

Why Support the UUA?

Most of the people in our congregation (and most other congregations) do not interact much with the UUA, so their focus is internal – what is happening within the congregation. They see the staff, the Board, the Executive Team and the Committees as the work of the church. Many have never attended a Regional or Denominational event. It is easy to understand that the value is not obvious.

However, the UUA is an important part of our denomination. We do see our ministers, locally, but may be unaware of what is involved in recruiting, training, and vetting UU ministers and Religious Educators, as well as the process of matching ministers and congregations. However, there are many other activities of the UUA we should be aware of:

- The UUA is the public face of our denomination, including our representatives to the wider world. Rev. Susan Frederick-Gray is our spokesperson. She is a thoughtful, well-respected leader and represents our denomination and our values in many different venues. We would be hard-pressed to maintain a congregation without a strong denomination behind it.
- The UUA has several departments that service our regions and congregations. These departments are responsible for the denomination-wide programs from which we benefit, such as Soul Matters, RE, and Adult Development curricula.
- The UUA provides a bookstore that caters to our requirements for material and values. It publishes works that may be unavailable through other sources but are valuable to us.
- Our congregation has called upon the Central East Region (and our former Joseph Priestley District) for support in times of stress such as ministerial departures, and for connections and resource sharing with other congregations.
- The Region carries out extensive leadership training for Board members and other leaders.
- In addition to asking us for funding, the UUA has provided us guidance in the past on how to raise funding.
- The UUA loaned us the money at below-market rates to build our RE wing.
- The UUA has provided programs and resources appropriate to this time, such as guidance for COVID-19 response and resources for remote services. We obtained programs and music for our services from various sources within the UUA
- The UUA leads with our values in areas that are important to us such as Environmental Justice, Economic Justice, Reproductive Justice, Inclusion of Racial, LGBTQ+, Disability and Immigrant Diversity. Our local programs have more weight and resources because there is a denomination behind them.
- Our UU the Vote program supports democratic processes in a time when those processes are under attack.
- If you have never been to a General Assembly or a Regional event, you should make an effort. There is much to be learned from sharing in these events, such as seeing a variety of approaches to worship and music, development training, networking, etc.
- First U has benefited from at least one Chalice lighter grant. This requires full membership to the UUA and is administered by CER.
- If the growth of UU is important then support of the UUA is critical, the UUA is a growth driver.

- The CER supports the smaller congregations who need the resources and training the most. First U has been a “seed congregation” for many congregations in the region, demonstrating the willingness to promote the growth of UU.
- The UUA supports UUs around the world, including the UU-UNO office for work at the United Nations.

How the Dues are calculated:

The UUA/CERG Denominational Contributions (dues) are calculated each fiscal year based on Operating Expenses from the prior fiscal year, excluding mortgages, dues, and capital expenses. As well we exclude all pass-through monies that are given to outside groups, since First UU only collects these monies and then disburses them to groups outside of the church. Funds that benefit groups inside of First UU are included in the calculation.

For fiscal year 2019-2020, the total reported expenses were \$651,221. This number is then reduced by 6% due to our geographic location (we are in a location that is generally more expensive). This results in an adjusted expenditure of \$612,148. This adjusted number is multiplied by 6.75%, which is our dues for the upcoming fiscal year, \$41,320.