



UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST MINISTRY FOR EARTH

ANNUAL REPORT 2021-2022



UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST
MINISTRY FOR EARTH

Respect Life. Restore Earth. Renew Spirit.

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

DEAR UU MINISTRY FOR EARTH COMMUNITY,

This season is truly one of transformation. I am in awe **of the over 9000 individuals** connected to our community, the hundreds of congregations that collectively build a witness for climate justice, and the consistent, powerful, persistent showing up in moments of heartache that we receive letters, notes, and encouragement about.

Through our Appreciative Inquiry process, UU Ministry for Earth has claimed as a vision, our vocation to **“enable cultural transformation, deepen connections to Earth and each other, strengthen communities, and enable bold, creative faith-based actions at the grassroots and collective levels, so that Earth and the web of life can flourish.”**

Over the decades, from songs and convenings, to cross-country drives and mutual aid fundraising, from protest marches to budget conversations, from navigating non-profit administration to partnerships with multiple leaders and stakeholders, UU Ministry for Earth has held the flourishing of life as our wellspring.

As you look back at the year past, know that we are in a time of deep reflection and preparation for the years ahead.

This year, we hope you participate in a robust offering of programs and growth. From disaster preparation to divestment approaches, from monthly spiritual grounding to advocacy at the UN Climate Conference, from coordinating with Side with Love to advocating for extreme weather preparedness, we are lucky and grateful.

In Spring 2022, UU Ministry for Earth received a profound \$150,000 gift from the UU Congregation of Queens. The President of the Queens congregation, Runita Sutton, reminds us, as Unitarian Universalists, we are called to build “a world where racial, economic and environmental justice are put at the forefront.”

We are grateful to journey with you, your congregation, and the wider circle of life, come what may, in the years to come. May we bring joy, determination and connection to meet this moment.

In Gratitude,

REV. DANIEL LAWLOR

REV. LEONISA ARDIZZONE

REV. ANASTASIA ZINKE



2021-2022 YEAR IN REVIEW

This last year has beckoned us as Unitarian Universalists time and again to embody our principles. With your support, UU Ministry for Earth has served as an executive producer for the Indigenous Climate Justice documentary film *Condor and Eagle*, expanded our fundraising capability, organized monthly gatherings for climate justice activists to convene, prepared Unitarian Universalists to engage with COP26, created a new staff position for the growing UU BIPOC Caucus on Climate Justice, and 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.

● WIDER UU ECO-JUSTICE MOVEMENT

● ADVOCACY

● SUSTAINING

● LEADERSHIP

FALL 2021

- People v Fossil Fuels Protests
- UN Climate Summit Daily Conversation Workshops (COP26)
- Condor and Eagle Film-Screenings
- Decolonizing Thanksgiving Worship Service
- UUMFE hires co-director for fundraising for the first-time- Rev. Daniel Lawlor.

WINTER 2021

- UUA hires first full-time Climate Justice Organizer at Side with Love, Rachel Myslivi
- NY UUs & Movement for Beyond Plastic
- Solstice Celebration; Emma's Revolution Concert
- UUMFE expands ¼ Office Manager role to ¾ Administrator - three cheers for Sabrina Louise!

SPRING 2022

- Monthly convening council for UU Climate Work established
- World Water Day- Congregational Climate Convergence
- Monthly Minister Gatherings
- UU Young Adults for Climate Justice- Movement Workshops
- Vegan Dinner Church; Ecology as Scripture; Earth Day Worship Service
- UUMFE hires first Coordinator of UU BIPOC Caucus on Climate Justice, Alice Kurima Newberry!

SUMMER 2022

- UU Climate Council commits to focus on sourcing congregations to respond to "Climate Forced Displacement" for next 2 years.
- Support the Green Climate Fund
- Launch of New Survive & Thrive Curriculum
- Biodiversity Sunday & the 2022 Procession of Species
- UUMFE honors the 7 year ministry of outgoing co-director for program Aly Tharp, as Aly begins new work at Green Faith.
- UUMFE receives \$150,000 legacy gift from UU Congregation of Queens.
- UUMFE enters an interim ministry period, with the dynamic Rev. Leonisa Ardizzone joining as new consulting co-director!

WHAT IS OUR THEORY OF CHANGE?

