

Heartland District of the UUA

Chalice Lighter Grant Application Criteria

Philosophy:

The mission of the Extension Committee is to promote numerical growth of Unitarian Universalism in the Heartland District. It is recognized that numerical growth only occurs when underlying fundamentals of good lay and professional ministry, good programming, favorable demographics, and good financial and organizational health are present. Congregations of all sizes can grow, and intentionality is a major factor.

The Extension Committee focuses its efforts on those congregations, regardless of size, where there is demonstrated intention to grow and the other favorable factors are present, or there are specific realistic plans to enhance them.

The most significant demonstration of intention to grow is a realistic growth plan adopted by a congregation, or group of congregations, in consultation with the District Executive or a District Congregational Consultant.

Criteria:

1. Types of grants considered are as follows (any size church may apply):
 - **First or additional minister** (In the case of an additional minister a growth plan must show how this additional ministry will help the congregation grow.)
 - **First or additional Religious Education professional** (In the case of an additional RE professional, a growth plan must show how this additional professional will help the congregation grow.)
 - **First music director**
 - **First paid office staff**
 - **Capital Improvements** (Building grants may be made to aid in acquisition of building or land or to aid major additions or renovations as part of a growth plan.)
 - **New congregation organizing** (In the case of a new congregation organizing grant, applications must be accompanied by an organizing plan showing favorable demographics, commitments of financial and organizational support from sponsoring congregations, and the composition of a steering committee showing members with UU experience and commitment to attending training in new congregation organizing. Applications for new congregation organizing grants must be prepared in conjunction with a District Congregational Consultant and the District Executive before submittal to the Extension Committee.)
 - **Innovative growth** (Grants may be made to congregations, or combinations of congregations, of any size for innovative ideas for growth.)
2. Congregations applying for a Chalice Lighters grant must have been a Fair Share congregation with both the Heartland District and the UUA for at least the last two years prior to applying. In addition, the congregation must maintain at least 10% of their members as participating Chalice Lighters who have made donations in the previous year. This percentage is a minimum, and in reviewing competing applications, the Extension Committee will look favorably on congregations that exceed that minimum percentage.

Grant amounts:

Currently, the Heartland Extension Committee has the option to split each "call" into two grants or may devote the total proceeds to one grant. Requests for the purchase of land or building may be spread over more than one call. There are three calls per year. A "call" is a letter that goes out to Chalice Lighters requesting their contribution in the amount pledged when they committed to the Chalice Lighters Program. At the current enrollment level, each call has the potential to generate about \$19,000.

Application Deadlines:

September 1 for applications for grants decided in October, December 1 for grants decided in January, and March 1 for grants decided in April.