



UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST
MINISTRY FOR EARTH

Respect Life. Restore Earth. Renew Spirit.

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST MINISTRY FOR EARTH

ANNUAL REPORT 2022-2023

A SEEDBED FOR SPIRITUAL GROUNDING
AND EDUCATION TO INSPIRE DEEP PRACTICES
OF EARTH CARE, JUSTICE AND FLOURISHING FOR ALL.

A LETTER FROM OUR BOARD CHAIR,

Dr. Susanna Wu-Pong Calvert

Dear Friends,

The world is in an era of epic change, and so is Unitarian Universalist Ministry for Earth. We have been shifting and evolving at an even greater pace in response to these transformations. We're grateful to be doing so with the Unitarian Universalist Ministry for Earth community.

Climate change and adaptation are on all of our minds, and we are embracing the belief that with great challenge comes great opportunity. Right now, we see the opportunity to include broadening our vision of what caring for our natural world can mean. Instead of only attending to Earth's physicality (carbon, recycling, species, etc.) we see the need to also include emotional, relational, and spiritual approaches whose addition provides a more holistic and potentially effective approach.

Imagine your most beloved family member or friend is ailing. Instead of focusing solely on her medical care and physical therapy, we want to make sure that she also feels safe, loved, and cared for so as to marshal all of her healing resources including her desire to heal. There's no one right way to do this: a parent wants all her children to come together for her as they are.

This paradoxically can help us to heal our grief and concern about Earth and even the fate of humanity. Being joyful and present with our loved one is the medicine that is missing for us all and may even be the secret sauce that's missing from the larger environmental strategy. We join with you now at this turning point, where humanity finally realizes our role in supporting the co-evolution of Earth and humanity where we each foster our unique, loving, reciprocal relationship with Earth. In this way, we honor all of Earth's beings while creating a powerful invitation for healing for all.

With Care,
Dr. Susanna Wu Pong Calvert



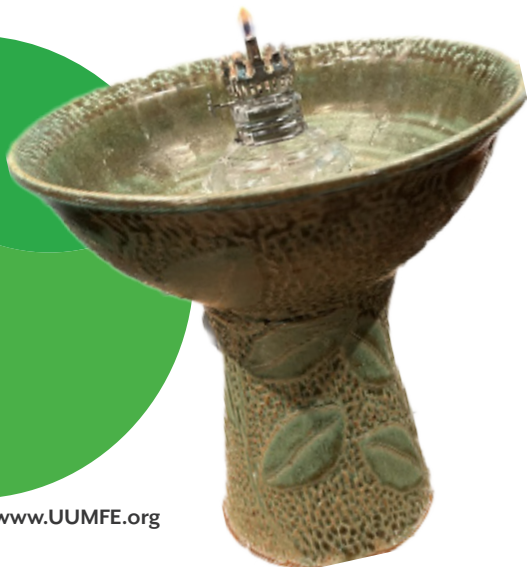
Photo Credit: Rebecca D'Angelo

A LETTER FROM UU MINISTRY FOR EARTH'S CO-DIRECTORS

Dear UU Ministry for Earth Community,

Thank you. We are grateful for all the ways- in myriad contexts- you are working to disrupt harms, cultivate healing, sustain compassion, and challenge forward for justice. At times we are called to be oppositional. At times, work for common ground. At times, seek to galvanize. There is a need for every tactic- from reform to reflection, from disruption to partnership- in our movement for wholeness, inclusion and equity. We Unitarian Universalists who engage in the work of Earth care and climate justice are part of a wider ecosystem of transformation in our culture..

Thank you for all the ways you have shown up for the values at the heart of Unitarian Universalist Ministry for Earth. Whether you're organizing worship services with reflections from the Monthly Musings, discussing your congregational responses to extreme weather after attending a workshop, debating the proposals and tactics for the best way forward for a fossil-free future for our Association and wider community, working to build and sustain anti-racist environmental justice coalitions, going deep in religious traditions to study the Ecology of Scripture, donating to support front-line communities, or been present and joyous with song and meditation, we are grateful for creating this ministry with you.



www.UUMFE.org

This past Spring, **UU Ministry for Earth** and **Side with Love**, with funding from the UU Funding Panel, began hosting a series of structured retreats with the leadership of **UUs for Social Justice** (our federal legislative ministry), **UU Animal Ministry**, **Diverse Revolutionary Unitarian Universalist Multicultural Ministries**, **UU Women's Federation**, **Coalition of UU State Action Networks**, **UUs for a Just Economic Community**, and **UU Service Committee**.

