



UU Ministry for Earth

Respect Life. Restore Earth. Renew Spirit.



Annual Report 2016

UU Ministry for Earth resources Unitarian Universalists
to take bold and accountable action for environmental justice,
ground action in faith, and grow partnerships for justice.

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Previous page: Boston clergy and rabbis protest the construction of a fracked gas pipeline in Roxbury, Massachusetts, in May 2016. Eight UU clergy were arrested in the nonviolent direct action: Rev. Elizabeth Nguyen, Rev. Heather Concannon, Rev. Rebecca Froom, Rev. Martha Niebanck, Rev. John Gibbons, Rev. Fred Small, Rev. Anne Bancroft, and Rev. Rali Weaver. Photo by Adam Gaffin for UniversalHub.com.

"My faith calls me to align my actions with my beliefs—and I believe that it is immoral to be building new fossil fuel infrastructure when we know how devastating and deadly fossil fuels are for our planet and for the most vulnerable people on it. ... There is moral power in faith-based resistance to oppressive structures ... there is power in choosing to be a part of something greater than myself."

—Rev. Heather Concannon



Dear Friends,

You are the reason the UU Ministry for Earth was organized and you are the power in the results. You show up on every level.

Unitarian Universalists everywhere are living our faith and our call to climate justice through worship, discussion groups, congregational events, community engagement, civil disobedience, direct advocacy trainings, demonstrations and vigils, lobbying, and more. From Standing Rock to West Roxbury to New Orleans to Morocco, you are taking action with courage and creativity in the face of the challenges to Earth and our web of life.

We are stronger together—and more creative, more joyful, and more effective. This is why UUMFE has invested its resources to build networks and deepen relationships in new ways. In the last several years we have expanded our impact by founding the UU Young Adults for Climate Justice (UUYACJ) Network and the UU Environmental Justice Collaboratory, as well as being one of the founding organizations of the Commit2Respond campaign.

UU Young Adults for Climate Justice is a diverse network of 18- to 35-year-old UU activists at the cutting edge of climate justice. UUYACJ mobilizes UUs to join direct action campaigns, runs a monthly virtual book club, leads climate justice services in congregations, and pushes the UU climate justice movement to be more bold, more grounded, and more connected.



The **Environmental Justice Collaboratory** is a working group of UU climate justice thought leaders representing many different UU groups with a stake in climate justice. The Collaboratory works to build vision, foster accountability, and deepen the actions of UUMFE and the UU movement as a whole.

All of this—and more—is made possible by your support, by our creative Board and staff, and by dedicated volunteers from across the country. This report highlights some of the incredibly bold actions, faith grounding efforts, and partnerships for justice that you engaged in during 2016, and also looks ahead toward 2017. I hope it will inspire you as much as it inspires me.

With faith, connection, grief, and joy, may we continue to worship together, bless our world, and act to grow more resilient networks and communities to address the challenges we face today as well as those to come.

In gratitude,

Irene Keim
Chair, UUMFE Board

Pictured above: UUYACJ attendees of the GROW climate justice training, August 2015. Photo by cameron whitten.

2016 HIGHLIGHTS

BOLD ACTION

The crises we are facing require an unprecedented response, one that goes far beyond individual choices. We are called to do whatever it takes to create a socially just, resilient, and sustainable future, for ourselves and for future generations. We are called to be bold—and in 2016, we were.

Standing Rock

UUMFE called on Unitarian Universalists to support the Standing Rock Sioux and other Indigenous water protectors as well as the Bismark-Mandan UU Congregation with prayers, donations, and actions.

Hundreds of UUs traveled to North Dakota to protest the Dakota Access Pipeline in solidarity, including about fifty UU clergy who attended the interfaith day of action in November and close to two hundred UUs who attended the interfaith day of prayer in December.

Eight UUYACJ members—Jimmy Betts, Christine Chao, Amelia Diehl, Ali Free, Samantha Gupta, Rev. Elizabeth Nguyen, Lee Stewart, and Amanda Weatherspoon (pictured at right)—were among them.



Inset photo by Priya Handa. Photo of the interfaith yurt by Megan Lynes.

