

5/12/15 10:29:07 AM

Unitarian Universalists for Social Justice
in the National Capital Area

May 16, 2015

To: UUSJ Board of Trustees

Subj: Acceptance of Contributions Policy

The accompanying draft policy defines the manner in which UUSJ receives and accepts contributions from various sources. It is submitted herewith for your consideration and approval.

In the past we have included in our literature soliciting funds that all donations received will be credited to the donors congregational fair share target. We have attempted to identify the congregational affiliation of each of our donors in order to credit member congregation's fair share pledge. As we contemplate extending our solicitations to individuals across the country we will cease to make this offer in our future solicitations. As we attempt to fund the greater responsibility of our Advocacy work we will be seeking financial support from non-traditional sources.

However, as indicated in the provided policy, UUSJ will continue to give our member congregations and their members the greatest flexibility with respect to how they wish to treat their donations.

Therefore the following motion is suggested by the submitted policy:

It is moved that the following policy be adopted: In the absence of a specific request to use a donation for membership or a congregation's fair share or some combination of the two, UUSJ will credit all future donations to the General Fund or a restricted fund as appropriate.

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Unitarian Universalists for Social Justice of the National Capital Area Acceptance of Contributions Policy

The Unitarian Universalists for Social Justice in the National Capitol Region (UUSJ) is a regional partnership of individuals, UU congregations and UU-affiliated organizations deeply committed to giving voice to our UU religious principles and values and advocating on their behalf to policy makers at the federal level. As members of UUSJ we join in covenant to enliven our UU principles.

Founded in 2000, UUSJ's Board of Directors has been comprised of representatives of our member congregations. To support its work each member congregation is requested to make a fair share pledge for the fiscal year. The fair share of each member congregation is determined by the size of the congregation. By paying its fair share each congregation affirms its covenant with our larger faith. Currently the fair share assessment is \$4.75 per congregational member certified to the UUA Annual Program Fund.

The membership year for UUSJ runs July 1–June 30.

There are multiple ways UUSJ receives fair share contributions, membership dues and other contributions:

1. A member congregation may identify its "fair share" contribution as a line item in its annual operating budget and forwards its contribution to UUSJ, preferably no later than December 31 to permit UUSJ budget planning.
2. Some congregations call for a special plate collection for the purpose of meeting its "fair share" goal and provide those contributions to UUSJ. This may take the form of forwarding checks made out to UUSJ and submitted during the special collection or a single check from the member congregation reflecting the collected contributions, or some combination of each.
3. Other congregations rely upon one or more "Split-the-Plate" collections for this purpose.

As indicated in Section 16.3 of the UUSJ Bylaws, *Member congregations have total flexibility to determine how to finance their donation (budget line item, plate collection, fund raiser, individual donations, pledges, etc.)* Therefore the manner in which the fair share obligation is met is entirely up to the member congregation and will be received by UUSJ toward their fair share obligation as long as they are so identified.

UUSJ also seeks to support for its activities through these other means.

From time-to-time UUSJ may independently solicit support for its programs from individuals, some of whom may be members of our congregational member organizations, at other times we may utilize third party solicitations such as the Combined Federal Campaign.

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In the past it has been the practice of UUSJ to credit contributions received from the latter sources to the fair share allocation of the donor's congregation whether this affiliation was apparent or had to be determined. Due to increasing program costs, organizational changes and UUSJ's new focus on advocacy, UUSJ plans to increase its individual member solicitations in the future.

If a future contributor requests that a donation be credited to the fair share allocation of his or her congregation, UUSJ will honor that request. By the same token, if a congregational member indicates the he or she has contributed an amount equal to the requested membership fee to his or her congregation's fair share solicitation and requests individual membership in UUSJ, that request will also be honored. However, UUSJ will not assume the intentions of the donor regarding fair share in the absence of a specific request henceforth nor will it include an offer to apply, in this manner, future donations received.

Independent contributions may be mailed to:

*Unitarian Universalists for Social Justice in the National Capital Region
7750 16th St. NW
Washington, DC 20012*

*Or donations may be made on-line at
www.uusj.org.*

Annual membership dues for those interested in UUSJ membership is \$40.00

As a federal employee, a congregation member may contribute to the work of the UUSJ through the Combined Federal Campaign (CFC #17271).

A member may wish to make a bequest to the benefit of UUSJ. To do so, contact administrator@uusj.org.

Each year the traditional fair share reminder/solicitation is sent via e-mail around April 1 to each member congregation's Treasurer with copies sent to Presidents and Social Justice committee chairs. The request is sent in PDF file format. The congregation may print, fill out, and mail the form with one payment to UUSJ or make payments at any time by check. If you are a Treasurer, President or Social Justice Chair and did not receive your form, please contact administrator@uusj.org. The same form may be used to report and send the names of any of your congregation who may wish to become new members throughout the year. A membership packet will be forwarded to them.