

Social Justice Special Offerings

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Bozeman

Overview

On the second Sunday of every month, UUFB devotes its offering (cash and designated checks) to an organization that shares our values. Beneficiaries are identified by the Social Justice Action Committee, whose members work with representatives from the receiving organizations. Amounts collected in 2023 ranged from \$485 to \$3,327.

To inform the Fellowship about the recipient, someone from your organization makes a *short* presentation during the Service, highlighting your mission, programs, and values. Preferably, that representative attends the service and speaks in person. If the representative cannot attend in person, a video of two to three minutes in length can be submitted to admin@uufbozeman.org by noon the Wednesday before the service. The video does not need to meet professional standards.

To allow for late arriving donation checks, our Office Administrator sends a check to the organization a couple of weeks after the 2nd Sunday offering, and informs the congregation of the amount collected.

Guidelines for presenters

Much depends on the quality of the presentation, so it is wise to prepare carefully. We are eager to learn more about your organization and your enthusiasm may be infectious, but attention fades if the presentation is too long. In our experience, presentations that go on for more than three minutes are less effective, so we limit presentations to three minutes. Videos longer than three minutes will not be used. If a longer video is submitted, the Lay Leader or a member of the Social Justice Committee will instead present a brief summary of the video.

To make your presentation most effective,

- The presentation should focus on the organization's mission, including the kinds of people who are helped.
- The text should be written out ahead of time.
- The speaker should rehearse the text aloud and time it for length (less than 3 minutes).
- A full page of double-spaced text with one-inch margins, in 12-point Times Roman font, is a little more than one minute when read aloud, so a text of two to three pages is ideal.
- Practice does not always make *perfect*, but practice will help you be more comfortable.
- The presentation will resonate better if it connects in some way with UU values (a copy of our Principles and Purpose is attached).
- There's no need to be nervous—your organization has been selected because we believe your cause is worthy of our support. Just tell your story.

UUFB Principles and Purpose

We, The Member Congregations of the Unitarian Universalist Association, Covenant to Affirm and Promote:

- *The inherent worth and dignity of every person;*
- *Justice, equity and compassion in human relations;*
- *Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations;*
- *A free and responsible search for truth and meaning;*
- *The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large;*
- *The goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all;*
- *Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.*

The Living Tradition We Share Draws on Many Sources:

- *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 women and men 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.*

Grateful for the religious pluralism which enriches and ennobles our faith, we are inspired to deepen our understanding and expand our vision. As free congregations we enter into this covenant, promising to one another our mutual trust and support.

Purpose

The Unitarian Universalist Association shall devote its resources to and exercise its corporate powers for religious, educational, and humanitarian purposes. The primary purpose of the Association is to serve the needs of its member congregations, organize new congregations, extend and strengthen Unitarian Universalist institutions, and implement its principles.