



## How FUSD Connects to the Larger Community



(Image from: [http://happymediumstudios.blogspot.com/2014\\_04\\_01\\_archive.html](http://happymediumstudios.blogspot.com/2014_04_01_archive.html))

**Sponsored by the FUSD UU Affairs Committee**  
For Questions or Comments, email: [UUAffairs@fusden.org](mailto:UUAffairs@fusden.org)

***NOTE:** Much of this information is lifted verbatim from original sources such as websites etc. Please cite those original documents when referencing these materials.*

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\*NOTE: Officer and Committee Titles are used throughout this document, rather than individual names, as they often change from year to year. Please refer to the Officer and Committee List for the names of individuals within these positions, for 2014-2015. The list of deadlines may also change from year to year.

# National Affiliations

## The Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations (UUA)

The Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) is a voluntary association of autonomous, self-governing local churches and fellowships, which have freely chosen to pursue common goals together. The Association's polity is congregational; Association decisions are made by congregational delegates in business sessions at the annual General Assembly (GA).

Approximately 1100 congregations have associated themselves with the UUA which began in 1961 with the merging of the Universalist Association (founded 1793) and the Unitarian Association (founded in 1825).

Between General Assemblies, the UUA is governed by the Board of Trustees. The Board of Trustees meets at least quarterly and is composed of 10 members elected at large plus the Moderator and the Chief Financial Officer.

As Chief Governance Officer, the UUA Moderator, presides at the General Assembly and at meetings of the Board of Trustees.

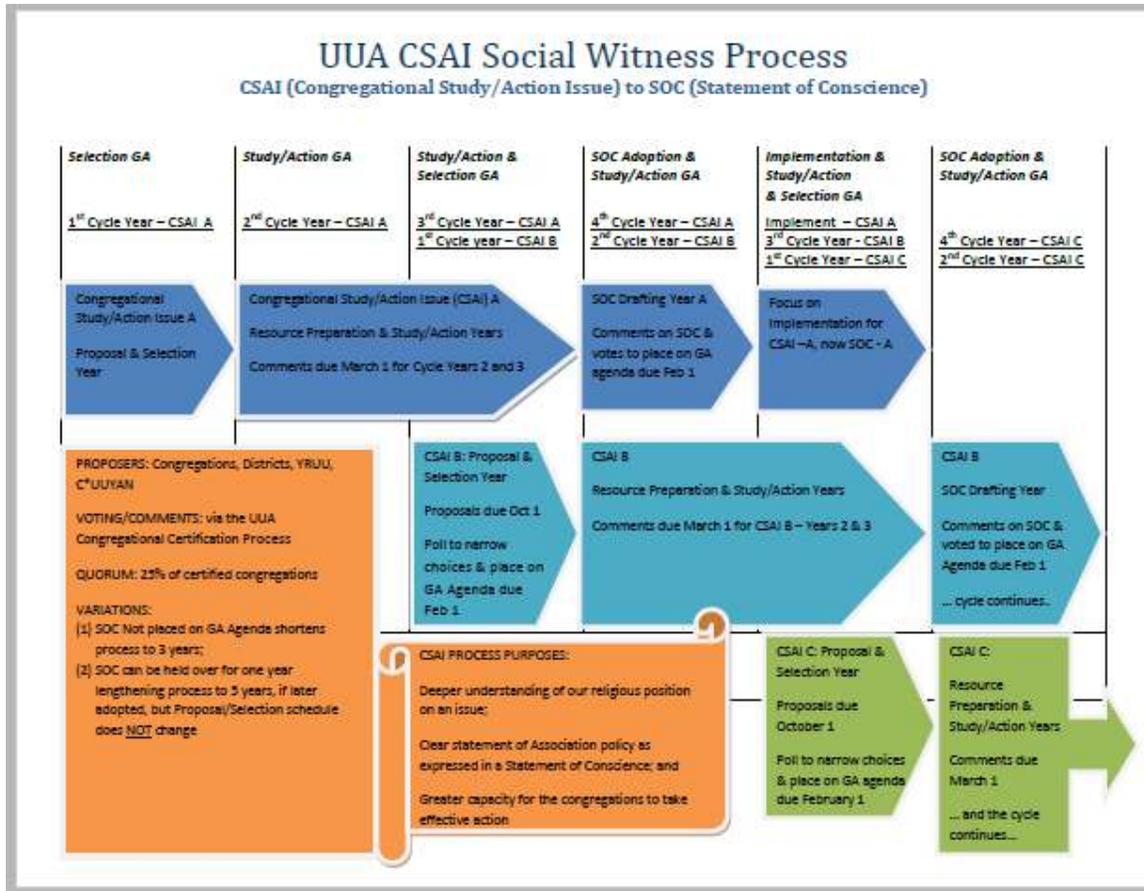
The President is elected by the General Assembly and is responsible for carrying out the goals and objectives of the Association as articulated by the Board of Trustees.

