

ANNUAL REPORT

2024-25

spiritual grounding and
education for earth care
and climate justice



**Unitarian Universalist
Ministry for Earth**

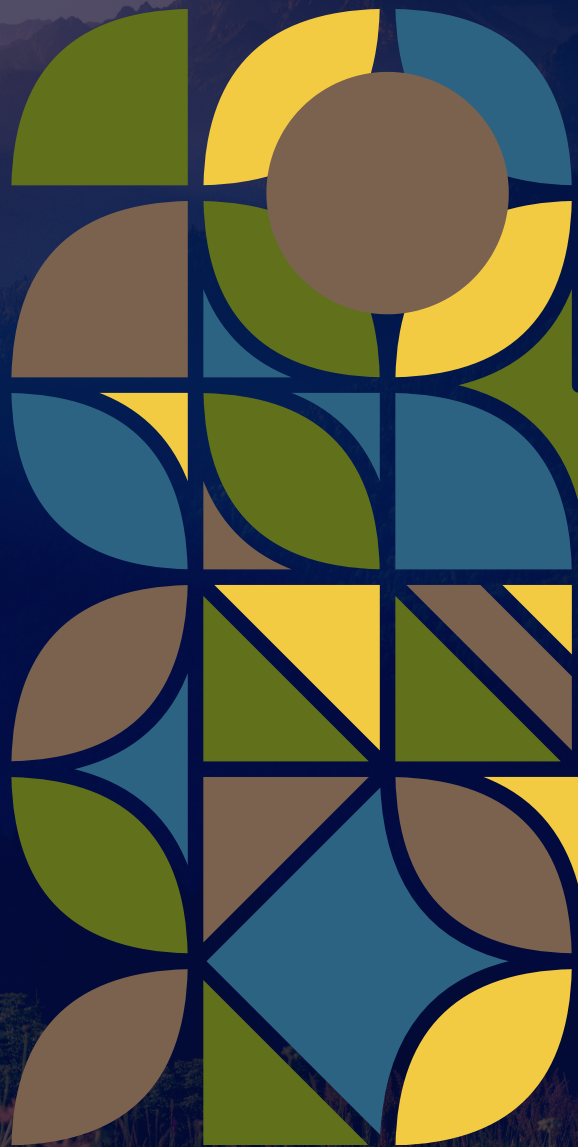


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Unitarian Universalist
Ministry for Earth

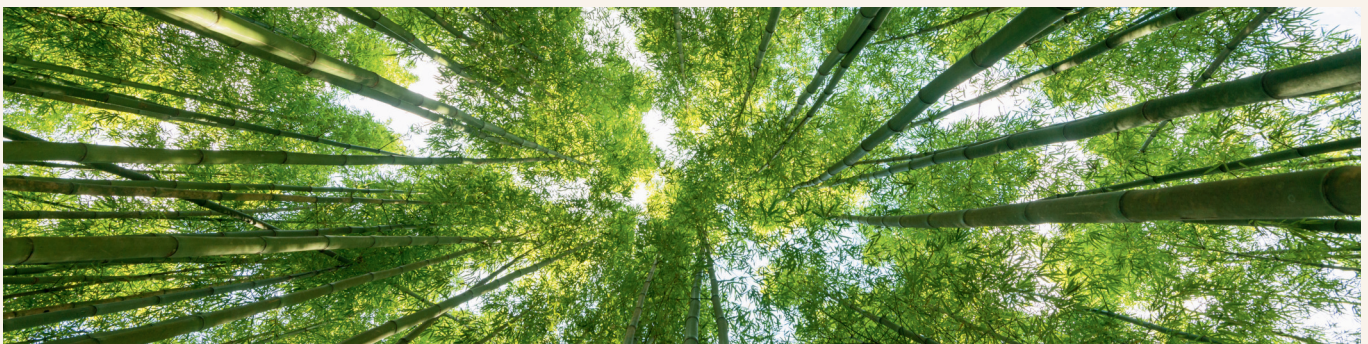
PLANET & PEOPLE: OUR MISSION

This past fiscal year, **Unitarian Universalist Ministry for Earth (UUMFE)** lived our mission as a spiritual and educational seedbed, nurturing resilience and fueling collective action for climate justice. Grounded in our Unitarian Universalist faith and the moral imperative of this moment, we ministered to our community through both celebration and crisis, fostering the deep Earth care practices needed to build a world where all can flourish.

Mission:

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.

Amidst tumultuous US and global events, UUMFE provided essential spiritual grounding and a clear, justice-centered voice. We showed up as a faith community that understands the interconnectedness of all life, creating spaces for collective reimagination.



