



UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST MINISTRY FOR EARTH

Respect Life. Restore Earth. Renew Spirit.

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Hundreds of UUs joined the RISE for Climate, Jobs, & Justice National March In San Francisco, September 2018. Photo by Aly Tharp

Mission: To be a Unitarian Universalist wellspring of bold, accountable, faithful action for environmental justice, climate justice, and the flourishing of life.

Unitarian Universalist Ministry for Earth (UUMFE) combines the energies and inspiration of over 7,000 members and UU activists to empower bold, accountable, faith-grounded action for environmental justice. With a sense of urgency and concern for Earth and all life, we work collectively and in partnership within the framework of race-and class-informed environmental justice and climate justice principles, striving to center the leadership and needs of frontline communities. We ground our work in the Seven Principles of the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA). Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part impels us to act on behalf of all life.

Programs: UUMFE is committed to innovative leadership and organizing in the face of the climate crisis that affects all but disproportionately impacts low-income communities and communities of color. By fostering the leadership of groups most affected, UUMFE can nimbly respond to needs and opportunities as they arise.

—CREATE— CLIMATE JUSTICE

Create Climate Justice, an innovative and multi-organizational initiative, provides a comprehensive organizing framework. Conceived by UU Ministry for Earth, the Unitarian Universalist Association's Green Sanctuary Program and the UU United Nations Office, the initiative has three priority focus areas: 1) strengthening UU communications and mutual support networks for climate justice; 2) mobilizing UUs in solidarity with Indigenous front-line communities; and 3) supporting the Just Transition to an ecological civilization through

partnerships and civic engagement. UUMFE provides staff, infrastructure and administrative support.

UUMFE sponsors and supports several circles of activists:

- The UU Young Adults for Climate Justice (UUYACJ) network of UU activists aged 18 to 35 support each other in engaging in direct action campaigns, worship services, education and training, mobilizing and organizing UUs for the work of climate justice, and more.
- The Environmental Justice Practitioners Network (EJPN) is a monthly online gathering of UU environmental and climate justice leaders and community partners launched in 2015 by the UUA Green Sanctuary Program and developed in partnership with UU Ministry for Earth since 2016.
- UUMFE is also supporting the exploration of a UUs of Color Environmental Justice Caucus and participating in the Indigenous Solidarity Initiative of the UUA.

Finances: Through the generosity of individual and congregational supporters and grantors – recently including the UUA and a special large gift – UUMFE is in a good financial position.

- FY 2018-19 income = \$206,903 (donations = \$48,384; special gift = \$78,047; program grants & targeted donations = \$63,906; FY 2017-18 program grants balance carry-forward to FY 2018-19 budget = \$16,566)
- FY 2018-19 expenses = \$186,189 (programs = \$77,974; administration = \$26,933; fundraising = \$8,511; FY 2018-19 carryover to the 2019-20 budget includes \$15,785 grants balance and \$56,986 special gift balance)
- End of FY 2018-19 cash reserves = \$23,348 (in addition to the FY 2018-19 program grants/special gift balance carry-forward)

History: UUMFE was founded in response to a need for individuals and congregations to live out more fully the UUA Seventh Principle in worship, education, and community justice programs. Beginning in 1989 as the Seventh Principle Project, the group published the first edition of the Green Sanctuary Handbook in 1991. In 2006, the newly named UUMFE began providing Earth Day materials for congregations and led in the adoption of the UUA 2006 Statement of Conscience on the Threat of Global Warming/Climate Change. The UUMFE Green Sanctuary congregational accreditation program was gifted to the UUA in 2008, and UUMFE began to expand its focus and actions on environmental justice, partnering with organizations such as 350.org, frontline communities, the UU state advocacy networks, Interfaith coalitions, and other UU groups to inform and amplify the impact of our work. In 2012, UUMFE published an environmental justice curriculum that is incorporated into most Green Sanctuary accreditation plans – Our Place in the Web of Life, now in the second edition. UUMFE organized a conference in 2014 for representatives of more than a dozen UU groups and organizations committed to environmental justice and catalyzed the formation of Commit2Respond, a collaborative denominational campaign for climate justice. UUMFE provided key leadership and program support for the campaign from 2014 through its end in 2017. UUMFE has since spearheaded the founding and launch of the UU multi-organizational Create Climate Justice initiative and continues to play a key role in UU climate justice advocacy and witness.