

Paths to Partnerships

*Programs designed to connect individuals, small groups
and congregations in the U.S.A. and Canada to Unitarians
and Unitarian Universalists around the world.*



How Can I Participate?

If you are seeking meaningful, relationship-based social action with Unitarians and Unitarian Universalists (U*U) located outside the U.S. and Canada, UUPCC can provide you with an opportunity that fits your desired level of involvement. Here are some programs to get you started.

AS AN INDIVIDUAL:

- Become a member of UUPCC today and support UUPCC programs.
- Sponsor a Unitarian/Universalist student in Transylvania, India or the Philippines.
- Support microfinance loans to farmers and small businesses in the Philippines. Additional programs to be developed in other countries.
- Contribute to a fund for U*U church buildings around the globe.
- Gather a group at your church or a group of friends to sponsor a Community Capacity Building program.
- Start a Partner Church Committee at your church to explore congregation-to-congregation partnership and other Paths to Partnership.

AS A CONGREGATION:

- Become an institutional member of UUPCC today and support UUPCC programs.
- Encourage small groups in your congregation to partner with a community development project, sponsor a UU student or support micro credit loans.
- Explore congregation-to-congregation partnership.
- If you are conducting a capital campaign for your building, consider dedicating a small percentage of the funds raised to a building fund for U*U churches around the globe. Even just ½ percent of your capital fund is enough to get a community started on their own church building.



Community Capacity Building

If your congregation values social action and poverty alleviation, consider supporting a Unitarian Universalist community development program.



UUPCC has an established program that helps communities help themselves through planning and action. Easy to use tools and local facilitators help communities identify strengths, design action plans and locate resources to solve basic needs, alleviate poverty and strengthen community development. Individuals, groups and congregations can provide the partnership to help identify resources and support the planning and project phases.

You can read actual case studies on our website and download a booklet that describes this program in more detail—at www.uupcc.org/ccb. UUPCC-trained facilitators have helped communities in India, the Philippines and Romania use this process to identify and tackle community needs such as access to health care and schools, clean water systems, roads and infrastructure, agricultural programs, and economic enhancement.

Your group or church can be the catalyst that helps a community address their basic living needs, meet social needs and build a local economy. You will be connected with a community from the beginning of the process and stay with them through the action phase (about five years.) Your group/ congregation will provide the funding to support the facilitation team through the initial community workshop. You can send representatives to observe and support this exciting part of the process. You would then provide encouragement, follow-up and potentially some financial support for their action plans. You will help identify other resources in their country with help from UUPCC developed resource guides.

For more information and case studies, visit our website at www.uupcc.org/ccb. To participate in this program, contact us at ccb@uupcc.org

Student Sponsorships

Many Unitarian and Universalist families around the world live on less than \$1 a day. Education is one long-term strategy to break out of the cycle of extreme poverty, but going to school often means walking several kilometers each way, buying uniforms, supplies and often paying tuition. This is beyond the reach for many families.

UUPCC has joined together with U*U organizations in the Philippines, India and Transylvania to identify potential students and to monitor and maintain the personal connections between student and donor(s). We have agreements in place to assure fairness in the selection process and accountability of the use of funds.

Student sponsorships are an ideal program for individuals, religious education classes or small groups to grow a friendship and have a real impact.

If you are an individual and want to sponsor a student, all you need to do is register. You will be asked to select a country and a school level. We ask that you commit to sponsoring the student for the duration of that level of schooling (4 years for high school.)

If you are a group (RE, Social Responsibility, Small Group Ministry, other) select a designated person as registrar. This person will be the person of record for the sponsorship and will collect the funds and send them to UUPCC. Again, we ask that you commit to sponsoring a student for the duration of the level of schooling you choose.



For complete details, visit our website at www.uupcc.org/studentponsors.

“Building Our Faith” Fund

Help build U*U churches around the world. In most parts of the globe, having a building is the visible indication of an established church. Many governments will not recognize a church unless it has property and a building. Many newly formed Unitarian and Unitarian Universalist groups meet in someone’s home or outside for lack of a space. This is true in the Philippines, in the Khasi Hills of India, and in other countries with newly formed U*U churches. In some countries, U*Us operate schools (especially elementary schools) and orphanages that are often in need of buildings.

UUPCC, in conjunction with the UUA, is establishing this fund to help these communities of Unitarians and Unitarian Universalists build the necessary buildings to lift up the presence of our faith for all to see.

UUPCC encourages all U.S. and Canadian churches planning a capital campaign for their own buildings to commit a small percentage—1/2 to 2% of funds raised



—to this fund for international U*U buildings. Small groups and individuals can contribute as well.

International Unitarian churches, schools and orphanages will be encouraged to apply for grants. Please contact the UUPCC if your church would like to designate a country and/or be in contact with the congregation they help. UUPCC representatives would be pleased to talk with a member of the capital campaign committee directly. Please contact us at office@uupcc.org or call 781-275-1710 to speak with someone directly.