These growing conversations allow us to better learn and coordinate our collective communal response to the ongoing climate crisis. We are stronger together.

We are honored to join with Unitarian Universalists during this past New York Climate Week September 17-24, 2023 and at the UUs for Just Economic Community conference in Washington, DC September from 26-28, 2023. These events start a year of reflection and action.

In coalition, our ministries have committed to continuing our gatherings into the year ahead, and we hope these intentional conversations allow us and our movement to be well-positioned for deeper success in the Climate Justice space going forward. As Dr. Susanna Wu Pong Calvert reminds, we have an opportunity to foster a "unique, loving, reciprocal relationship with Earth." Let's go!

We hope you engage with the robust programming of our ministry- and our mission - in the year ahead. We're excited to partner with you!

In Gratitude,

Rev. Daniel Lawlor
Rev. Kelly Dignan

Get in touch! Visit UUMFE.org/contact or email office@uumfe.org

2022-2023 YEAR IN REVIEW

We recall the words of the recent Action of Immediate Witness passed by our 2023 General Assembly of Congregations, [Organizing for Health Equity](#), which invites us as a movement to pledge:

“We will work with others to create multi-generational alliances, so that different people, in different communities, can care for each other.”

The past 12 months have beckoned us as Unitarian Universalists time and again to embody our principles. The world is hotter than it has ever been. Extreme weather has disrupted the lives of billions. We are called to care- and to act- in new ways in response to this new moment.

With your support, UU Ministry for Earth raised over \$9,000 to support The InterNational Indigenous Initiative for Transformative Collaboration (INITC), organized monthly gatherings for climate justice activists to convene, hosted our first intern from Boston University School of Theology to support worship initiatives, prepared Unitarian Universalists to engage and learn from the events at the UN Conference of Parties Climate Summit, reflected on pathways to divestment and reparations, continued our Spring for Change tradition of cultivating space for galvanizing worship and wonder on World Water Day, Earth Day, Biodiversity Sunday, and at General Assembly, launched a coalition of Unitarian Universalist Climate Justice partners, and ended the year with a new communications coordinator role to share our message and amplify your good work!

● WIDER UU ECO-JUSTICE MOVEMENT

● ADVOCACY

● SUSTAINING

● LEADERSHIP

FALL 2022

• Fall Issue of UU World is dedicated to “Climate Justice”

• **Highlight:** Powerful essay by Alice Kurima Newberry, “Finding Hope in Uncomfortable Truth”

• Pacific Island Students Fighting Climate Change partner with UU Service Committee

• Monthly Musings Meditation Series Launches

• Full Moon Gatherings

• People v Fossil Fuels Protests in Washington, DC

• UUMFE hosts Pacific Island Students Fighting Climate Change

• UUMFE enters a six month interim ministry period, with the Rev. Dr. Leonisa Ardizzone joining staff as our consulting co-director!

WINTER 2022

• UU Climate Justice Coalition Convenings Planning

• Side with Love launches new initiative: Green Sanctuary 2030

• UUs Young Adults for Divestment propose GA Business Resolution: “Fossil Fuel Divestment & Reparations”

• UN Climate Summit Daily Conversation Workshops (COP27)