<http://www.uua.org>

## General Assembly (GA)

Delegates are elected annually to attend GA (the exact number of delegates is based on the size of FUSD's membership). Delegates represent FUSD at the national GA where they attend educational workshops and vote on UUA national policy. GA delegates try to involve the congregations as fully as possible (both before and after GA) in these governance matters. Congregational Study Action Issues are topics that are studied for 4 years, at the congregational and national levels in order to eventually vote on a Statement of Conscience that is the UUA official view on a particular topic. Actions of Immediate Witness are items voted on at GA that are UU responses to immediate events that are occurring at the time of GA, such as legislation, national policy, etc. Responsive Resolutions are items voted on as immediate responses to actions/topics discussed during GA. Delegates also vote on such topics as bylaw changes, etc. during the plenary sessions. Non delegates can attend GA (for a fee), but cannot vote at the Plenary Sessions.

<http://www.uua.org/ga>



## Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC)

The UUSC mission is to “advance human rights and social justice around the world, partnering with those who confront unjust power structures and mobilizing to challenge oppressive policies”. They do this through grants for water conservation, micro funding and other endeavors. There is no elected delegate to this organization, however, it is recommended that a member of the church volunteer to be a liaison between FUSD and the UUSC. This volunteer would sign up on the UUSC website to receive their monthly newsletters and action alerts, pass on relevant information to FUSD groups such as Faith in Action Council (FIAC), and potentially collaborate on special projects such as the “Guest at your Table” or “Fair Trade Coffee Campaign”.

