



Unitarian Church Of Underwood

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Empowerment Grant Guidelines 2024-2025

EMPOWERMENT GRANT PROGRAM

The Unitarian Church of Underwood (UCU) is pleased to continue funding our Empowerment Grant Program for the year 2024-2025. These grants will be made for the purpose of encouraging church members to develop and engage with projects that will have a positive effect on our community at large and embody our church's mission and Unitarian Universalist principles. These projects may be related to any number of social or environmental issues, including poverty, education, ecology, alternative energy & nutrition, to name a few. The projects may be of varying time and cost, but all will be initiated by church members and managed by a community organization*. This is an excellent opportunity for church members to make an impact on an issue they feel strongly about in their community.

*501c3 status is required to receive an Empowerment Grant. May use a fiscal agent (501c3 organization) to meet this requirement.

Criteria for Empowerment Grant Requests:

- 1) Must be proposed by a member of Unitarian Church of Underwood.
- 2) Must be compatible with the UCU mission/vision statement. (The Unitarian Church of Underwood is a welcoming community of diverse people who gather to reflect, to find refuge, spiritual renewal, intellectual growth, to improve our understanding of the world, to build bridges toward peace and understanding, and to improve lives and opportunities across our communities).
- 3) Must address one or more of the seven [Unitarian Universalist Principles](#). (*See below.)
- 4) Projects will not provide direct services to individuals or families. (The project may help organizations that provide direct services.)
- 5) The project being funded must be under the direction of an approved 501c-3 organization. (Documentation of 501c-3 status required.) If an organization does not have 501c-3 status, a fiscal agent organization may be used (a 501c3 organization) to meet the requirement.

- 6) New requests, not previously funded, will take priority over requests that have been funded in the past. Organizations may apply annually but may receive lower priority for funding.
- 7) All grant recipients must agree to and sign an Empowerment Grant contract. This will include mandatory progress reports and final report, as per contract.
- 8) Organizations receiving funding **may be** asked to provide a presentation about their project to the UCU in the future.
- 9) The Unitarian Church of Underwood **must** be acknowledged as a funder for the project in the grantee promotions and communications.

If you are interested in pursuing an Empowerment Grant you will need to complete an **application**: <https://forms.gle/uvC8jhwwtYhyDPaj7>. It would also be a good idea to talk to a member of the 'grant review committee', which will be accepting applications.

Applications for the next grant period will be accepted until February 26, 2024.

For additional information contact Ron Roller at ron.roller@ucofu.org

Application Guidelines

Applications must include the following:

- **Name and Contact information of of member sponsor, Community Organization and Project Manager**
- **Name of project or program**
- **Description and purpose of project**
- **Narrative on how the project relates to UCU's mission and Unitarian Universalist principles.**
- **Project timeline**
- **Funds requested and detailed budget**

Unitarian Universalist Principles

Unitarian Universalist congregations affirm and promote seven Principles, which we hold as strong values and moral guides. We live out these Principles within a "living tradition" of

wisdom and spirituality, drawn from [sources](#) as diverse as science, poetry, scripture, and personal experience.

As Rev. Barbara Wells ten Hove explains, “The Principles are not dogma or doctrine, but rather a guide for those of us who choose to join and participate in Unitarian Universalist religious communities.”

1. [1st Principle](#): The inherent worth and dignity of every person;
2. [2nd Principle](#): Justice, equity and compassion in human relations;
3. [3rd Principle](#): Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations;
4. [4th Principle](#): A free and responsible search for truth and meaning;
5. [5th Principle](#): The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large;
6. [6th Principle](#): The goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all;
7. [7th Principle](#): Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.

The seven Principles and six [Sources](#) of the Unitarian Universalist Association grew out of the grassroots of our communities, were affirmed democratically, and are part of who we are.

These are the six sources our congregations affirm and promote:

- Direct experience of that transcending mystery and wonder, affirmed in all cultures, which moves us to a renewal of the spirit and an openness to the forces which create and uphold life;
- Words and deeds of prophetic people which challenge us to confront powers and structures of evil with justice, compassion, and the transforming power of love;
- Wisdom from the world's religions which inspires us in our ethical and spiritual life;
- Jewish and Christian teachings which call us to respond to God's love by loving our neighbors as ourselves;
- Humanist teachings which counsel us to heed the guidance of reason and the results of science, and warn us against idolatries of the mind and spirit;
- Spiritual teachings of Earth-centered traditions which celebrate the sacred circle of life and instruct us to live in harmony with the rhythms of nature.