The Flourishing of All Life: Embody, Empower, Engage

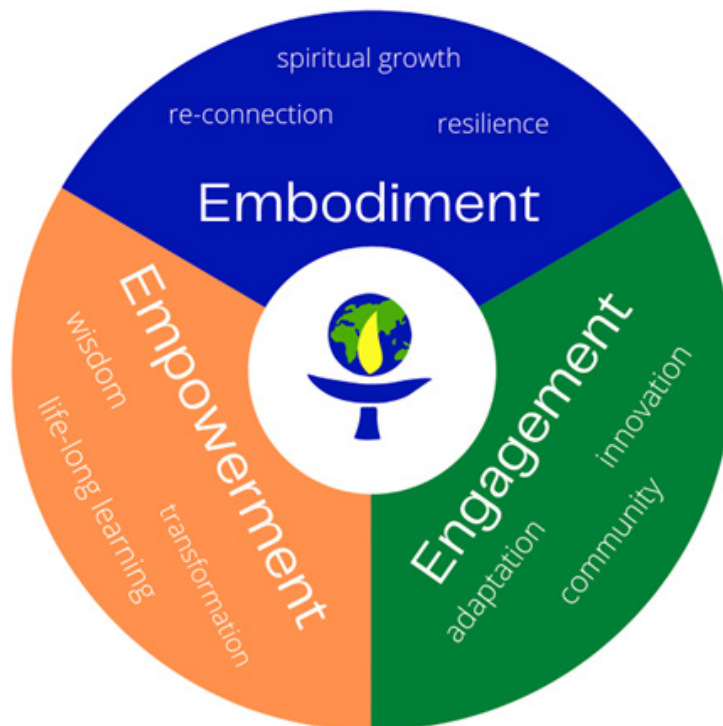
“UUMFE has been considering the entirety of our mission and vision statement to see whether we can more fully express it throughout our work, especially the “flourishing of all life” ... and “for a living Earth.” As such, we have been spending the last 18 months using an Appreciative Inquiry framework to discover our hopes, dreams, and aspirations for how we live these values.

It has been a rewarding experience, working with the board and UUMFE stakeholders to discover that many of us share a longing to live more holistically our sense of Earth care. While it is important to protect, it is also vital to heal and nurture ourselves, each other, and Earth, all important opportunities for elevating our relationship with Earth.”

Dr. Susanna Wu-Pong Calvert, Past-Co-Chair & current board member, UU Ministry for Earth



Photo Credit: Rebecca D'Angelo



UUMFE IS COMMITTED TO THE FLOURISHING OF ALL LIFE ON EARTH

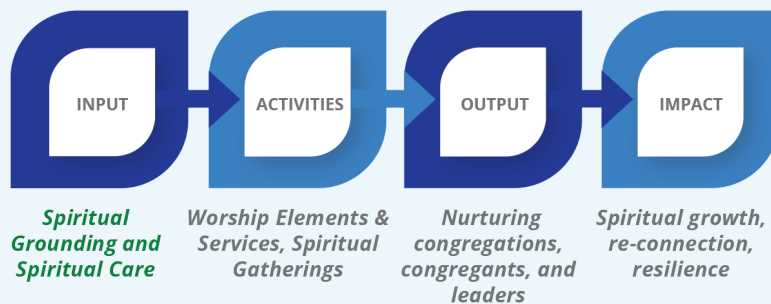
Our Vision

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

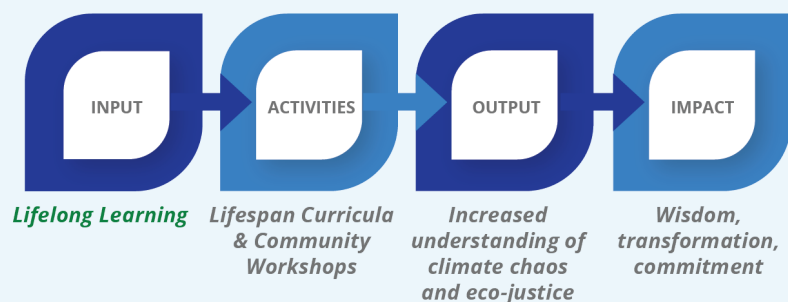
Our Mission

To 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.

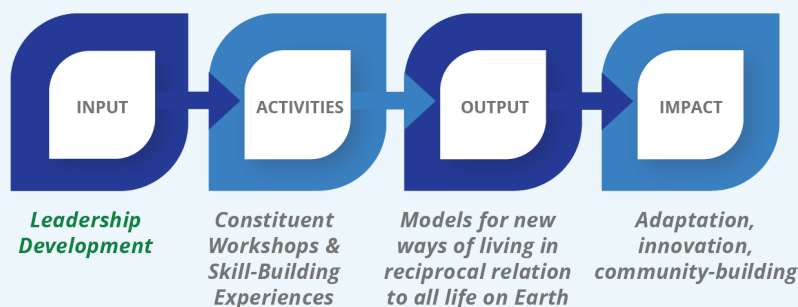
EMBODIMENT



EMPOWERMENT



ENGAGEMENT



Who supports Unitarian Universalist Ministry for Earth? We Do!

