



UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST  
MINISTRY FOR EARTH

*Respect Life. Restore Earth. Renew Spirit*

# UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST MINISTRY FOR EARTH

IN REVIEW: 2019-2021

# Respect Life. Restore Earth. Renew Spirit.

## WHY IS UU MINISTRY FOR EARTH SO VITALLY IMPORTANT?

Dear Supporters,

In ways gentle and heart-rending, the last two years have transformed all of our lives. Time and again, we have realized just how interconnected we – and our many justice concerns – really are. We have been called to embody our Unitarian Universalist principles and commitments of interdependence and beloved community.

Through the ravages of a global pandemic and what seems like a never-ending stream of climate-induced chaos and the slow violence of environmental racism, Unitarian Universalist Ministry for Earth has continued providing space for education, accountable action and spiritual grounding.

Thanks to your support, UU Ministry for Earth sponsored and collaborated on a variety of educational opportunities and expanded our reach immensely. We invested in the documentary film *The Condor and the Eagle*, facilitated cross-organizational forums and dialogues, and hosted convenings to connect UU activists to invite the community to engage with the 2021 UN climate conference.

UU Ministry for Earth deepened its commitment to accountable action and worked in partnership with Indigenous frontline communities on key campaigns in Minnesota and Washington, DC. We increased our investment in the UU Young Adult and UU BIPOC Climate Justice caucuses. And, we continued to use the voice and stature of UUMFE in the public witness arena, speaking out on a range of issues, within and beyond denominational walls.

UU Ministry for Earth offered more worship and wonder gatherings, including our first full-length virtual Earth Day service directly to congregations and individuals. We provided worshipful opportunities and resources, often in solidarity with frontline UU communities, on World Water Day, Earth Day, and Biodiversity Sunday, and at General Assembly. UUMFE Board and staff presence increased noticeably in congregations across the country through multiple guest preaching appearances.

Internal transformation is under way at UU Ministry for Earth, as well! After celebrating our 30th Anniversary in 2019, we began looking ahead to the next 30. We began an Appreciative Inquiry process to dream and discern our role as a joyful heartbeat for environmental justice within Unitarian Universalism. Determined to support front-line communities and constituent needs, the Board passed updated bylaws, welcomed a new Treasurer and Board members, and began the structural transition from a working board to a governing board. Further, we expanded our senior staffing, restructuring in a shared leadership model, and began investing in more ethical employment practices by moving contract and hourly positions to salaried staff positions.

None of these things would be possible without the support of foundations, congregations and individuals committed to our cause and faith. We are grateful for your support which helps UU Ministry for Earth continue to cultivate an ever-increasing variety of worship, workshops and accountable ministries.

We offer this look back, as we prepare to meet the program year ahead. Thank you for being part of the UU Ministry for Earth community and co-creating with us. Let us deepen our commitments to our shared Earth ministry and plant seeds for an engaged, connected, and healing UU Ministry for Earth for years to come.

**REV. CINDY DAVIDSON (SHE/HER)**  
BOARD CHAIR

**ALY THARP (THEY/THEM AND SHE/HER)**  
CO-DIRECTOR

**DANIEL LAWLOR (HE/HIM)**  
CO-DIRECTOR

# LIVING OUR MISSION

UU Ministry for Earth will be a wellspring of spiritual and educational grounding and practical support for bold, accountable action for environmental justice, climate justice, and the flourishing of all life.



## SPIRITUAL GROUNDING

**100 CONGREGATIONS** engaged with our 2021 Spring for Change: A Season of Sacred Activism Earth Day worship service

Over **1000+** attended an association-wide worship service with UU Indigenous leaders for Reframing Thanksgiving, with a sermon from UUA President Rev. Dr. Susan Frederick Gray

**150 WORSHIP SERVICES** (We'd love to virtually visit **YOUR** congregation)



## ACCOUNTABLE ACTION

**35 FRONT-LINE INDIGENOUS PARTNER COMMUNITIES SUPPORTED** by proceeds from The Condor and The Eagle screenings

**1500 LETTERS** sent to Congress advocating for environmental justice

Over **279 UNITARIAN UNIVERSALISTS** in 3 countries engaged in over **7,800+ ACTIONS** to keep carbon out of the atmosphere through the 2021 Project Drawdown EcoChallenge



## EDUCATIONAL GROUNDING

Hosted over **200 WEBINARS** and workshops, including the 2020 Harvest the Power Justice Convergence and Teach In, and the 2020 and 2021 UU-UN Intergenerational Spring Seminars focused on Climate Justice

More than **250 PEOPLE** from over 100 congregations attended the 2021 Congregational Climate Convergence, in partnership with the UUA Green Sanctuary Program

**3000+ ATTENDEES** for the documentary film, The Condor and The Eagle

# TESTIMONIALS



**EMBER KELLEY**

Director of Religious Education, Fourth Universalist Society, New York City

"I am so thankful that the UU community has folks who are on the ground and committed to helping us make actionable change in the face of the Climate Crisis. It is so vital to have an organization like the UU Ministry for Earth to help coordinate efforts so that we can build strong and thriving movements to confront climate change together."



