justice rally or protest event.

We also recently published a webmagazine that highlights the social justice work done under the banner of SSL, called [Together on the Side of Love](#). Each month it features top activities and tells our story through pictures of our work including immigration justice, the Mass Moral March, and #BlackLivesMatter.

This year, our collaboration with Unitarian Universalist clergy in the St. Louis metro-area in response to the murder of Michael Brown in Ferguson, Missouri, demonstrated the

**Better Together**

SSL has been based on a model of collaboration—with **congregations** and **interfaith partners** alike—since its inception.

adaptable and relevant framework SSL provides to Unitarian Universalist congregations. SSL staff have partnered with activists on the ground from the outset. We created and curated resources, supported graphic design and facilitated online outreach.

President Morales issued [a statement](#) following the violence in Ferguson, and the social media response resulted in our largest reach for posts in FY15:

Unitarian Universalist Association added a new photo.  
August 20, 2014 · Edited [?] ·

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST ASSOCIATION

“Ferguson is not about Ferguson. It is about the systematic dehumanizing of people all over America. As Unitarian Universalists, we have faith that it need not be this way. We can create a world that is accepting, fair, loving, and diverse. In the short-term, let us stand on the side of love with those seeking healing and some measure of justice. In the long-term, let us rededicate ourselves to the work of building a world where events like those in Ferguson are unthinkable.”  
- The Rev. Peter Morales, President of the UUA

Photo from Overpass Light Brigade

129,344 people reached [Boost Post](#)

Like · Comment · Share · 594 63 1,768

129,344 People Reached		
8,756 Likes, Comments & Shares		
6,299 Likes	594 On Post	5,705 On Shares
626 Comments	63 On Post	563 On Shares
1,831 Shares	1,768 On Post	63 On Shares
4,523 Post Clicks		
2,474 Photo Views	45 Link Clicks	2,004 Other Clicks
NEGATIVE FEEDBACK		
179 Hide Post	64 Hide All Posts	
0 Report as Spam	8 Unlike Page	

One of our guest bloggers, Director of Religious Education at Prairie Unitarian Universalist Church in Parker, Colorado, Kenny Wiley, [shared a story](#) that went viral and shaped the #BlackLivesMatter conversation: “The harrowing truth is that I could be the next Mike Brown. My household had two parents. I have a college degree and a job. My pants don’t sag. In the wrong situation, though, my ‘respectable’ nature might not save me...

*“I sometimes wonder—would my faith stick up for me as my character got questioned, as my blackness robbed me of my humanity in the eyes of many?”*

...Unitarian Universalists, you are my people. Black folks (several of us are both) need you to show up. They don't need you to lead or take over, but at these events on Wednesday the 22nd, we need you there. Wear a UU shirt. Stand (and sit, and witness) on the side of love."

As an open-source, nimble, and accessible platform for social justice work, SSL mobilized #BlackLivesMatter actions throughout the country and amplified Unitarian Universalism's voice for racial justice.

## Commit2Respond

[Commit2Respond](#) is a new coalition of Unitarian Universalists and other people of faith and conscience working for climate justice. We launched Commit2Respond publicly with

### Better Together

Commit2Respond unites the UUA with seven other prominent groups working for environmental justice: **Unitarian Universalist Service Committee; Unitarian Universalist Ministry for Earth; Unitarian Universalist Ministers Association; Liberal Religious Educators Association; Diverse Revolutionary Unitarian Universalist Multicultural Ministries; Unitarian Universalist College of Social Justice; and Unitarian Universalist Environmental Justice Collaboratory.**

the September 21, 2014 Peoples Climate March in New York City, bringing together 1,500 Unitarian Universalists from nearly 100 congregations and eight Unitarian Universalist state action networks. Thousands more were reached by our

message that day as illustrated through [Storify](#) and this social media graphic:



Since September, more than 1,400 individuals and 70 congregations have joined this initiative. We celebrated Climate Justice Month from March 22-April 11, between World Water Day and Earth Day, and are building towards a climate justice-focused public witness event at General Assembly 2015.

### Global End 1.0

Commit2Respond is building a healthy Unitarian Universalist community that is alive with transforming power, moving our communities and the world toward more love, justice, and peace in a manner which assures institutional sustainability.

Through Commit2Respond, Unitarian Universalists are living their faith out loud. Sonja Cohen describes her transformative experience at the Peoples Climate March in an article titled, ["I couldn't not go."](#)



*Unitarian Universalists at the People's Climate March*

Not only is Commit2Respond advancing Unitarian Universalism's social justice work in a powerful way, it is also a major outreach initiative promoting the health and growth of our faith. It is specifically designed to appeal to un-churched Unitarian Universalists and all people of faith and conscience who feel aligned with our vision. It is a way for us to build meaningful connection and relationships beyond our congregational walls.

# Stewardship and Development

## Umbrella Giving

The UUA cultivates generosity and raises funds for the benefit of all Unitarian Universalist congregations and organizations. Umbrella giving makes it possible for a donor to make a single gift to the UUA that will support the many Unitarian Universalist organizations that they love. Some of the benefits of umbrella giving include:

### Global End 1.9

Umbrella giving financially supports Unitarian Universalist institutions to be healthy and vital, collaborative partners invested in the future of Unitarian Universalism.