<http://www.uusc.org/>

## UUA Geographic Structure

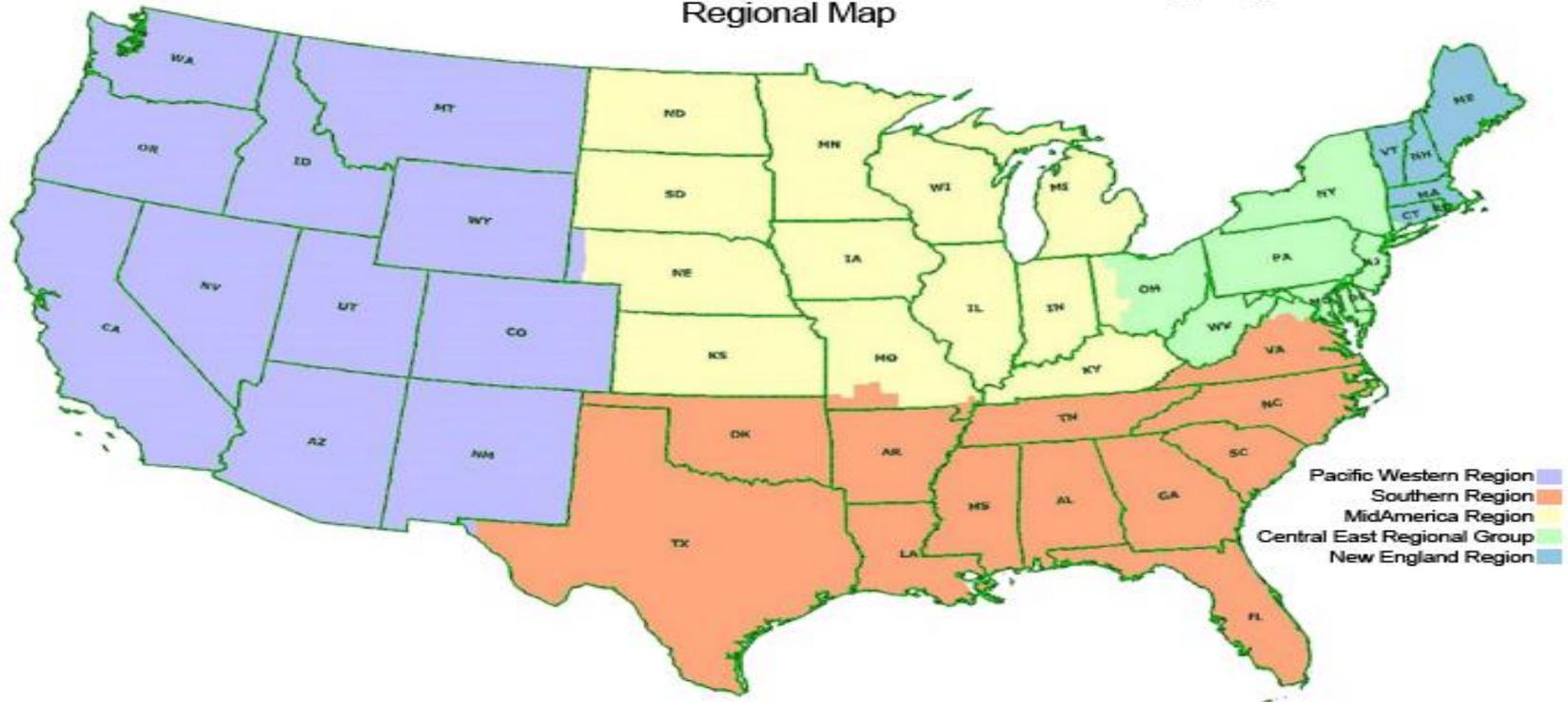
The United States is divided into both regions and districts (please refer to the maps on the next two pages for details). FUSD is part of the Pacific Western Region.

### Pacific Western Region

The Pacific Western Region includes the following districts and has 191 congregations/fellowships (see map below):

- Mountain Desert District
- Pacific Central District
- Pacific Northwest District
- Pacific Southwest District