UUMFE is organizing a three-hour workshop at General Assembly 2017, "Decolonization is Climate Justice," featuring Minister Karen Van Fossan and Ronya Hoblit (Oglala Lakota), congregation member.



Photo of Stop Spectra protest by Peter Bowden.

Stop Spectra

Close to four hundred UUs got involved this summer to stop a Spectra Energy fracked gas pipeline from being constructed in West Roxbury, Massachusetts, organized by UU Mass Action and Resist the West Roxbury Pipeline—including six UUYACJ members. UUMFE presented First Parish in Bedford with an award at General Assembly 2016 in honor of their leadership.

Another Gulf Is Possible

UUMFE and UUYACJ leaders Jimmy Betts, Aly Tharp, Benjamin Franklin Craft-Rendon, Lee Stewart, Tim DeChristopher, and Irene and Bob Keim traveled to New Orleans in July to take action during "Another Gulf Is Possible: Week of Resistance, Solidarity, and Love." They marched, participated in a Just Transition Solidarity Summit on bridging racial divides in the climate justice movement, did flood relief direct service, and took action to call on the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management to cancel the offshore drilling lease sale taking place at the Superdome.



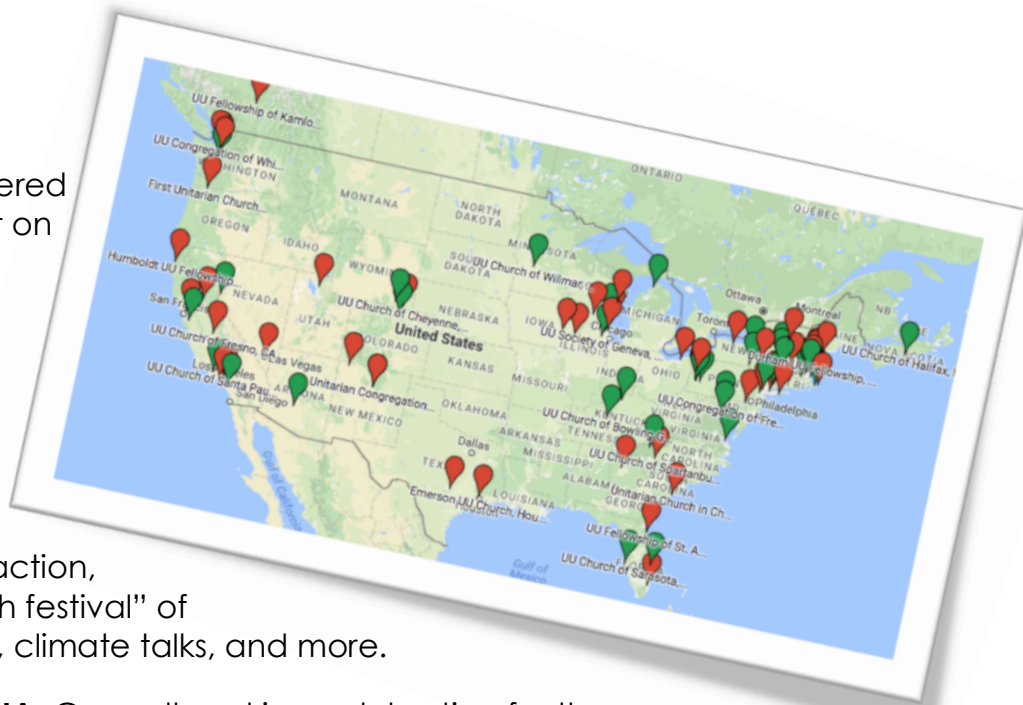
Inset photo by Bob Keim. Photo of Another Gulf Is Possible march by Rae Breaux.

FAITH GROUNDING

Climate justice is a moral imperative. Our UU faith calls us to understand our choices and actions for climate justice as spiritual practices, and to follow the leadership of frontlines environmental justice leaders who are people of color, Indigenous, and low-income.

