



PACIFIC NORTHWEST DISTRICT

of the UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST ASSOCIATION

PNWD Chalice Lighter Program Annual Report for FY 2019-2020

October 27, 2020

The Chalice Lighter program promotes the success of Unitarian Universalist congregations in the Pacific Northwest District (PNWD) of the Pacific Western Region (PWR) of the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA). Generous PNWD Chalice Lighters pledge to donate \$20 each to three calls during a church year. The resulting grants to PNWD congregations help advance vital aspects of their missions. Administrative expenses are deducted from grant proceeds. However, our network of ambassadors in each congregation and I as program coordinator are all volunteers. Chalice Lighters have given over \$800,000 to help PNWD congregations thrive since the program began!

PNWD congregations are encouraged to apply for a Chalice Lighter grant to fund a project that helps implement their growth plans. To qualify to be considered in 2019-2020, a congregation needed at least 30% of their members to be enrolled as Chalice Lighters, and be a UUA and PNWD Honor Congregation. Applications may be submitted at any time. Potential applicants should contact me at the email address below with any questions.

The PNWD website, pnwduua.org, explains the program, indicates how to apply for a grant, lists past grant recipients, and has links to enroll and pay online. Donors can choose to contribute to all three calls at one time if they wish. They can also elect to contribute monthly with a charge to a debit or credit card.

The following grants were issued as a result of calls during the July 2019-June 2020 fiscal year:

Fall Call: Recipient: Anchorage UU Fellowship	\$ 11,551
Winter Call: Recipient: Anchorage UU Fellowship	\$ 17,279
Spring Call: Recipient: UU Congregation at Willamette Falls	\$ 20,657
Total disbursed 2019-2020:	\$ 49,487

The Anchorage congregation had a raised chancel area that did not meet safety codes and was not accessible to sight- or mobility-challenged persons. The Chalice Lighter grant of the \$28,830 proceeds of both the Fall and Winter calls helped fund the remodel of this space with an accessible ramp and safe steps with handrails. The Chalice Lighter grant to the Willamette Falls Congregation was dedicated to replacing three sets of dangerous, crumbling concrete stairs leading to their historic building with copies meeting modern codes.

Administrative costs to the UUA-PWR for these three calls totaled \$2,857. The balance in the undesignated fund, which is used to fund additional or larger requests when qualified proposals are received, totals \$30,123. In the most recent (Spring) call, 966 call letters were sent, 789 via email and 177 via the US Postal Service. In response, 865 contributions were received (a 90% response rate) with 649 of the donations made online and 216 by check.

Chalice Lighters is capable of funding more proposals than we have received recently. In addition to donations, you can help to promote the Chalice Lighters program in your congregation so that it can continue to be effective in improving the vitality of PNWD congregations. Specifically, we encourage you to:

- Ensure that your congregation's minister, board, finance, and fundraising committees understand how to apply for Chalice Lighter grants to help meet the congregation's aspirations.
- Assist your congregation's Chalice Lighter Ambassador to enroll Chalice Lighters, and
- If your congregation does not have an active Ambassador, volunteer for this key role!

Applications for Chalice Lighters grants may be submitted at any time. Potential applicants are encouraged to contact me at the email address below with any questions.

Respectfully submitted,

David P. Cauffman, PNWD Chalice Lighter Program Coordinator
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