



Thomas Jefferson District

Unitarian Universalist Association

Applying for a Chalice Lighter Grant

Purpose of the Grants

The Chalice Lighter Committee of the Growth and Development Council awards grants to congregations to encourage growth of Unitarian Universalism in the Thomas Jefferson District. The following specific types of growth-related projects are candidates for grants:

1. Calling a first Unitarian Universalist minister (full or part-time).
2. Acquiring a meeting space: buying, building, long-term leasing (10 years or more), including land and building purchase and architectural fees.
3. Expanding and/or renovating existing church home (including for accessibility).
4. Establishing a Campus Ministry; or
5. Securing professional staffing for the congregation's first:
 - Director of Religious Education/Minister of Religious Education
 - Associate Minister
 - Professional Administrator
 - Professional Membership or Volunteer Coordinator

Grant Process

During the district's fiscal year (July 1 through June 30), up to three applications are accepted from congregations followed by calls for funds and the presentation of grants. Over the years the demand for grants has greatly increased and so a congregation's application may compete with others.

Requesting and Submitting a Grant

The congregation recognizes a need, determines if they meet the Chalice Lighter criteria and prepares an application, which they submit to the District office.

Selecting a Grant candidate

TJD's District Executive and Chalice Lighter Committee review the applications with the Chalice Lighter Committee making the final decision.

Calling for the Chalice Lighter Pledges

The committee sends Chalice Lighters a self-addressed envelope, a description of the grant request and a deadline date for returning their pledge to the District Office.

Awarding the Grant

The Chalice Lighter Committee notifies the congregation that it will receive a grant, the amount, and the date that the Committee will award the Grant.

Preferences given for certain types of grants

The Committee gives priority to congregations who are:

- Applying for the first time
- Demonstrating clearly their commitment to growth, and
- Demonstrating their support of the Chalice Lighter Program by maintaining a significant percentage of Chalice Lighters in their congregation

Limits on the number of grants

Congregations can receive as many as three (3) Chalice Lighter Grants. After receiving a grant, a congregation must wait one year before submitting another application.

Grant Amounts

Between 2004 and 2005, TJD Chalice Lighter grants have averaged more than \$20,000. No congregation should expect a specific amount because TJD Chalice Lighters are free to choose the calls to which they contribute and how much they contribute.

Congregational Requirements

Your congregation must:

- Have a significant number of Chalice Lighters
- Pay its Fair Share dues to the Unitarian Universalist Association.
(The UUA Board of Trustees determines each year's Fair Share assessment for member congregations.)
- Pay its dues to the Thomas Jefferson District; and
- Have in place an intentional growth plan
- Have a five-year financial projection
- Provide various letters of support, e.g., from your minister, president/facilitator, and person responsible for the project

Grant Application Form

Request a Chalice Lighter Grant Application from the TJD office (800) 549-0751, or download the application form from the website:

www.tjd.uua.org/cl/ChaliceLighter-Grant-application.pdf .

Additional Information

If you have questions or need additional information, contact the Chalice Lighter program chair at:

chalicelighters@gmail.com .

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