Earth Day 2016

Eighty-six congregations registered their Earth Day events and got on the map in 2016! As examples:



- **Throop UU Church, Pasadena, CA:** “Thirty Days for the Earth,” March 20–April 17, a month of worship, educational events, spiritual reflection, and action, culminating in an “eARTh festival” of music, poetry, puppetry, climate talks, and more.
- **UU Society of Iowa City, IA:** Groundbreaking celebration for the new “Greenest Church in Iowa”—a church building that will include over 400 solar panels, a geothermal heating system and energy efficient lighting and mechanical systems.
- **All Souls UU Church, Greenfield, MA:** “Creating a Pollinator Paradise in Franklin County” events, including making “bee houses” and a worship service followed by a workshop.
- **UU Congregation of Whidbey Island, Freeland, WA:** Earth/Ocean/People Appreciation Month included film screenings of “Return of the River,” “Bidder 70,” and “Global Meltdown,” personal reports from COP21, intro to 350’s Break Free campaign, and more.



- **Durham UU Fellowship, Durham, NH:** Dedication of the fellowship's solar array, as the first church of any kind in New Hampshire to have solar power.

As always, UUMFE also provided dedicated Earth Day resources to support congregations in their vital ministry, including:

- “The Moral Demands of Climate Change,” a special sermon commissioned from **Rev. Dr. Marilyn Sewell**
- Special Earth Day orders of service covers
- Certificate templates for awarding congregational Eco-Heros
- Our ever-growing wealth of resources for worship, action, and education

Pictured at left: Rev. Dr. Marilyn Sewell.



100 Services Campaign

Fifteen members of UU Young Adults for Climate Justice led twenty-three worship services on climate justice in 2016 in twelve U.S. states and one Canadian province, for a total of fifty services since the beginning of the 100 services campaign—exactly halfway to the goal. In the photo at right, UUYACJ Network Coordinator Aly Tharp delivers the sermon "Discovering Climate Justice" at Westside UU Church in Fort Worth, Texas.

General Assembly 2016

General Assembly 2016 featured powerful opportunities for engagement as a faith community with environmental justice, as well as a UUMFE booth in the exhibit hall that served, as usual, as "climate justice central." Notable workshops included:

- **"Building Interfaith Partnerships to Address Climate Justice"** presented by UUMFE
- **"Exploring Regional and Interfaith Grassroots Organizing for Climate Justice"** presented by North Texas UU Congregations and UU Young Adults for Climate Justice
- **"Shared Liberation: Movement Building that Honors Front-Line Communities"** presented by the Center for Ethical Living and Social Justice Renewal
- **"Faith Communities Can Work Together to Reverse Climate Change"** presented by UUs for a Just Economic Community and First UU Church of Columbus, OH
- **"Sustainable Development and Interfaith Action Against Climate Change"** presented by the UU United Nations Office

A packed room at a General Assembly workshop.



PARTNERSHIPS FOR JUSTICE

The challenges of climate change and environmental injustice are too great for us to counter alone—partnership and collaboration are essential for nurturing the large-scale transformation needed. UUMFE partners with other UU and faith groups so that, together, we can multiply our impact beyond the UU sphere.

UU Involvement in COP22

A #NODAPL protest at COP22 led by Indigenous International drew a large crowd. Photo by Cat Boyle.

UUMFE partnered with the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee and the UU United Nations Office to help send nine UU representatives (including two young adults) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change 22nd Conference of the Parties—also known as COP22—in Marrakesh, Morocco, in November.



UUMFE raised nearly \$7,000 via Faithify to support the delegation, and Aly Tharp, UUMFE Programs Coordinator, helped select the representatives, organized the delegation, and published reflections from team members.

The nine official observers attended presentations, demonstrations, and countless side events; hosted a press conference on moving beyond fossil fuel infrastructure; and built relationships with climate organizers and people of faith from all over the world.

Practitioners' Network

In 2016 UUMFE, along with the UU Environmental Justice Collaboratory, partnered with the Unitarian Universalist Association to help grow an exciting initiative connected with the Green Sanctuary Program: the **Environmental Justice Practitioners' Network**.

Launched as a way for UU climate justice leaders to gather for connection and support, the calls have grown to become monthly opportunities for leaders to deepen their faith grounding and solidarity, reaching more than three hundred participants.

Inset photo: November's call featured Rev. Dr. Rodney Sadler, who shared how "fusion climate justice" models advance the movement.



