

Summer greetings from *your* Annual Program Fund!



Dear member congregations of the Metro New York District,

As I return from our General Assembly in Portland, Oregon, I am reminded once again, how inter-connected we are as a community of Unitarian Universalists. I have attended 10 of the last 15 General Assemblies, and must say that this was the best GA that I have attended! It was a well balanced program of workshops, worships, lectures, and the BEST plenary sessions ever. If you have not seen our Moderator Gini Courter in action, you are missing a big part of the excitement and energy that we are as a faith community.

I was also extremely pleased to present 47 of our 51 congregations with Full Fair Share purple ribbons that were proudly worn throughout the week. I am proud to state that we continue to show our generous hearts in a year that has been full of turmoil.

I want to hold up as exemplars, two congregations, who have, despite extreme hardships this year, remained fair share congregations, with the knowledge that the financial, leadership and peer support that they will receive comes in large part to our voluntary association with each other. Hastings-on-Hudson suffered severe flood damage this spring, and Rock Tavern lost their home to a devastating fire last September. We can all learn from these tragedies:

- 1) When a family member is in need, the community pulls together, and
- 2) We can all better plan for disaster, before it hits.

I am also proud to announce that two additional congregations have had merit increases for this fiscal year (meaning 20% increase from previous year) and are working on becoming full fair share.

In the fall, I will be able to announce our district's grant from UUA, which helps support our district's annual operating budget.

In faith,

Jim Sanders
District Chair, Annual Program Fund