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). Chalice Lighters have given over $900,000 to help PNWD congregations thrive, and grow since the program began!

Generous PNWD Chalice Lighters pledge to donate at least $20 each to three calls during a church year. Our network of ambassadors in each congregation, I as program coordinator, and my small team that reviews and vets grant applications, are all volunteers. Administrative expenses to compensate for PWR staff time are deducted from call proceeds prior to award.

To qualify to be considered to receive the proceeds of a call, a congregation needs to have at least 30% of its members enrolled as Chalice Lighters, and to be a UUA and PNWD Honor Congregation. 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. Applications for Chalice Lighters grants may be submitted at any time. Each Call is open for four months.

The 2020-2021 fiscal year began in the midst of the Covid-19 pandemic. The Fall and Winter calls were dedicated to collecting funds to provide applicants with "Pandemic Relief" grants. For this set of grants only, a simplified application was created and the requirement relaxed to just 20% of the congregation needing to be active Chalice Lighters.

The Spring Call was dedicated to helping a new PNWD congregation, the Inland Northwest UU Community, get started. The INUUC has been approved as a UUA emerging congregation and is a 2021 UUA honor congregation. 45% of its members have become Chalice Lighters.

The following donations (prior to deduction of fees) have been during made this fiscal year:

- Fall Call: $19,328
- Winter Call: $21,681
- Spring Call (to date): $24,965

Total donated during FY 2020-2021: $65,974

The following grants have been issued during the July 2020-June 2021 fiscal year:

- Woodinville UU Church: $5,434
- UU Fellowship of Fairbanks: $9,959
- Edmonds UU Church: $9,500
- Mid-Columbia UU Fellowship: $10,000
- Umpqua UU Congregation: $7,900
- Inland Northwest UU Community: $23,889

Total grants during FY 2020-2021: $66,682

The remaining balance of funds as of June 30, 2021 was $26,872. $646 of this total constitutes advance donations for the fiscal year that began July 1, 2021; $14,261 was designated for Covid relief grants; and $11,964 was in the undesignated fund that is used to fund additional or larger requests when qualified proposals are received.

The total donated exceeded that of the prior year dramatically, by 26%. On behalf of the recipients, I am grateful for our donors’ generosity. Questions may be directed to me at the email address below.

Respectfully submitted,

David P. Cauffman, PNWD Chalice Lighter Program Coordinator
pnwdchalicelighters@pwruua.org