Commit2Respond Climate Justice Month

For the second year, UUMFE—along with the UU Environmental Justice Collaboratory and UUYACJ—partnered with the UUA, UUSC, Liberal Religious Educators Association, UU Ministers Association, and Diverse Revolutionary UU Multicultural Ministries (DRUUMM) for a month of reflection and action for climate justice, from World Water Day to Earth Day. Together we:

- Supported the delivery of a **petition on water rights** to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency at an Inter-American Commission on Human Rights hearing
- Joined thousands for Democracy Spring and Democracy Awakening demonstrations for **fair representation and voting rights**
- Attended the presentation of the **Interfaith Statement on Climate Change** to the President of the UN, signed by UUA President Peter Morales and 5,700 others
- Reflected and renewed our covenant for climate justice through **poetry**
- Hosted **Earth Day events** across the country



UUMFE LEADERS & SUSTAINERS

LEADERSHIP

Board of Directors

pictured below

Ariel Aaronson-Eves
Berkeley, CA

Cynthia Davidson
White Plains, NY
Intern Minister, Community
UU Congregation at
White Plains

Rev. Mel Hoover
Charleston, WV
Minister Emeritus, UU
Congregation of Charleston

Irene Keim, Board Chair
Bushnell, FL
UU Church In The Pines,
Brooksville, FL

Rev. Earl W. Koteen
Berkeley, CA
Berkeley Fellowship of
Unitarian Universalists

Ellen McClaran, Treasurer
Portland, OR
First Unitarian Church of
Portland



Staff, Consultants, & Volunteers

Aly Tharp
Programs Coordinator,
UUMFE & UUYACJ
Austin, TX

Sabrina Louise Harle
Office Manager
Portland, OR

Amelia Diehl
UUYACJ Communications
Coordinator, Beloit, WI

Ann May
Volunteer Communications
& Website Support
Houston, TX

Linda Collyer
Volunteer Accountant
North Bethesda, MD

Barbara A. Hynak
Volunteer Attorney
Arlington, VA

Barbara Ford
Volunteer UUMFE Advisor
Portland, OR

Bob Keim
Volunteer UUMFE Advisor
Bushnell, FL

Nancy King Smith
Volunteer UUMFE Advisor
Chagrin Falls, OH, &
Adirondack, NY

UU Young Adults for Climate Justice Core Leadership Team

Ariel Aaronson-Eves
Berkeley, CA

Tim DeChristopher
Providence, RI

Elizabeth Mount
Denver, CO

Jimmy Betts
traveling organizer

Amelia Diehl
Beloit, WI

Asha Philar
Guelph, Ontario, Canada

Christine Chao
Los Angeles, CA

Rev. Matthew McHale
Los Angeles, CA

Evan Seitz
Boston, MA

Julian Sharp
Craftsbury Commons, VT

Lee Stewart
Greenbelt, MD

Aly Tharp
Austin, TX



Members of the UUYACJ Core Leadership Team in August 2016.

Environmental Justice Collaboratory Advisory Group

Rev. Peggy Clarke
Westchester, NY

Nancy King Smith,
co-convener
Shagrin Falls, OH

Irene Keim
Bushnell, FL

Dr. Michael Hogue
Chicago, IL

Rev. Kurt Kuhwald,
co-convener
Oakland, CA

Rev. Matthew McHale
Los Angeles, CA

Rev. Dr. Beth Johnson
Vista, CA

Pamela Sparr
Cambridge, MA



Members of the Collaboratory Advisory Group and other leaders in March 2016.

SUSTAINERS & HONOR CONGREGATIONS

More than half of UUMFE's FY 2016 budget came from donations from generous members and congregations. We give thanks to all those who made it possible for UUMFE to do so much in 2016. Every single dollar makes a difference.