Stefani Pescitelli

**Seminary Student, Union Theological
Seminary of the Twin Cities**

"It has been wonderfully inspiring to connect with a growing cohort of Climate Justice teams, ministers, DREs, and lay leaders joining UUMFE to pilot the "May You Survive and Thrive" curriculum over the next year. Together, we are living into exactly the kind of creativity and commitment our communities and ecosystems are longing for in this Great Turning. I can't wait to see the art, practices, and partnerships that emerge from this collective experience of deepening awareness and connection to the amazing biodiversity of our interconnected web of life."



Cindy Piester

Veterans for Peace

"As the U.S. and the global community head into [United Nations Climate Summit] Conference of Parties 27, we have yet to make the deep and urgent reductions in emissions necessary to keep global temperature rise at 1.5° Celsius...We must reach PEAK emissions by 2024 or face failure to achieve the 1.5° goal. As Hurricane Ian makes clear, 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."



Zoë Johnston

"The UU Young Adults for Climate Justice network offers a unique space for young adult activists and organizers to be held by community. Combining our faith and our politics, UUYACJ has been a space where we can gather as our authentic selves. Whether our members arrive with joy and hope or frustration and despair, we are here to support each other in our work to build a better world."



Ember Kelley

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

"If we are going to face the many challenges of the present moment, we have to build our capacity to collaborate and work with one another. We can only build this movement together."



Dr. Rashid Shaikh

**Co-Covenor, UU BIPOC Caucus
on Climate Justice**

"The UU BIPOC Caucus is a space where the challenges of racism and environmental and climate injustice may be lifted up, and where substantive conversations about such challenges can sustain and nourish our commitments."





**LIFE,
LOVE,
& JUSTICE**

GRATITUDE

A TRANSFORMATIVE GIFT FROM THE UU CONGREGATION OF QUEENS

"After the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Queens made the decision to sell our property and dissolve, our second decision was how to make a difference that was in line with our 200 year history of dedication and activism .

We, like many Unitarian Universalist Congregations, have worked to build the Beloved Community. A world where racial, economic and environmental justice are put at the forefront.

Like millions around the world we see the effects of global warming. The destruction and loss of life that is the result of a warmer planet. The continual global extinction of many different plant and animal species. The Seventh Principle guided the decision on where our donation could be continual to work creating a world where all life on Earth is held in reverence.

The mission and values of the UU Ministry For Earth had been the mission and goals of this small community in Flushing, New York. While closing our doors was a very sad final chapter, this community felt a deep joy at being able to make this donation."

**Runita Sutton Toomer, President, Unitarian Universalist
Congregation Of Queens**

GRATITUDE

LEADERSHIP TRANSITION

In Summer 2022, UU Ministry for Earth's long-time Program leader, Aly Tharp, announced her new role at Green Faith. Aly writes:

"Dear UU Ministry for Earth Community,

It is with a mixture of deep excitement, gratitude, and sadness that I announce I am transitioning out of my role as Co-Director of UU Ministry for Earth, and beginning a new role as Senior Organizer at **GreenFaith**, focusing on multi-faith mobilization with the **People vs Fossil Fuels** Campaign (formerly known as **Build Back Fossil Free**).

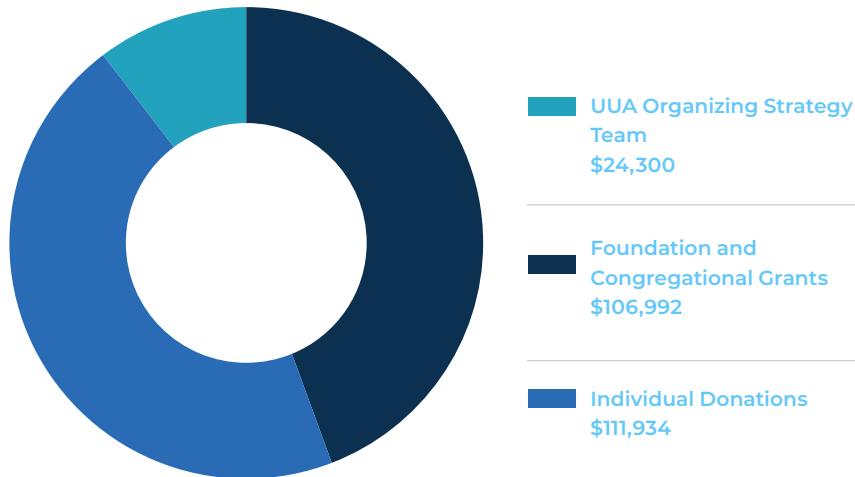
I am so proud of the work we've done together — the many national and global mobilizations; being an executive producer and screening partner of *The Condor & The Eagle* documentary; organizing congregations to create eco-artwork for the 2017, 2019 and 2022 General Assemblies; the hundreds of webinars and networking calls to strengthen the UU climate and environmental justice movement... It has been hard, beautiful, meaningful work. Thank you for your faith, support, and collaboration over the years.