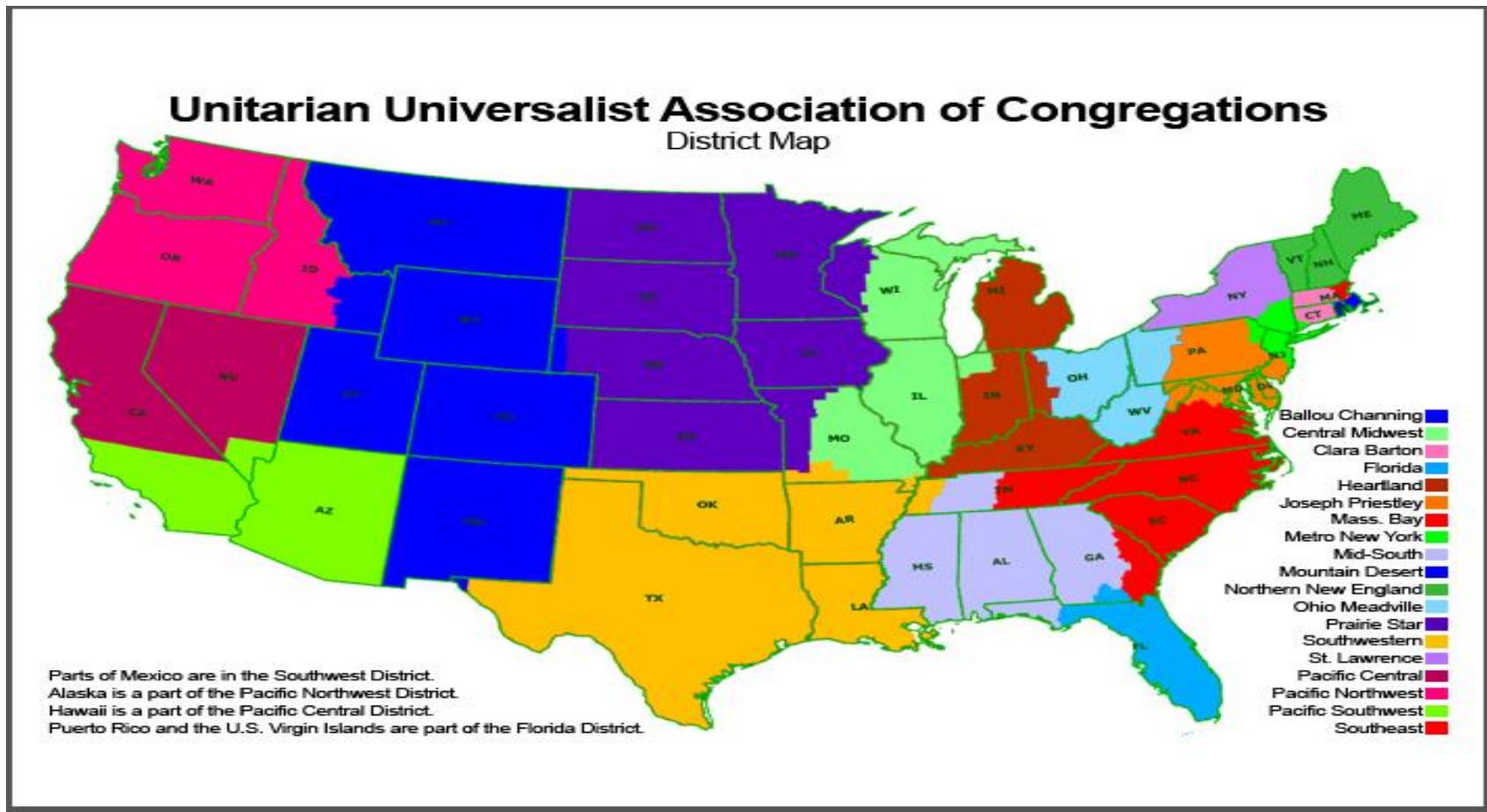
# Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations Regional Map



11.00 x 8.50 in

FUSD is part of the Mountain Desert District. The districts met together for the first time in Oakland, CA in 2014. They will meet again in 2017.

<http://pwruua.org/>



## **Midwest Desert District (MDD)**

The Mountain Desert District includes five complete states and portions of three others with 46 congregations/fellowships

Montana  
Wyoming  
Colorado  
New Mexico  
Utah  
Eastern portion of Idaho, Idaho Falls and Pocatello  
Western slice of Nebraska, Scottsbluff  
El Paso, Texas

The Freedom Fund is a social justice project of the MDD.

The MDD meets annually. We are eligible for the same number of delegates as we are for GA. You can attend without being a delegate, but you cannot vote at the business meeting. There are registration fees which are the responsibility of the attendees.

[www.mdduua.org](http://www.mdduua.org)

## **Russell Lockwood Leadership School**

The Pacific Western Region is very pleased to offer the finest means to Affirm, Deepen, Nurture, and Build effective leadership within your congregation – the Russell Lockwood Leadership School! This outstanding leadership experience has thrived for years as a program of the Mountain Desert District. Now, it's a regional resource.