**REV. MEL HOOVER & REV. ROSE EDINGTON**

Co-Ministers, Emeritus & Emerita, UU Congregation of Charleston, West Virginia

"We encourage Unitarian Universalist congregations to be aware of issues in their local frontline communities and to seek kind and just ways to be in partnership with them before, during and after crises. UUMFE reminds us that environmental justice is essential for our collective efforts to create beloved community."



**NANCY KING SMITH**

Past UUMFE Board and Co-Chair; Current Chair of the Green Sanctuary Advisory Board UU Congregation of Cleveland

"UU Ministry for Earth has carried the torch for UU collaborative leadership on climate change and justice. In my fifteen+ years of involvement, I have appreciated the commitment and hard work of so many to find ways to engage UU's both individually and collectively in this most important moral challenge of our time. I have also treasured the friendships that have grown from my UUMFE associations."

# FINANCIAL HEALTH

## 2019-20 INCOME OF \$143,103



## 2020-21 INCOME OF \$195,916



Your investment in UU Ministry for Earth funded our UU Young Adults for Climate Justice Network, UU BIPOC Caucus for Climate Justice, Indigenous Solidarity partnerships, congregational and worship resources, Strengthen Local Climate Commitments and Create Climate Justice.

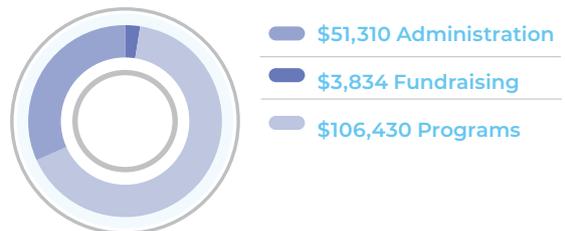
From 2019 to 2021, UU Ministry for Earth (UUMFE) has experienced unprecedented reach in our programming, services and donor base. Through the generosity of individual and congregational supporters and grantors (including the Cedar Tree Foundation, the UU Funding Program and the UU Service Committee), UUMFE is in a good financial position. Special thanks to the Long Island Area Council of UU Congregations for funding our most recent intern.

A statement of our financial assets and liabilities, revenues and expenses:

## 2019-20 EXPENSES OF \$137,858



## 2020-21 EXPENSES OF \$161,753



\* Unitarian Universalist Association Organizing Strategy Team

## CELEBRATING THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST MINISTRY FOR EARTH TEAM!

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

Rev. Cindy Davidson, Board Chair, Lady Lake, FL  
 Irene Keim, past Board Chair, Brooksville, FL  
 Betsy Tomic, Treasurer, Ossining, NY  
 Ariel Aaronson-Eves, Dover, NH (term completed June 2021)  
 Rev. Kevin Carson, Rexburg, ID  
 Susanna Wu-Pong Calvert, Richmond, VA  
 Joshua Long, Severn, MD  
 Doris Marlin, Silver Spring, MD  
 William McPherson, Seattle, WA  
 Edward C. "Ted" Nichols, Caledonia, MI (beginning July 2021)  
 Jolynda Peterson, Kittredge, CO (beginning July 2021)  
 Susannah Tuttle, Chapel Hill, NC (beginning July 2021)

Deep gratitude to previous UUMFE Board members who recently completed their many years of dedicated service:

Ellen McClaran, past Treasurer, Portland, OR  
 Ariel Aaronson-Eves, Dover, NH  
 Leonard Higgins, Eugene, OR  
 Rev. Mel Hoover, Bellingham, WA  
 Rev. Douglas Hunt, Haverford, PA

### UUMFE STAFF:

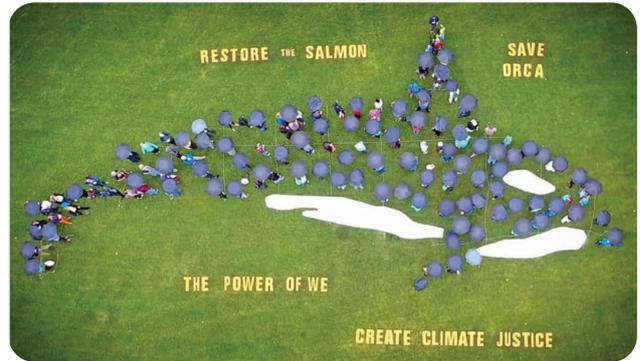
Aly Tharp, Co-Director, Programs and Partnerships  
 Daniel Lawlor, Co-Director of Fundraising and Communications  
 Sabrina Louise, Office Administrator  
 Paulette DeMers, Communications Coordinator & Bookkeeper  
 Diane Brooks, Create Climate Justice & Outreach Specialist