My heart is full of gratitude, hope, and anticipation for the continued growth and evolution of UU Ministry for Earth, our denomination-wide UU climate justice efforts, and the broader movement.

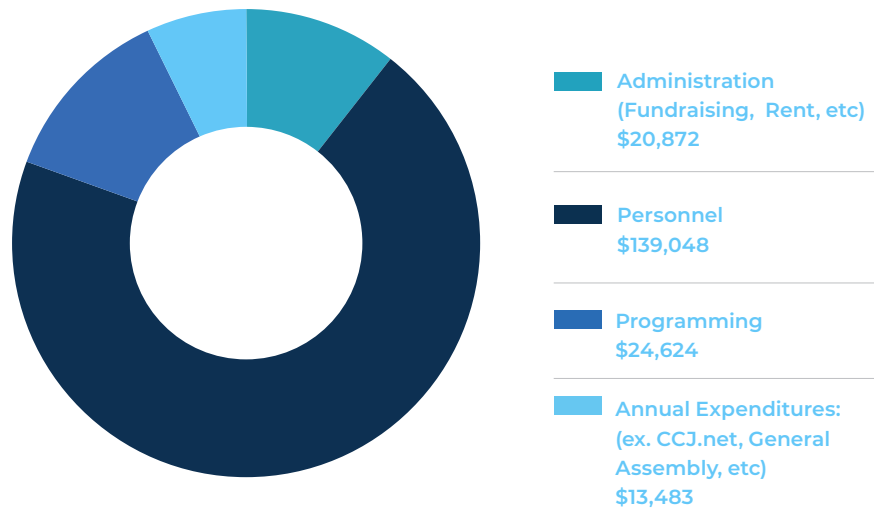
Given that both the UU Ministry for Earth and UUA are active in the People vs Fossil Fuels coalition — and given how many UUs are engaged in grassroots multi-faith action for climate justice — I have no doubt that this transition is not truly a goodbye! Our paths will continue to intersect and unite often, as we do the sacred and important work of showing up for Life, Love and Justice."

FINANCIALS

2021-22 REVENUE: \$243,226



2021-22 EXPENSES: \$198,027



Thank you! We are only able to thrive because of the 1,073 gifts from people like you and communities varied and powerful! We are able to grow and offer more and deeper spiritual grounding for our movement in this time of need because of your commitment and compassion!

Thank You!



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

Board of Trustees

Rev. Anastassia Zinke, Board Chair

Co-Executive Minister, UU Church of Annapolis, MD

Dr. Susanna Wu-Pong Calvert, At-Large

Member, First Unitarian Church of Richmond, Richmond, VA

Betsy Tomic, Treasurer

Member, UU Congregation of the Hudson Valley

Jolynda Peterson, At-Large

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. Kevin Carson, At-Large

Minister, Unitarian Universalist Church in Idaho Falls, Idaho

Staff

Rev. Dr. Leonisa Ardizzone (she/her)

Interim Consulting Co-Director

Rev. Daniel Lawlor (he/him)

Co-Director

Sabrina Louise

Administrator

Zoë Johnston

Communications Associate & UU Young Adults for Climate Justice Network Coordinator

Diane Brooks

Create Climate Justice & Outreach Specialist

Interns:

Vandana Menser

Lindsay Donnelly-Bullington

Andie Authors





GET INVOLVED

Fall for Justice 2022

NEW! Monthly Minister Gathering! Let's read and discuss "Braiding Sweetgrass"
November 14th & December 12th
(all at 3:00-4:30 EST)

Divestment workshops - Align your money with your values!

October 24th 8:00-9:30 pm EST
Everyone welcome!

October 22nd 5:00 pm EST
Special event for Young Adults!

NY UU Justice Events!

October 4, 7pm
Pacific Island Students
Fighting Climate Change

November 1, 7pm
Disaster Response and Preparation

December 6, 7pm
Faith Life and Climate Crisis

COP 27 Gathering!
Join us for viewings & discussions!

November 6th - 18th
Details online

November 29th
Giving Tuesday!

Monthly Spiritual Gatherings!

October 27th, 7pm EST
The flourishing of all life

November 16th, 7 pm EST
Rethinking the 7th Principle

December 5, 8 pm EST
Concert Fundraiser with Sanctuary Boston

December 21st, 7 pm EST
"Evergreen": A Solstice Service

SAVE THE DATES

Spring for Change 2023

Winter Climate Convergence & Leadership Gathering
(February- TBD)

World Water Day,
March 22, 2023

Earth Day,
April 22, 2023

Biological Diversity Day,
May 22, 2023

General Assembly,
June 21 - 25, 2023