- Support of complex gifts from knowledgeable professional staff.
- Access to life income gifts such as charitable gift annuities and charitable trusts.
- Accountability mechanisms for gifts with restrictions.
- Simplification of estate plans.
- A way for donors to give anonymously.

In the last six months, the UUA has raised \$937,097 in new cash gifts for Unitarian Universalist organizations. Additionally, we are stewarding multi-million dollar gifts that are building first homes for two congregations.



From UUCLC's [homepage](#)

One of those is the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Lake County (UUCLC) in Eustis, Florida. When longtime member Ruth Russell Gray passed away in 2012, she bequeathed a generous gift to the UUA for the benefit of UUCLC—for the specific

### Better Together

All Unitarian Universalist organizations benefit from Umbrella Giving. This past year, 23 congregations and five institutions received funds with the support of our Stewardship and Development office.

purpose of purchasing or constructing their first building. Her condition was that they do so responsibly within five years. She entrusted the UUA to manage this gift and ensure the restriction, and over the last three years we have

supported UUCLC in conducting a demographic study, purchasing a building site, and engaging architects, engineers, and others to make the dream a reality. UUCLC is looking forward to a grand opening of their first home in spring of 2016.

## Brave Souls: Pledge Over the Edge

At General Assembly 2014 in Providence, Rhode Island, we invited Unitarian Universalists to make brave pledges—and rappel over the edge of the Rhode Island Convention

### Better Together

Brave Souls celebrated generosity throughout our movement, including 80 rappellers ranging in age from 18 to 70 and from a variety of **congregations** and **Unitarian Universalist organizations**.

Center—to demonstrate the audacity of our faith and the power of our generosity. Hundreds of Unitarian Universalists participated and raised nearly half a million dollars for the Rev. Terry Sweetser Fund, supporting stewardship in our

congregations and growth throughout our faith. The event encouraged people to talk about fundraising openly and joyfully and inspired pledges like this one from Susan Howlett in Seattle, WA:

*“I pledge to coordinate a year’s worth of conversations about our personal relationships with money at my church, University Unitarian in Seattle.”*

...I will invite people to participate in workshops, book groups, and a host of other conversations based on articles, sermons, and TED Talks where we explore how our relationships with money affect our willingness to share our abundance with our church and the social justice work we do. I also pledge to work with staff to find ways to

include the children and youth more in our stewardship efforts so giving (of all kinds) becomes an integral part of their experience with UUC.”



*Rev. Jennifer Ryu and Rev. Angela Herrera at Brave Souls*

The event was featured in the Providence Journal with the message that, “Unitarians believe we can lead heroic lives creating a world worth loving. It takes brave souls to go to the edge and over.”

# Socially Responsible Investing

Through Socially Responsible Investing, the UUA amplifies our religious voice and expresses our values through investments. We are a leader in shareholder advocacy on climate change and corporate lobbying. This year, the UUA filed 13 shareholder resolutions addressing: climate change; corporate lobbying expenditures and political spending; LGBTQ non-discrimination; and responsibility for chemical spills. We also participated in direct, in-person dialogues with four fossil fuel companies and supported Boston Common Asset Management in its engagement with Statoil, which resulted in the company cancelling a major Canadian oil sands project. Andrew Logan, Ceres' Director of Oil and Gas Insurance Programs, writes,

## Global End 1.1

Congregations and communities pool resources to be accountable, healthy, and mission driven through Socially Responsible Investing.

*“The UUs should get some sort of award for Carbon Asset Risk engagement overachievement.”*

But our recognition this past year came not only from our allies. On October 17, the American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC), sent an [email](#) asking supporters for funds to fight the “smear campaign” waged against them by the Unitarian Universalist Church.

### **Better Together**

Our Socially Responsible Investing work is a function of the Unitarian Universalist Common Endowment Fund (UUCEF), which currently represents more than **300 congregations**. We are collaborating with other faith-based and likeminded investors to have the biggest impact, and a UUA representative serves on the Board and Executive Committee of the **Interfaith Center on Corporate Responsibility** that provides leadership to the faith-based Socially Responsible Investing movement.

ALEC claimed that Unitarian Universalists wish to “silence competing ideas and speech” because we have called out their secretive activities to undercut voter registration, pass anti-immigrant legislation, harm the environment, and block movements for fair wages. We couldn’t be prouder.

Socially Responsible Investing is a critical element of building progressive power. We are

leveraging our financial assets to align the incentives in capitalism with the health of the planet and its people.

# Conclusion

More than any time since the Reformation, today we are witnessing unprecedented change in the religious landscape. To be relevant and make an impact, a spirit of innovation must be applied to all we do. This requires higher expectations, creative thinking, experimentation, and ongoing learning. The UUA is leading this exciting, collaborative work.

Without you, none of this is possible. Thank you for being a part of our UUA.