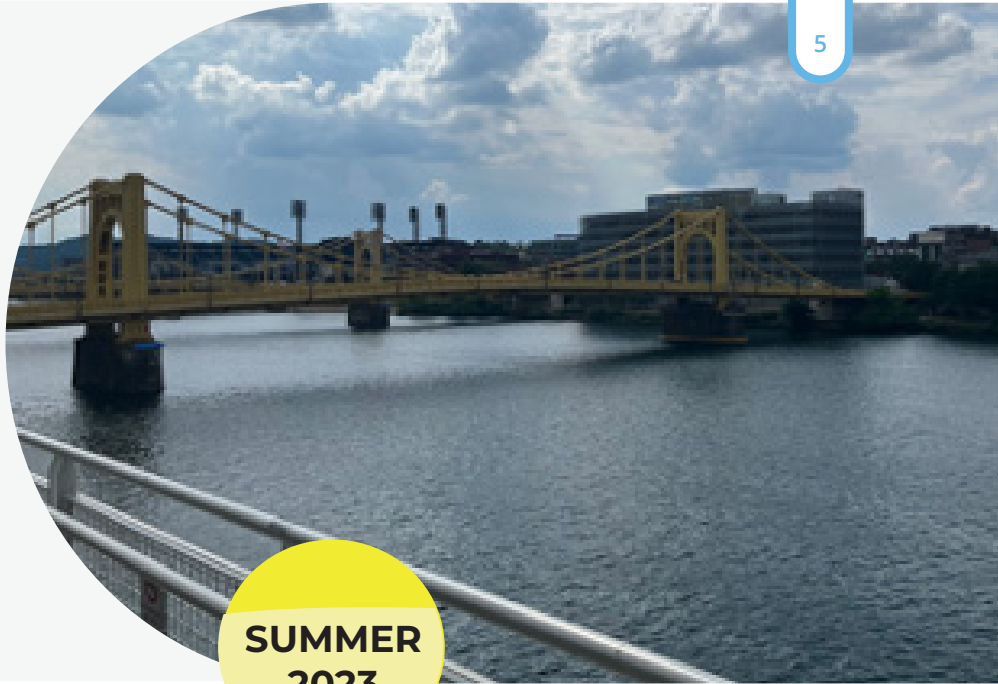
• Sanctuary Boston Concert

• Solstice Celebration

• Aly Halpert Concert

• **Thank you** to Rev. Anastasia Zinke for your service as UUMFE Board Chair!

• Sie Lyons serves as interim UU BIPOC Manager for 2022.



**SPRING
2023**

- Launch of UU Climate Justice Coalition Convenings - a year long retreat process organized by UUMFE & Side with Love

**SUMMER
2023**

- Robust discussion among UUA organizations and delegates on the proposed Business Resolution “Fossil Fuel Divestment and Reparations.” Resolution fails at GA, but the campaign inspires deep reflection. Fighting Climate Change partner with UU Service Committee
- World Water Day- Congregational Climate Convergence
- UU Young Adults for Climate Justice- Movement Workshops
- Ecology as Scripture; Earth Day Worship Service
- The engaging duo of Dr. Susanna Wu-Pong Calvert & Betsy Tomic serve as UUMFE co-chairs.
- Rev. Kelly Dignan begins as new co-director of Programs, with a focus on spiritual grounding chairs.

- UUA General Assembly endorses two climate related Actions of Immediate Witness: Organizing for Health Equity & Stop Cop City
- UUA Board of Trustees promises to “launch extended conversations this fall with UUs of all ages and UU groups that are deeply engaged in climate justice work.” Fighting Climate Change partner with UU Service Committee
- Prepare for Climate Week NYC
- Prepare for Fall 2023 Farm Bill Conference
- Launch of New May You Survive & Thrive Curriculum

- Climate Justice Festival & Vespers, at Fourth Universalist in NYC during Climate Week
- Movement Chaplaincy
- Worship and Meditation during UUJEC Fall DC Conference and advocacy for a fair Farm Bill
- UUMFE adopts a new mission statement:

“Unitarian Universalist Ministry for Earth is a seedbed for spiritual grounding and education that inspires deep practices of Earth care, justice and flourishing for all.”
- UUMFE receives a \$200,000 legacy gift from the UU Congregation of Queens- \$50,000 larger than initially expected!
- Nasreen Khan begins leading as Communication Coordinator!

PROGRAMS

We recall the words of Runita Sutton Toomer, President, Unitarian Universalist Congregation Of Queens, who invites us to imagine “creating a world where all life on Earth is held in reverence.”

Unitarian Universalist Ministry for Earth aspires to be a seedbed for spiritual grounding and education that inspires deep practices of Earth care, justice and flourishing for all. What we know is that care is essential and even radical in the climate justice movement.