Parents for the Planet

Sustainers who gave \$1,000 or more in 2016

Cindy Davidson
White Plains, NY

Kemp & Nancy King Smith
Chagrin Falls, OH

Ed & Ellen McClaran
Portland, OR

Benjamin Hammett
Palo Alto, CA

Rev. Earl Koteen
Berkeley, CA

Karen & Ramon Urbano
Woodland, CA

All Other 2016 Sustainers

Christine & Keith
Abernathy
Clyde & Anna
Anderson
Linda Anderson
Claire Beasley
Mark Bischoff
Leland Bond-Upson
Peter Bowden
Pamalee Brown
Marney Bruce
Christopher Bystroff
Jeff Carlton
Nancy E. Clausen
Rev. Gail Collins-
Ranadive
Gary Conaway
Betty Crowley
Beverly Cree
Grace Curry
Bill De Poto
Susan DeVos
Claire Doyle
Lyda Dicus
Thuymai Fee
Erik Fisher

Gerald & Esther Flakas
Carl M. Gallegos
Philip Gillette
Roger Gillette
Homer Gilson
Rosanne Greco
Judith R. Hance
Amy Hill
Penny Hooper
Robert Howd
Dale Howey
Rosemary Hunter
Barbara E. Jauhola
Stephen Jens-Rochow
Katherine Jesch
Louise Johnson
Robert & Irene Keim
Earl W Koteen
Sandra Kurtz
Bruce Langmuir
Bruce Langston
Diane Larson
Frey Leigh
Allan Lindrup
Kat Liu
Sandra & Randy Locke

Morris Makanah
Leslie B. Marshall
Virginia Martin
Ann & David May
Claire Mayer
Jon & Joan McAlister
Rev. Kent McKusick
Beth P. Milham
Alison H. Murchison
Elaine Nelson
Maria O'Connor
Mary Rose Ocken
Anne Osborne
Gary Piazzon
Mary Pike
Harriet Platts
Clinton Richmond &
Suzanne Federspiel
Ruth Lucille Roberts
Sharon Roberts
Nana Royer
Louise P. Sanders
Ellen & John Schmidt
Terri Lynne Schmiesing
Sharon L. Scholl
Pamela Schossau

Stefani Scott
Matthew Shineman
Diana L. Smith
Chris Snyder
Anne Stamps-White
John Stewart
Paul Stewart
Chad Tolman
Elizabeth A. Trought
Larry Underwood
Kathy Underwood
Steve Urse
Anne Vaughan
Karen L. Volckhausen
Michele Walsh
Melissa Warner
Elizabeth J. Weaver
Bets Wieneke
Terry & Bruce Wiggins
Colin Woodhouse
Louis Yock
Selma Yocom Carney
Connie Young
David Zenner
Carolyn & Elizabeth
Ziffer

Foundation and Grant Funders

UUMFE also offers special thanks to the **UU Funding Program** and the **Cedar Tree Foundation** for their generous support that made our 2016 work possible.