OUR MISSION

A Year of Grounded, Faithful Action



UUMFE booth at the UUA General Assembly '25, Baltimore, MD



Rev. Lauren Levwood with TXUUJM on UU Capitol Hill Day '25

Our work this year was a testament to our core values:

- **Grounded in Faith & Spirituality:** From our Winter Solstice ceremony to our monthly Full Moon gatherings, we rooted our work in the sacred rhythms of the Earth and our Shared UU Values.
- **Grounded in Environmental Justice:** We centered frontline leadership and stories, most powerfully in partnership with other UU organizations like the UU Service Committee for the Kiribati community, affirming that climate justice is inextricably linked to culture and disability justice.
- **Grounded in Partnership & Collective Action:** We achieved our greatest impact through collaboration: as part of the UU Climate Justice Coalition, bringing to life the inaugural UU Climate Justice Revival and amplifying the UU voice for Climate Justice on Capitol Hill.

Through dedicated programming, strategic partnerships, and faithful witness, we have strengthened the movement for a future filled with reverence, gratitude, and care for each other and our living Earth.



Dear UU Ministry for Earth Community,

Another fiscal year has passed, and I am reminded once again how much there is to be grateful for.

As I write this letter, treetops wave in the distance – each leaf a thing of beauty. Every part of this living world – from massive boulder to glistening dewdrop – has the capacity to stir within us feelings of awe and wonder, and deserves to be cherished and protected.

Whether your personal passion for protecting our planet wells up from spirituality, science, or social justice, there are countless reasons to keep working for climate resilience. This is one of the things that I love about our UUMFE community – the diverse perspectives and vantage points from which we are each uniquely positioned for climate justice work. Together, inspired by reasons, perspectives, and beliefs as diverse as our natural world, we can work collectively towards a shared vision of a peaceful, thriving planet for all.

In last year's Annual Report, I began my letter with these words: **Thank you.** One year later, my gratitude persists.

Thank you *for your commitment to Earth care.*

Thank you *for your dedication to Earth justice.*

Thank you *for your devotion to Earth ministry.*

Without you, UUMFE would not exist. Every single one of you is important. Together, we collectively weave a tapestry of beauty that has and will have incredible impact for the generations of today and tomorrow.

LETTER FROM
LEADERSHIP

The past year at UUMFE has been one of self-reflection. We honored the culminating work of former Executive Director Rev. Kelly Dignan, who played an essential role as the convener of the UU Climate Justice Coalition during the creation of the inaugural UU Climate Justice Revival. And, we are grateful for important interim work that sustained and enriched us after her departure.

Of special import has been the incredible guidance of Rev. Dr. Brock Leach, our strategic planning consultant. At the 2025 UUA General Assembly, we shared the first draft of this new vision, soliciting feedback from members like you.

In the year ahead, we look forward to germinating new growth, fostering resilience, and leading the way into a future with love at the center. We hope you will continue to support our work – with your presence and your donations.

This is such a beautiful, magnificent, wondrous world. We look forward to continuing the journey as we navigate our way into the future with reverent curiosity.

Together, we can foster a world in which all beings thrive. Together, we can grow the world of our dreams.



In Community,
Rev. Lauren Spivey Levwood
Chair, Board of Directors
FY 2024-25

LETTER FROM LEADERSHIP

PROGRAMS & IMPACTS



UU Ministry for Earth, UU's for Social Justice, UU College of Social Justice, UU Service Committee, and other UU Climate Justice Coalition members join together with UUs from across the country on UU Capitol Hill Day '25

Vision:

A world in which reverence, gratitude, and care for each other and for the living Earth are central to the lives of all people.

This year, our programs were designed to bring our vision of a just and flourishing world closer to reality. We educated, advocated, gathered, and cared for our UU community and beyond, building the spiritual and practical foundations for resilient climate justice work.

PROGRAMS & IMPACTS

Earth Day Celebration: "Reimagine Together"

Our focus for our Earth Day celebration was to inspire hope and creativity. By featuring the art of UU Climate Justice Revival contest winner Courtney Fishback (pictured below), we encouraged our community to visualize and embody a future bright with kindness, joy, and justice for all.

UU Climate Justice Revival

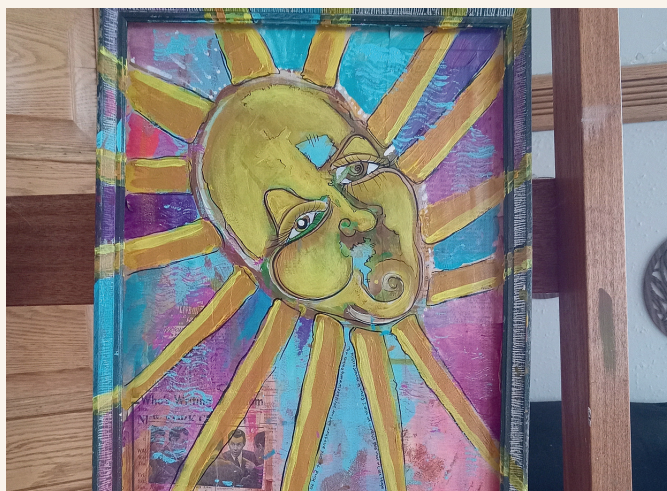
As a core partner in the UU Climate Justice Coalition, we helped congregations across the country host Climate Justice Revivals that fused spirit and justice. These revivals were as uplifting as they were enlightening, inspiring hundreds of UUs to collectively envision and work toward a liberatory future.