<http://pwruua.org/rlls/>

# State Affiliations

## Together Colorado

Together Colorado is part of the national PICO movement. The PICO Organizing Model is Faith-Based Community Organizing, a method of working with faith communities to address the problems and concerns of their communities, and in turn, vitalize and strengthen the lives of congregations. There are many paths to a more just world, and faith-based community organizing is one of them. Other paths include direct service, in which people respond to the immediate and often urgent physical, emotional, and spiritual needs of others. Another path is advocacy or activism, where people act and to speak on behalf of others who are suffering from great injustices and social ills.

<http://www.togethercolorado.org/>  
<http://www.piconetwork.org/news-media/videos/0001>

## The Interfaith Alliance of Colorado (TIA-CO)

### Vision Statement

TIA-CO envisions a pluralistic civil society in which people and communities of faith uphold and contribute to diversity, respect, justice, and opportunity for all. Rooted in progressive religious and spiritual values, and through its interfaith programs, civic participation and political activism, TIA-CO demonstrates the human capacity for compassion, cooperation and partnership in the service of the common good.

### Mission Statement

TIA-CO promotes justice, religious liberty, and interfaith understanding by educating, organizing and equipping progressive people of faith and goodwill for advocacy, dialogue, and celebration.

### The business we're in...

We organize people of faith who hold progressive views to:

- foster interfaith understanding, communication, and respect;
- engage as an organization in public advocacy;
- equip members to be public advocates; and
- celebrate our diverse religious traditions and what we have in common.

<http://www.interfaithallianceco.org/>

# Local Affiliations

## Boulder Denver Cluster (B/D Cluster) – disbanded

The Boulder/Denver Cluster includes the UU churches in the Denver metro area:

Boulder Valley Unitarian Universalist Fellowship  
Columbine UU Church  
First Unitarian Society of Denver  
First Universalist Church of Denver  
Jefferson Unitarian Church  
Prairie UU Church  
Unitarian Universalist Church of Boulder

There are representatives from each of the churches, three minister members, representatives of FRUUMA (Front Range UU Ministers Assn), Iliff UU students, Religious Educators, Beloved Community Minister, the Public Radio Campaign, and Create Meaning who meet every other month – September, November, January, March and May. The meetings are an opportunity for exchanging news from churches and organizations.

The B/D Cluster churches organize the UU presence at Pride Fest each year in June. The responsibilities rotate among the churches but the breakfast before the march happens at FUSD. The B/D Cluster also has responsibility to put on the Standing on the Side of Love service on the Capitol steps each September.

The Public Radio Campaign is to encourage UUs to support Colorado Public Radio (CPR) through the MDD. The money UUs normally give to CPR is used to purchase ads for the UU churches at three times (if we have enough money) – Aug/Sept (prime church shopping time), Thanksgiving/Christmas holidays, and Easter.

<https://www.facebook.com/boulderdenveruus>

## Capitol Hill United Ministries (CHUM)

FUSD is a member congregation of CHUM. CHUM holds Clergy and Agency Director meetings on the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of each month from 11:00 to 12:30 at various locations. The President usually facilitates these meetings. A typical meeting will include 12 to 20 people representing 12 to 20 churches or agencies from within the Capital Hill area and there is usually a presenter of some kind. There are also CHUM Leadership Team meetings where they create and plan for CHUM events and programs.

<http://www.chumdenver.com>

## **Colorado Faith Communities United to End Gun Violence**

This group formed in June, 2014. Each Faith Community is allowed two voting members. The group has been meeting monthly. In addition there are three working groups, Education, Advocacy and Action (non-legislative) that meet as well. Activities have included voter registration drives in the fall, a rally on the 2<sup>nd</sup> anniversary of the Newtown shooting, and a Rapid Response Network to respond to gun legislation at the state level. There has been no monetary impact for FUSD. This group communicates with FUSD via the Gun Violence Reduction Program at FUSD which reports to the Faith in Action Council (FIAC).

<http://fusden.org/content/gun-violence-reduction-project-frequently-asked-questions>

## **Create Meaning**

Create Meaning, is a center for spiritual renewal. Classes of various spiritual aspects, open to all and often not held in UU churches.