Honor Congregations

Congregations that gave \$500 or more in 2016



UU Church of Davis
Davis, CA



Emerson UU Church
Houston, TX



Mt. Diablo UU Church
Walnut Creek, CA



UU Church of Akron
Fairlawn, OH



Unitarian Church of Norfolk
Norfolk, VA

All Other 2016 Donor Congregations

First Unitarian Church of Cleveland

Shaker Heights, OH

Lake Country UU Church

Hartland, WI

UU Church of the Brazos Valley

College Station, TX

Morristown Unitarian Fellowship

Morristown, NJ

Champlain Valley UU Society

Middlebury, VT

Auburn UU Fellowship

Auburn, AL

UU Fellowship of Clinton

Clinton, IA

UU Society of Schenectady

Schenectady, NY

UU Church in Riverside

Riverside, CA

First Parish in Brookline

Brookline, MA

UU Church of Rockville

Rockville, MD

Accotink UU Church

Burke, VA

Bull Run Unitarian Universalists

Manassas, VA

Bradford Community Church UU

Kenosha, WI

Quimper UU Fellowship

Port Townsend, WA

Unitarian Universalists of the Chester River

Chester Town, MD

UU Community Church of Washington County

Hillsboro, OR

Unitarian Coastal Fellowship

Morehead City, NC

UU Fellowship of Clemson

Clemson, SC

UU Society of Iowa City

Coralville, IA

Beverly Unitarian Church

Chicago, IL

UU Society: East

Manchester, CT

UU Congregation of Milford

Milford, NH

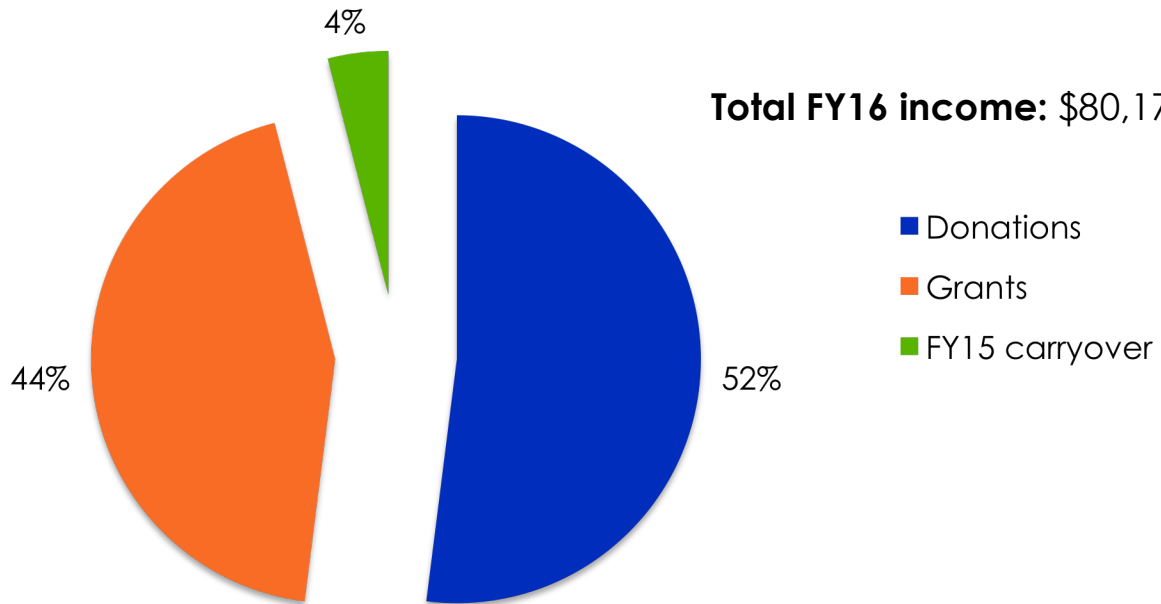
Northwoods UU Church

Woodlands, TX

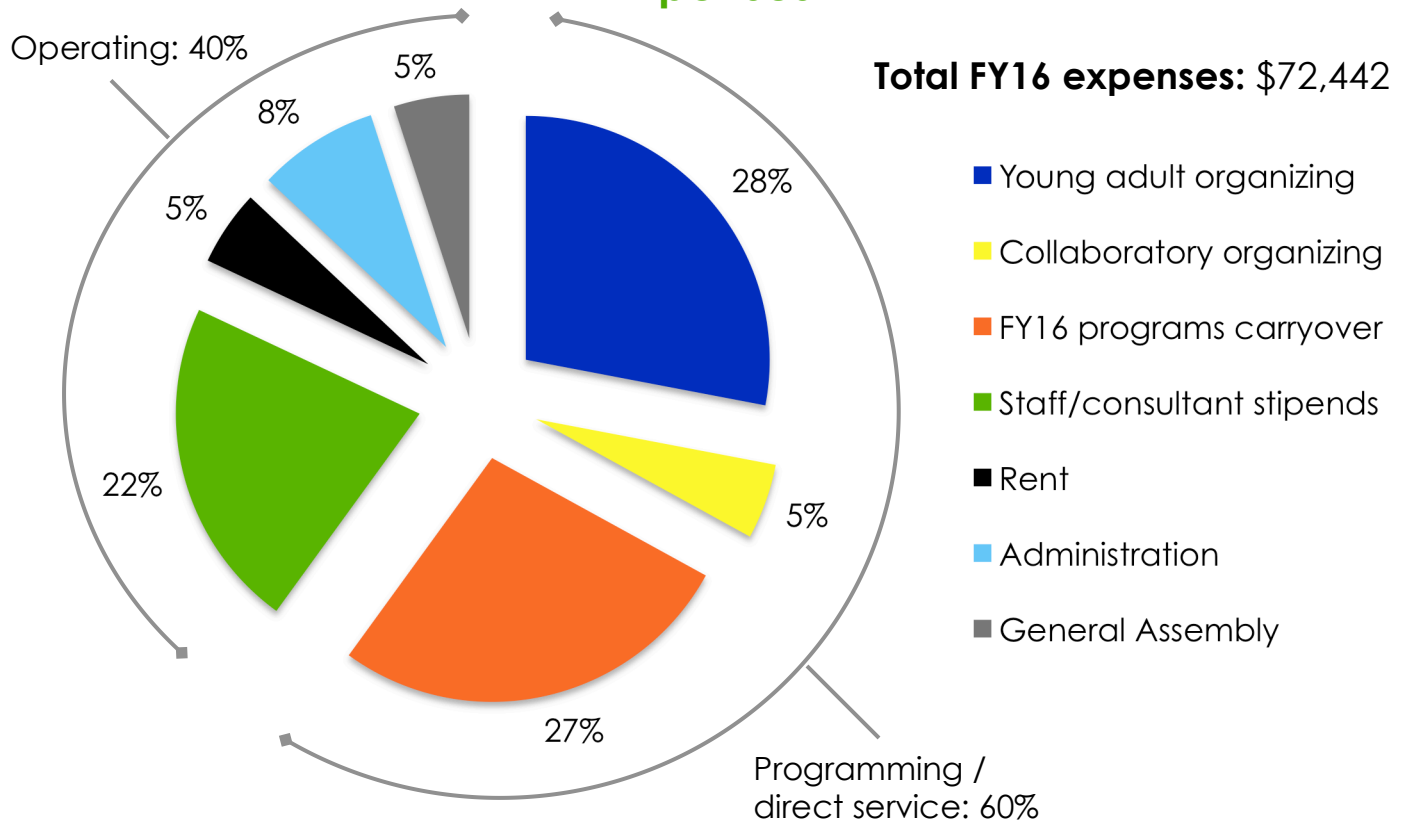
FINANCIAL SUMMARY

Fiscal Year 2016 (July 2015–June 2016)

Income



Expenses



LOOKING AHEAD TO 2017

Climate Justice Month 2017