Winter Solstice Celebration

Partnering with the UU Service Committee and the UU College of Social Justice, we held a beloved annual gathering that grounded us in both tradition and global solidarity. By sharing stories from UUSC's partner organization Te Toa Matoa in Kiribati, we connected the dots between climate change, cultural preservation, and disability justice, living our intention of centering frontline voices.



Audrey McCann, Lauren Levwood, and Betsy Tomic of UUMFE



Courtney Fishback's painting, Reimagine Together "Listen"

PROGRAMS & IMPACTS

UU Hill Day

We brought our faith directly to the halls of power in the days leading up to the UUA General Assembly in Baltimore. By facilitating justice movement chaplaincy and equipping UUs to speak with legislators at the Capitol in Washington, D.C., we demonstrated that collective advocacy is the deep spiritual practice of standing for our values.

UUA General Assembly

Our booth served as a dynamic hub, connecting climate justice leaders from across the continent. This was education and partnership in action, as we gathered wisdom, shared resources, and planted seeds for future collaboration with our soft-launched strategic plan. We also unveiled our 2025-26 Community Read: "What if We Get it Right? Visions of Climate Futures" by Dr. Ayana Elizabeth Johnson.

Connections Amidst Disaster

Responding to climate crises like Hurricane Helene and the 2024 Presidential election, we provided critical spiritual care and practical resources. This work affirmed that Earth care and justice must include tending to the emotional and immediate needs of our community during times of trauma and upheaval.

Full Moon Gatherings

Throughout 2024, monthly Full Moon gatherings provided a consistent, sacred space to honor the natural world. By aligning with the lunar cycle, we cultivated the reverence and gratitude for the living Earth that is central to our vision, strengthening our community's spiritual resilience.

Alongside our community, through events and programs like these, we are sowing the seeds of a transformed world.

TREASURER'S REPORT

I am proud and excited to report how UUMFE “Met the Moment” this past year, to uplift the 2025 UUA GA theme. The “Moment” for UUMFE was, and is, a re-thinking of how we can better bring the Climate Justice movement to you: UU’s who attend our programs, who utilize our resources, who engage with us at GA and other events, who share their offering plates with us, who are monthly donors, year end donors *and* congregations who do the same.

During the FY 2024-25 year of reflection, we had minimal staff and fewer programs than the previous year, and we did not aggressively pursue grants and other major donations. Fiscal prudence was our financial goal. Yet, despite our smaller size, UUMFE still delivered quality programming, proving our nimbleness and flexibility in the face of structural change and revisioning. The Board is very excited about the ideas generated from our Strategic Planning discussions of next steps, which are highlighted in this Annual Report.

Donations and grants contributed \$83,674 last year, funded by over 400 individuals, the Fund for UU Social Responsibility, UUA and almost 20 congregations. Due to financial prudence, expenses of \$90,566 were below the prior year in every category: Admin, Personnel and Programs, and led to a basically break-even financial outcome.

We are able to ensure that congregants in communities of all sizes, from fellowships of 20 to congregations of over 500, all have access to Earth-honoring spiritual care and Climate Justice resources because of you.

**Thank you,
Betsy Tomic
Treasurer, Board of Directors
FY 2024-25**



A. Income

Sources of Funding	Amount
UU Partner Grants	\$21,000
Individual Donations	\$52,254
Congregations	\$10,420
TOTAL	\$83,674

B. Expenditure

Expenses	Amount
Administrative	\$10,384
Personnel	\$59,876
Programs & GA	\$20,306
TOTAL	\$90,566

C. Cash in Bank

June 30, 2024	June 30, 2025
\$140,526	\$116,591

FY 2024-25

BOARD OF DIRECTORS & STAFF



Rev. Lauren Levwood
Board Chair



Swamini A. Saraswati
Board Vice Chair



Betsy Tomic
Board Treasurer



Dr. Rashid Shaikh
Board Member At-Large

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Audrey McCann
Communications Contractor



Rev. Kelly Dignan
Executive Director
May 2023 - Feb 2025



Mary Ellen Morgan
Interim Director
Mar 2025 - May 2025

LOOKING FORWARD



*Rev. Lauren and Partners lead
a vigil on Capitol Hill Day '25*



*Tending a garden of hope for
Earth Care and Climate Justice*

Our UU Climate Justice Revival this year called on us to think about how we answer hard questions. The gratitude we have for the foundations of UU Ministry for Earth – those twenty five years in which we have equipped climate activists and helped congregations and individuals find ways to embody the 7th UU principle, and the partners, donors, and participants who have contributed to that work – compels us towards faithful discernment and adaptation.

Grounded in our Shared UU Values, we inspire individuals, partners, and congregations to think anew about the climate – not as an isolated issue, but as woven into the fabric of our broader justice-seeking as Unitarian Universalists. UU Ministry for Earth is a vital hub of connection, inspiration, and belonging for those who seek to transform their communities and the work of climate justice itself. Ours is a garden where all may plant, tend, and harvest what is needed to continue this vital work.

With hope and joy,

*UU Ministry for Earth
Board of Directors & Staff*