[www.createmeaning.org](http://www.createmeaning.org)

## **Metro Denver Sanctuary Coalition**

For many years, we have responded to our immigrant sisters' and brothers' invitation to join their struggle for dignity and justice with solidarity and accompaniment. Accompanying immigrants has transformed our communities, deepening our understanding and commitment to work towards just and humane immigration policies. Now, our sisters and brothers have invited us into a deeper mutual commitment by requesting sanctuary, a safe space for body and spirit that allows them to continue to resist their deportation, remain with their families, and shine a light on the harmful impacts of our immigration policies.

In response to this invitation, five faith communities have joined together with the American Friends Service Committee to form the Metro Denver Sanctuary Coalition. In responding to the invitation to provide sanctuary, we embody the integrity of our faith traditions, in which sanctuary is deeply rooted across centuries: to proclaim and protect the dignity and worth of every human being. Providing sanctuary affirms our solidarity with our immigrant sisters and brothers, and our conviction that families should not be torn apart by unjust policies.

We declare that should the opportunity arise, we are prepared to provide sanctuary to an immigrant and their family, providing them with a means to continue to resist their deportation while hosted in a safe space for their body and spirit, the ability to remain with their family and community, and a public platform to proclaim their prophetic message regarding just and humane immigration policy.

In addition, because each of our traditions value love, justice, and dignity, we extend this invitation to all Metro Denver faith communities to join in forming a broad multi-ethnic and interfaith coalition assuring sanctuary for our immigrant sisters and brothers.

<http://www.fusden.org/group/new-sanctuary-initiative> and  
<http://lynnhopkinsgroup.com/front.htm> and [https://www.facebook.com/pages/AFSC-Coloradans-for-Immigrant-Rights/113045722068217?sk=photos\\_stream](https://www.facebook.com/pages/AFSC-Coloradans-for-Immigrant-Rights/113045722068217?sk=photos_stream)

# First Unitarian Society of Denver (FUSD)

## Information about FUSD

For the most up to date information about church activities, justice initiatives, and committees please refer to our website at <http://www.fusden.org/>.

## Faith in Action Council (FIAC)

All the Faith In Action groups work within the community and outside our walls. Seeking liberty and justice for all anchors our Unitarian-Universalist tradition. We take direct action locally and work to increase our effectiveness in the larger world.

Each year at First Unitarian, we identify a set of justice projects that we agree to pursue together. Dedicated teams of volunteers develop projects and bring them to the full congregation for consideration at the annual meeting (usually in May).

Once adopted, the teams work tirelessly to implement the plans. An annually elected Faith in Action Council (FIAC) helps each team with resources and guidance.

We have volunteer teams currently focused on the following issues:

Gun Violence Reduction  
Homelessness & Hunger  
Immigration Justice  
Mental Wellbeing

<http://fusden.org/content/justice-initiatives>

## Ministers affiliated with FUSD

Community Ministry: Community ministers (CMs) are credentialed in the same way as parish ministers but they don't serve congregations. Community Ministers work with the community at large doing some kind of service-related work. In order for them to retain their credentials with the UUA, they have to have an official relationship with a congregation and pay dues to the UUMA (UU Ministers Association). These official relationships look different for different CMs and different congregations but must include recognition by the congregation that they consider the work the CM does as "ministry." Our current agreement is that we pay professional dues (about \$600/yr.), and in return, our CM agrees to preach a couple times a year, teach some kind of Faith

Formation class for adults, and be available for emergency pastoral care if our minister is out of town.

Ministers Emeritus: Ministers Emeritus (ME) is an honorific title that gives the ME automatic delegate status at GA and a break in their dues. Most MEs don't have ongoing relationships with the congregations from which they have retired, but some do. In those cases, there are often complex and delicate relationships/covenants between the ME and the current called minister.