The third annual Commit2Respond Climate Justice Month will once again be a time for reflection, engagement, and action, building the resistance to political forces of injustice and mobilizing for the Peoples Climate March on April 29 in Washington DC and elsewhere across the United States.

Find out more:

<http://uuministryforearth.org/commit2respond>



New Connections & Communications



In 2017, UU advocates for climate justice will have new ways of connecting and collaborating:

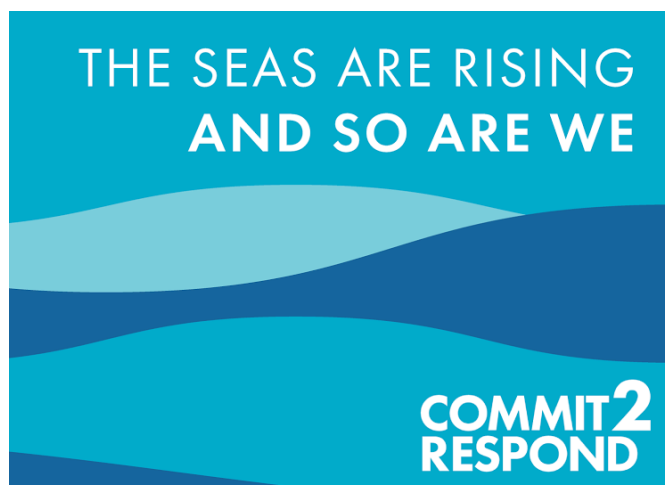
- An expansion of the Environmental Justice Practitioners' Network to provide covenant groups and opportunities for online collaboration in partnership with the Green Sanctuary Program
- Newly reimagined monthly Climate Action Roundtable calls to share the latest news in climate change activism, science, policy, and finance in collaboration with the UU-United Nations Office
- Forthcoming new online tools for connection and movement building for our climate justice campaigns across the country

Find out more: <http://uuministryforearth.org/campaigns>

The Seas Are Rising and So Are We!

UUA General Assembly 2017, in New Orleans, will feature a climate justice track of workshops, opportunities for grassroots organizing, a Climate Justice Collaboratory, and more. UUMFE is collaborating with multiple organizations to provide a diverse and intensive experience for growing our UU climate justice movement!

Find out more: <http://uuministryforearth.org/uumfe-general-assembly>





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