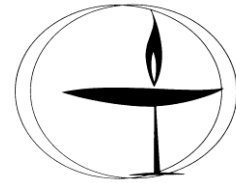


Chalice Lighters

Heartland District of the UUA
5351 E. Thompson Rd., #229
Indianapolis, IN 46237-4094



2011 Fall Campaign
November 2011

Dear Chalice Lighters:

First of all, I want to thank you: thank you for your dedication to making our chalice light grow much brighter here in the Heartland District. Without you, many of our congregations would not be able to achieve new things as easily and quickly as they can with your financial support. It is quite true that even small congregations can add up to help with impressive projects. We hear all the time from the congregations that “win” the call, and thereby your support, how grateful they are for what you make possible.

I am pleased to announce that the recipient of our Chalice Lighters call this season is the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Columbus, Indiana. This congregation, founded in 1966, took a big leap forward in 2004, when they brought in Rev. Dennis McCarty, their first minister. Since then, they have grown by over 50%, but they are not content to stop there.

In order to be attractive to and provide what younger families want, they decided to hire their first paid Director of Religious Education. When the right person came along, they leaped at the chance to bring her on board, hoping that they would be successful in their Chalice Lighter application. But even if they weren't, they knew this was the right step forward.

This new position is part of a larger plan to facilitate growth: this is the centerpiece of a plan that includes purchasing the neighboring property to reduce their parking limitations, refitting the Sanctuary, and restructuring their “path to membership.” In fact, while the committee was meeting to determine the Chalice Lighter for this call, 8 members of this congregation were off at a seminar learning more about how to welcome in new people and accompany them on their journey.

Their reasons for growth are twofold. Like many of our congregations, they realize that they need a stronger financial base. But the main reason is that they know that they have something precious and they want to share it. With their multimedia installation, they are having preliminary conversations about how to reach people in the surrounding communities who are a bit too far from Columbus to easily attend. They are forward thinking, and are always looking for ways to make a difference in the lives of people.

The UU Congregation of Columbus has requested a grant of \$15,600. This grant will help them complete more of their dreams. By supporting the hiring of their new DRE, they can focus more of their resources on refitting their space, and improving other aspects of congregation life.

We appreciate your generosity to help grow Unitarian Universalism in the Heartland! We also remind you that your congregation can apply for grants, and the criteria are set forth on our website (www.heartlanduu.org). Thank you for your participation.

Sincerely,

Lisa Presley

Rev. Dr. Lisa Presley
District Executive

Recent Chalice Lighter Grant History

- Winter 2009: Grant awarded: \$10,704.00 *UU Fellowship of Central Michigan in Mt. Pleasant, MI***
UUFCM will use their Chalice Lighter grant to fund the hiring of a Worship Director (60%) assisted by the RE director (40%) as they embark on their Weave Our World Growth Initiative.
- Spring 2009: Grant awarded: \$10,750.40 *Miami Valley UU Fellowship, Dayton, OH***
This grant will go toward installing new sound and visual presentation systems in the sanctuary to enrich the quality and extend the range of congregation and community events.
- Fall 2009: Grant awarded: \$2,000.00 *UU Community of Frankfort, KY*; \$3,000.00 *Heartland UU Church, Indianapolis, IN*; and \$1,000.00 *Northeast Cincinnati UU Community, Cincinnati, OH***
These grants are for growth for emerging congregations.
- Winter 2010: Grants awarded: \$4,726.47 *Northwest UU Church in Southfield, MI***
This grant is for better signage to help people know who they are.
- \$4,726.47 *UU Church, West Lafayette, IN***
This grant will staff a newly created position of Building Caretaker to help ensure that they are more attractive to their members, visitors, guests and rental clients.
- Spring 2010: No grant awarded.**
- Fall 2010: Grant awarded: \$8,298.92 *People's Church of Ludington, MI***
While they own their own building, and have a full time minister, People's realized that their space on Sunday morning was a bit too tight and that it would take a number of years before they could expand their space. They decided to offer an alternative style and form of worship. This fall they began a Sunday evening worship service for all ages.
- Winter 2011: Grant Awarded: \$9,097.47 *UU Fellowship of Central Michigan, Mt. Pleasant, MI***
Founded in 2002, this band of about 60 UUs has taken the giant leap of purchasing their first home! However, there are some repairs that are needed: a new roof, better signage, better accessibility, and other safety features. These changes will help sustain their building, and now they will have 24/7 access, better allowing them to reach out to the community.
- Spring 2011: Grant Awarded: \$9,562.41 *Harmony UU Church, Cincinnati, OH***
This group began meeting in the fall of 2009 and in less than two years, they now have over 70 adults and children at worship. This Chalice Lighters grant helped them complete the refurbishing and retrofitting of their 1835 space. This grant will help buy new chairs, furnishings for their religious education space, and new carpeting and flooring. They also want to replace the solid wood doors in the classrooms with doors that have windows, thus helping them create safe congregation practices.