

# GRANTS PANEL

## What is the First Unitarian Grants Panel?

An opportunity for local projects to receive funding to promote peace and social justice in the Greater Rochester Area.

Unitarian Universalist values:

- The inherent worth and dignity of each person;
- Justice, equality, and compassion in human relations;
- 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.

In addition, we declare and affirm our deep commitment to include all people and our special responsibility to encourage the full participation of all in our activities, honoring diversity of race, national origin, disability, gender, affectional or sexual orientation, age and socioeconomic status.

Each year the First Unitarian Church awards grants from each of two funds:

- Social Justice Outreach Grants
- The Josephine and Paul Wenger Fund for Peace through International Understanding

## Who Is Eligible To Apply?

General criteria for applicants to any of these funds include the following:

- Groups receiving funds must be local (Greater Rochester area), nonpartisan, and not-for-profit. Applicants must be 501(c)(3) corporations.
- Proposals from individuals will not be considered.
- Each proposal must be sponsored by a member of the First Unitarian Church who is knowledgeable about the organization and the requested program/project. A church member may sponsor only one proposal. One copy of the sponsor form should accompany the application.
- Proposals must be for activities that are specific, measurable, and achievable.
- The proposed use of funds must be congruent with the Unitarian Universalist values reflected above.
- Preference may be given to requests for one-time expenditures that advance the goals of the organization or help it launch a new initiative. However, because we are well aware of the funding difficulties currently faced by all organizations, we will consider funding operational or staff costs as well. Repeat requests for operational costs are discouraged.

## What Are The Two Funds and Their Criteria?

### Social Justice Outreach

Proposals must focus on social service, social education, social witness or social action. Examples of activities funded in the past include expansion of youth programming, purchase or repair of equipment, advocacy services, and conference costs.

### The Josephine and Paul Wenger Fund for Peace through International Understanding

Requires that the activity or project promoting peace through international understanding include a program that occurs locally.

## What Is The Application and Award Process?

1. Applications are due to [Sheila Olin](#) by **4:00pm on Friday, April 30, 2021**. No extension of time for submission will be given. Applications must include the following:
  - The completed [Application Form](#) in electronic format (PDF, Word, scanned document, etc.).
  - One copy of your organization's audited statement (or your next best alternative) for the last fiscal year. Please provide an electronic or scanned copy. If this is not possible, submit a hard copy to the Grants Panel mailbox at the First Unitarian Church, 220 Winton Road South, Rochester NY and notify Sheila Olin in your email.
  - One copy of the specific program budget for the grant you are requesting.
  - One completed electronic copy of the [Church Sponsor Form](#).
  - Include electronic copies of any additional literature you wish to submit.
2. Each application is screened to ensure that it is complete and meets the criteria listed above.
3. Applications are then reviewed by a Grants Panel. This review process may include a ten-minute presentation by a representative of each applicant organization and an opportunity for the panel to ask questions. Each applicant may be contacted to schedule a presentation appointment in **early May**. Church sponsors are encouraged to attend the presentation or make arrangements for another church member to attend in their place. Applicants are expected to address how their application meets the specific criteria of the fund applied for.
4. The Panel will present its recommendations to the Social Justice Council, to the Board of Trustees, and to the congregation for a vote at its June meeting.
5. Organizations will be notified of funding decisions by mid-June, and checks will be mailed to grantees by late June.

## What Are the Responsibilities Of Grant Recipients?

- If for any reason a recipient is unable to use the funding in the way specified in the application, we ask that you notify Sheila Olin at 585-259-7212 or [scolinduck54@gmail.com](mailto:scolinduck54@gmail.com).
- An [Evaluation Report](#) about the project and describing how the money was spent must be sent to the Grants Panel by **April 30, 2022**.
- If this funding source is acknowledged in any way, it should be identified as:
  - "A Social Justice Outreach Grant of the First Unitarian Church" or
  - "A grant from the First Unitarian Church's Josephine and Paul Wenger Fund for Peace through International Understanding."

## How Much Is Typically Awarded?

Grants are typically awarded in the amount of \$2,000 to \$4,000.