Deep gratitude to previous UUMFE staff members who recently completed service:

Amelia Diehl, UU Young Adults for Climate Justice Coordinator & Communications Associate  
 Elizabeth Fernandez, LIAC Intern 2020-2021

# PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS 2019-2021

(Photo Credit: PleasPhoto of the aerial message created at the end of the UUMFE Procession of the Species with the Backbone Campaign)



## 2019 UUA GENERAL ASSEMBLY - UU MINISTRY FOR EARTH'S 30TH ANNIVERSARY! SPOKANE, OR

In response to a recent United Nations report that 1 million species are at risk of extinction within this century, and in the spirit of interdependence, UU Ministry for Earth put out a "call to arts" for UU congregations to make a piece of artwork representing and honoring a threatened or endangered species in their local area and bring it to the 2019 UUA General Assembly

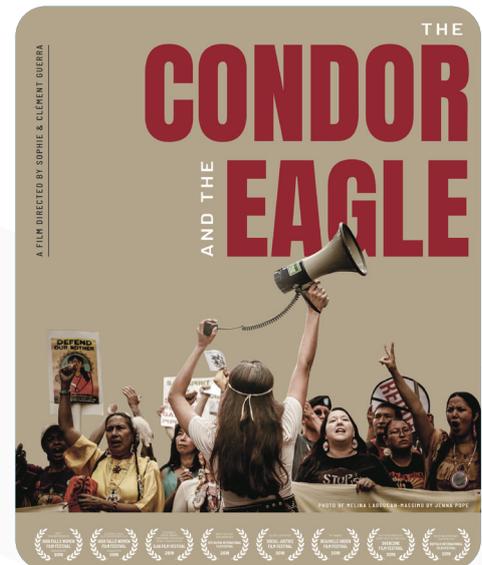
for a Procession of the Species event.

UUMFE also partnered with the Washington-based Backbone Campaign to bring imagery for the procession, particularly uplifting and honoring the salmon and orcas of the Pacific Northwest.

This Spring, we renew the call for congregations to collaborate and "call to arts" to lead us into greater connection with Earth.

## THE CONDOR AND THE EAGLE

Since 2019, UU Ministry for Earth has partnered with the creators of the award-winning documentary, *The Condor & The Eagle*, as an executive producer. UU Ministry for Earth hosted 25 community screenings in partnership with 35 congregations, 22 interfaith and community organizations, and 35 grassroots Indigenous & frontline community partners. These screenings raised over \$15,500 to support Indigenous-led Climate Justice efforts across Turtle Island.



## SPRING FOR CHANGE: A SEASON OF SACRED ACTIVISM "PATHWAYS TO HEALING AND REGENERATION" - MARCH 20-MAY 23, 2021

Spring for Change: A Season of Sacred Activism (Spring for Change), is an annual program of UU Ministry for Earth designed to inspire and resource UU community engagement in Earth-centered worship, education and action throughout the entire spring season. The 2021 Spring for Change season launched with a Spring Equinox Worship & Celebration and the Whole

Earth, Whole Church Congregational Climate Convergence, supporting the launch of Green Sanctuary 2030: Mobilizing for Climate Justice. Another highlight was the "Pathways to Healing and Regeneration" online Earth Day worship service that was streamed for national viewing and used for Earth Sunday worship services at more than 100 UU communities and congregations.

We hope to see you for the 2022 Spring for Change: A Season of Sacred Activism, themed "Get Rooted, Get Ready!"

## CURIOUS ABOUT PATHWAYS TO PARTNERSHIP?



### INDIVIDUAL

- Check out the UUMFE website!
- Subscribe to the UUMFE mailing list.
- Establish an account with the Create Climate Justice forum.
- Join a UUMFE webinar, workshop, or film screening.
- Support accountable protest actions.
- Engage with a UUMFE Caucus.
- Volunteer for a Committee.



Photo Credit: Doris Martin

Photo Credit: Doris Martin



### FUNDER

- Offer an annual or monthly gift.
- Amplify UUMFE funding asks on social media or in your congregation.
- Nominate UUMFE to receive your congregation's social justice grant.
- Introduce and suggest potential foundation partners to UUMFE.
- Make a gift through your charitable trust or donor-advised funds.
- Host a house party or crowdfunder to introduce UUMFE to others.
- Include UUMFE in your Will to leave a legacy gift.



### CONGREGATION

- Invite a UUMFE guest preacher.
- Join a UUMFE webinar, workshop, or film screening.
- Utilize UUMFE resources.
- Spread the news about UUMFE Caucuses and Programs.
- Join in accountable protest actions.
- Help underwrite a UUMFE program.
- Host a special collection for UUMFE.

To all who donate, volunteer or spread the word, thank you! Your kindness and your commitment to Unitarian Universalist Ministry for Earth help us cultivate community, grounding, and accountable action.



WE COULDN'T DO IT WITHOUT YOU