We offer the following.

Embodiment:

Spiritual grounding, Earth-centered practices, worship and small group ministry resources

Empowerment:

Life-long learning, skill building and community

Engagement:

Support for activists including Movement Chaplaincy and Action-Reflection

We hope our website and gatherings are a place of ministry and spiritual grounding for the long, hard work of climate justice. In that spirit, Unitarian Universalist Ministry for Earth is organizing robust programming each season to embody, empower, and engage for wholeness and transformation.

JOIN US ALL YEAR!

New York City Climate Week

September 17-24, 2023

“We Imagine. We Create”
A Unitarian Universalist Environmental Festival and Worship Thanks to our partners [Fourth Universalist Society in the City of New York](#)

New York State Convention of Universalists, and New York UU Justice!

“Farming for our Future: Systemic Changes for the Climate Crisis.”

A Unitarian Universalist Advocacy Conference for Healthy Soil, Food, and Communities”
September 26-28, Washington, DC

Reflections on United Nation Climate Forum: Conference of Parties 28

November 30- December 12, 2023, Expo City, Dubai

Giving Tuesday

Sustain our movement
November 28, 2023

Solstice Celebration 2023

Online Celebration- Dec 20, 2023, 8pm EST/7pm CST/6pm MST/5pm PST

World Water Day

March 22, 2024

Earth Day Celebrations

April 19-28th, 2024

Biological Diversity Day

May 22, 2024

General Assembly

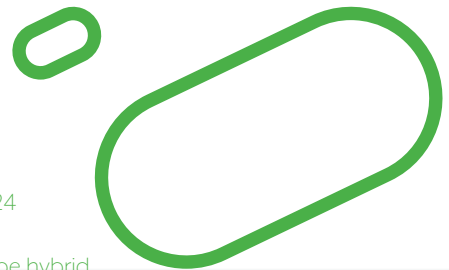
All virtual assembly-
June 20-Sunday, June 23, 2024

2025 General Assembly will be hybrid (in person and online)

in Baltimore, MD, June 19-22, 2025.

In addition, we offer weekly meditations, worship services on the full moons, and monthly packet of worship and small group ministry resources focused on UU Earth-centered philosophies & theologies and climate justice (Monthly Musings!). UUMFE movement chaplains help you articulate what about your UU faith leads you to advocate for climate justice and what UU values, texts, practices you will take into the action itself. Additionally, when activists are tense, we bring tension to our advocacy, diminishing our effectiveness. Movement chaplains help you prepare with tools to harmonize your bodies and spirits for the work ahead. After an action, movement chaplains help you debrief, process and restore. Register today for any or all. Invite yourself and your community to recenter and be sustained and galvanized for the ongoing work of justice, worship, and community!

Sign up today at uumfe.org.



TESTIMONIALS



“UUs for Social Justice counts on UU Ministry for Earth as a cherished and valued movement partner. The deep work of movement chaplaincy and educational enrichment of the theological foundation from which we operate is vital to UU engagement. Our relationship of solidarity and strategic collaboration is critical. The UU justice-making ecosystem is blessed to have the ministry’s staff and volunteers leading the way in the discernment of how we relate to the interconnected web of life, and how that contemplation should inform the action of our broader movement for justice.”

**Pablo Dejesús, Executive Director,
Unitarian Universalists for Social Justice**

“As we navigate the climate crisis and the many systems of oppression that exacerbate it, we find power in community. UU Young Adults for Climate Justice is able to offer programming such as vibrant book clubs, educational movement training workshops, and grounding community drop-in hours due to the support of our parent organization, UUMFE. All of these programs build a young adult community that affirms we can build the liberated future we imagine. Communities such as UUYACJ are essential as it creates accountability to one another in our justice work, opens space to learn from each other, and holds both the celebration and lament of our journey.”