To contribute to this program, go to www.uupcc.org/faithfund.

Microcredit and Microfinance

Microcredit lending with a safe and trusted lender can provide the individual with the capital they need start or expand their own business. In the



Philippines for instance, farmers are at the mercy of local lenders who charge very high interest rates to buy the seeds necessary to plant the crop and then buy the crop at low prices. The farmer barely earns enough to pay back the initial loan and then has to borrow again to plant the next crop, thus perpetuating a cycle of poverty and dependency. UUPCC will work with locally established programs with a good track record, humane collection processes and reasonable interest rates.

Microcredit works best when it is part of an overall program of lending and saving. UUPCC is working to establish village banks with a good training and support system. Setting up a partner village bank is a slow and deliberate process. The success of the partner village bank comes from providing useful technical support, while remaining hands-off from day-to-day operations. It's the partner village's bank to run, and ours to support.

This program is in the development stage. UUPCC is working with two very small projects in the Philippines in 2008–09. We have plans to expand to other countries where we have partners, if the pilot projects are successful. Interested individuals and groups are encouraged to contact the UUPCC office for more detail. You can also download information from our website at www.uupcc.org/microfinance.

To contribute to this program, go to www.uupcc.org/microfinance.

Congregational Partnerships

Congregations can enjoy the close friendships and spiritual growth that come with long-term international relations through congregational partnerships. For more than 15 years UUs in the U.S. and Canada have made friends worldwide, helping to build the global community of Unitarian Universalists. Each partnership expresses the values and vision of the two churches that come together. Here are some examples of what partners do:

- Exchange visits and sermons in each others' churches
- Work together on community projects such as water systems for clean, reliable water
- Share religious services, histories and traditions
- Provide economic opportunities such as a dairy operation
- Build and repair churches and parsonages
- Address community needs such as a medical clinic
- Develop communication systems and letter-writing partners

Congregational partnerships are first about building sustained relationships and growing in shared community. Partners exchange visits and communicate frequently. They often plan together and develop projects for the benefit of all. We have some amazing partnership stories that can be found online and in our partnership handbook. "Partners in Faith" is a short DVD that explores the value of partnership for a congregation. These resources are available on request to office@uupcc.org. The UUPCC outreach coordinator would be happy to speak with you about churches in various countries seeking partners.

For more information, visit our website at www.uupcc.org/congpartners.

To explore the opportunities of partnership for your congregation, contact us at outreach@uupcc.org or phone 781-275-1710.



Experiential Travel

UUPCC organizes travel opportunities for you to meet Unitarians and Unitarian Universalists in Transylvania and Hungary, The Philippines and the Khasi Hills of India. Each trip is guided by knowledgeable people and translators. We go beyond sightseeing and give you the opportunity to learn about the culture, meet local families, learn about their history and make new friends. In Transylvania you will learn about the roots of our Unitarian heritage. In the Khasi Hills you will see how our Unitarian faith blended with tribal beliefs. And in the Philippines you will feel the strength our Universalist principles of universal salvation have made a difference in their lives. Each trip includes time for reflection.

In the past five years, almost 1000 U.S. and Canadian UUs representing more than 150 congregations travel with us to visit partners around the globe. UUPCC offers opportunities for congregational group travel. Group sizes range from 4 to 40 people and often include choir groups, partner church committees and friends of all ages. We make all ground arrangements including hotels and home stays, meals, transportation, translators and guides. If your church is not partnered and you do not have a group that wants to travel, you can still experience life with Unitarians and UUs worldwide. We offer a number of group tours for UUs of all ages and interest. Write travel@uupcc.org to schedule a group trip.

To see sample itineraries, get information about scheduled trips or to learn how to plan a group trip go to uupcc.org/pilgrimages.



About the UU Partner Church Council

For fifteen years the UUPCC has encouraged and supported congregational partnerships between American and Canadian Unitarian Universalists and U*Us around the globe. These relationships weave together the lives and stories of people who share our fundamental affirmations of freedom of conscience in matters of religion, tolerance for those with different beliefs, a reasoned approach to religious ideas and a willingness to grow and change in our religious understandings.

UUPCC believes that international engagement is a moral and spiritual principle that enhances Unitarian Universalist congregational life. Global partnerships can be a first step to building world community. Through shared experience, partners become increasingly aware of the interdependency of all people.

Partnerships provide individuals, small groups and full congregations a way to connect with the larger fellowship of our faith. Our models are not based on charity—we value building relationships between UUs that benefit all in both small and large ways—improving cultural understanding, supporting communities and helping to develop individual, religious, educational and economic opportunities.

The UUPCC is a non-profit membership organization composed of individual, group and congregational memberships and governed by a twelve-person Board of Directors, elected by the members. We are an independent affiliate of the UUA.

Unitarian Universalist Partner Church Council

PO Box 88

Bedford, MA 01730-0088

781-275-1710

Email: info@uupcc.org

www.uupcc.org