Zoe Johnston, UU Young Adults for Climate Justice



“...we have yet to make the deep and urgent reductions in emissions necessary to keep global temperature rise at 1.5° Celsius. Our entrenched commitment to an outdated view of national security overlooks the urgent needs of addressing climate at scale while prioritizing an unsustainable annual trillion-dollar Department of Defense budget whose very nature is destructive rather than life affirming, and whose costs undermine our ability to meet our climate obligations to our children and the rest of the world. We must reach PEAK emissions by 2024 or face failure to achieve the 1.5° goal... now is the time to make the connection between ending our reliance on fossil fuels and reprioritizing climate change as the most urgent threat we face..”

Cindy Piester, Veterans for Peace

TESTIMONIALS



“As Earth and our climate change, how, too, will we and our faith change to meet it? The liberatory message of our bold, living tradition might be lived, always, as if for the first time. I wonder what we can imagine together.”

Lindsay Donnelly-Bullington, Contextual Education Internship, Boston University School of Theology

“To realize a world with no fossil fuels, where clean energy is a human right, and all communities thrive, we need everyone engaging as they are able. I often orient to the 4Rs of Social Change Framework: Resist, Reform, Recreate, Reimagine. Often people think just one approach is right. In reality, we need people resisting pipelines and unjust systems, reforming policies to advance equitable clean energy solutions, reimagining the world we want, and recreating the systems we need to realize an abolitionist vision of climate justice. We also need rest and reflection to nourish our spirits so we can continue to do the work in ways that center love, repair harms, and honor interconnectedness of all life. We can’t do this work alone. We create a just and thriving future together.

I often say that relationships are the base unit of organizing. Side With Love’s strong and flourishing relationship with UUMFE creates fertile ground for ongoing collaboration, powerful climate work, and joyful engagement! UUMFE’s creativity and responsiveness in creating powerful spaces for reflection and supports for UUs doing climate work dovetail beautifully with the Side With Love’s political education and organizing. UUMFE’s seedbed work includes the Climate Justice Action-Reflection Circle, Movement Chaplaincy, and powerful worship experiences are transformative. As we build on years of successful partnership and envision the world we need to create, I couldn’t ask for better people to do the work with than Rev. Daniel and Rev. Kelly.”

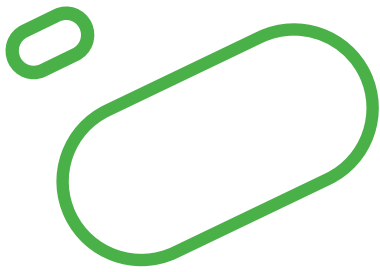
Rachel Misliv, Side with Love



Thank you, Doris Marlin, for your leadership inspiring the Strengthen Local Climate Commitments programs since March 2020! Advocacy on the town, city, country and state level makes a difference!

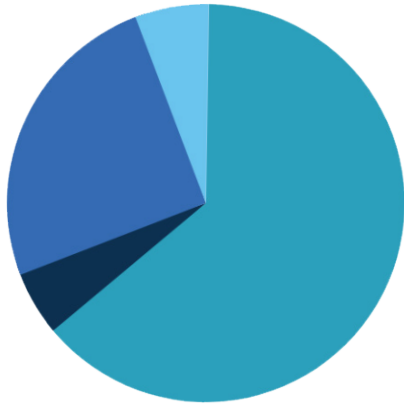
“Helping to Strengthen Your Local Climate Commitments is a way to live our Unitarian Universalist values and further Climate Justice Action at the individual, community, national and global levels. Every change of 10th of a degree matters, every fraction of a degree matters, and furthers each of the Sustainable Development Goals.”

Doris Marlin, UUMFE Board Member, 2020-2022



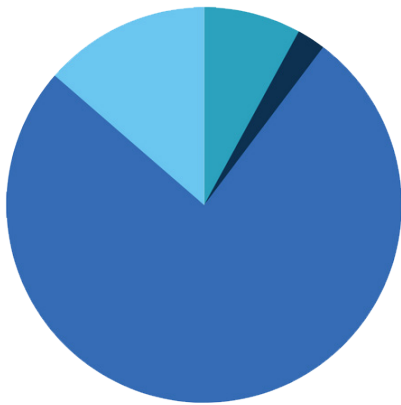
2023-2022 INCOME

REVENUE: \$318,551



- Special Gift: \$ 202,875
- UU Partner Grants: \$ 16,530
- Individual Donations: \$ 80,000
- Congregations: \$ 19,146

EXPENSES: \$214,303



- Administrative Expenses (Rent, Payroll, Vendors, etc): \$17,045
- Website Redesign: \$5,000
- Personnel: \$163,040
- Program: \$29,218

Annual Expenditures:*
(ex. CCJ.net, General Assembly, etc)

We are only able to thrive because of the 1,073 gifts from engaged people like you and congregations that want to have wide and growing impacts for climate work!

After the robust investments this year, for next year's budget, we are planning to spend \$202,077. We're adjusting staffing costs, increasing our direct program line, and aim to be nimble and kind as an organization. In our new model, both program directors are part-time, and work 20 hours a week. Our Office Manager role will now be 12 hours, and a new Communications Coordinator will be 15 hours. We are aiming to be as intentional and kind as we build a staffing model that is sustainable and reflective of the growing needs of the climate movement at this time.

We are able to ensure that congregants in communities of all sizes -from fellowships of 20 to congregations of over 200- have access to spiritual care because of your congregation's share the plates and your individual gifts!

Thank you!



UU MINISTRY FOR EARTH IS GRATEFUL TO OUR 2022-2023 BOARD OF TRUSTEES AND STAFF

Board of Trustees

Dr. Susanna Wu-Pong Calvert, Chair

Member, First Unitarian Church of Richmond, Richmond, VA

Rev. Anastassia Zinke, At Large, Past Chair

Co-Executive Minister, UU Church of Annapolis, MD

Betsy Tomic, Treasurer

Member, UU Congregation of the Hudson Valley

Jolynda Peterson, Secretary

Member, Open Circle UU Fellowship in Fond Du Lac, WI

Rev. Audette Fulbright, At Large

Associate Minister, All Souls Unitarian Church of New York, NY

Dr. Rashid Shaikh, At Large

Co-Coordinator, UU BIPOC Caucus on Climate Justice; Member, First Parish Cambridge

Rev. Lauren Levwood, At Large

Assistant Minister, First Unitarian Universalist Church of Richmond, VA

Swamini Saraswati, At Large

Meadville Lombard Theological School

Rev. Kevin Carson, At Large

Minister, Unitarian Universalist Church in Idaho Falls, Idaho

Staff

Rev. Kelly Dignan (she/her)

Co-Director, starting March 2023!

Rev. Dr. Leonisa Ardizzone (she/her)

Interim Consulting Co-Director, September-December 2022

Rev. Daniel Lawlor (he/him)

Co-Director, since August 2021

Nasreen Khan

Communications Contractor, since July 2023

Sabrina Louise

Office Manager, since July 2008

Zoë Johnston

since August 2020
Communications Associate & UU Young Adults for Climate Justice Network Coordinator

Doris Marlin

Consultant, September-December 2022

Sie Jones

UU BIPOC Caucus Administrator, November to March 2023

Interns:

Lindsay Donnelly Bullington

(she/her)
August 2022-June 2023

THANK YOU!

SPECIAL GRATITUDE

The Unitarian Universalist Create Climate Justice Coalition

Unitarian Universalism is a faith tradition anchored in religious pluralism, rhythms of nature, and the inherent worth and dignity of each being. The ongoing climate crisis challenges all of our core values as a faith tradition. In the face of this reality, we are dreaming of a world that is thriving. And we know you are, too.

Collaboration is the path forward. We are excited to join with varied leaders in the movement to build a cohesive long-term partnership for the years ahead.

Through generous support from the UU Funding Panel, Unitarian Universalist Ministry for Earth and Side with Love are key leads for a year long facilitated leadership

development retreat - connecting mighty partners from Unitarian Universalist Ministry for Earth, Side with Love, Unitarian Universalists for Social Justice, Unitarian Universalists for a Just Economic Community, Unitarian Universalist Women's Federation, Unitarian Universalist Service Committee, Diverse Revolutionary Unitarian Universalist Multicultural Ministries, and the Coalition for UU State Action Networks in a facilitated retreat to grow our capacity for climate justice as a movement

We will continue meeting throughout the fall and winter to coordinate, imagine and plan together!