Associate Ministers:

Associate Ministers are ministers who have been called by congregations through a call process. They partner with Senior Ministers but typically don't report to the Senior Minister because they were called by the congregation, usually (but not always) to some specific ministry within the church like RE, Social Justice, or Adult Faith Formation. FUSD does not currently have an Associate Minister.

Assistant Ministers (AM):

Assistant Ministers are hired by congregations through a hiring process rather than a call process and typically report directly the Senior Minister. The primary foci of our current AM are: Pastoral Care, Adult Faith Formation, and Volunteer Support.

## How to share information within FUSD

**(Please refer to the FUSD Photo Directory for updated contact information)**

There is an electronic announcements bulletin board in the main entrance that the FUSD Events Manager or Office Manager can update. This board can accommodate flyers, images and text. The office can also help with maintaining an RSVP list for events if we wish to use it. The Events Manager can post flyers in the building to advertise events. There is also a community bulletin board in the community room for posting of events. Also check with the office if your group needs office supplies or technical equipment (such as audio recorders, overhead projectors, etc.). There are Mental Health Well Being textbooks and resources in the church office as well as other resources in the library in the basement. There are various brochure racks of information near the front door and in the community room.

FUSD has access to Facebook, Twitter and an FUSD website.

The FUSD Bookkeeper organizes the Order of Service for us, but due to space constraints only occasionally accepts items to include.

Articles for the monthly FUSD newsletter Ploughshare are due to the main office no later than the 25<sup>th</sup> of the month.

Announcements for the weekly FUSD email newsletter, First Announce, are due to The Events Manager by noon on Wednesdays. It is suggested that the information is not

stylized, with color, or formatting etc., as it then makes it easier for it to be added to the current newsletter format. It is also recommended that room assignments not be mentioned in the blurb as that can sometimes change if there is a last minute wedding, etc.

# UU Affairs Committee Information

This new committee was originally formed in 2015 to explore ways FUSD could better connect with the wider community (including such groups as the UUA, General Assembly, the Western Region, the Mountain Desert District, the Boulder Denver Cluster, Together Colorado, Create Meaning, the Russell Lockwood Leadership School, and our Beloved Community Minister).

The goals of the committee were to:

1. Understand the various affiliations that FUSD has with the outside world and write these down so that we have a historical record
2. Determine a process for both receiving and distributing information between these outside groups and FUSD
3. Work towards becoming a more formal FUSD committee that then has a budget line item that could be used to help subsidize GA delegates (to make things more democratic) etc.

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Goal 1 was achieved by creating an informational booklet outlining all the organizations external to FUSD that are affiliated with this congregation, including local, regional and national governance. This booklet can be found on the website at: <http://www.fusden.org/content/committees-teams> - a bookmark with this web address is located at the Book Table in the Community Room and given to all new members of the congregation, as a way to introduce them to the greater UU community. Julie Meyers and Jennifer Martin have electronic copies of the bookmarks, for future distribution.

Goals 2 and 3 are currently being achieved by the development of a new process of sharing information between committee members and the congregation, that includes being aware of various local, regional and national tasks and due dates as well as how those projects could utilize FUSD funds.

The committee is transitioning from a committee that primarily meets in person, once a month, to an interconnected group of FUSD members willing to obtain and share information from the UUA and other organizations, with the congregation.

UU Affairs “Connectors” are responsible for:

1. Agreeing to sign up for at least one email newsletter in order to receive information about the various local, regional and national organizations that FUSD is affiliated with (see email lists below) and keep track of relevant governance due dates (see attached table);
2. Share information that they find relevant with the congregation through such means as Ploughshare, First Announce, Facebook, Twitter and the FUSD website;

3. Host a table in the community room, to share information with the congregation, as needed, about topics of interest to the congregation (potentially twice annually); and
4. Meet, in-person, as needed, to help support congregational members who want to take specific action on the informational items shared by committee members. Connectors are not responsible for taking action, but supporting congregational members who want to do so.

For more information, please email [UUAffairs@fusden.org](mailto:UUAffairs@fusden.org)

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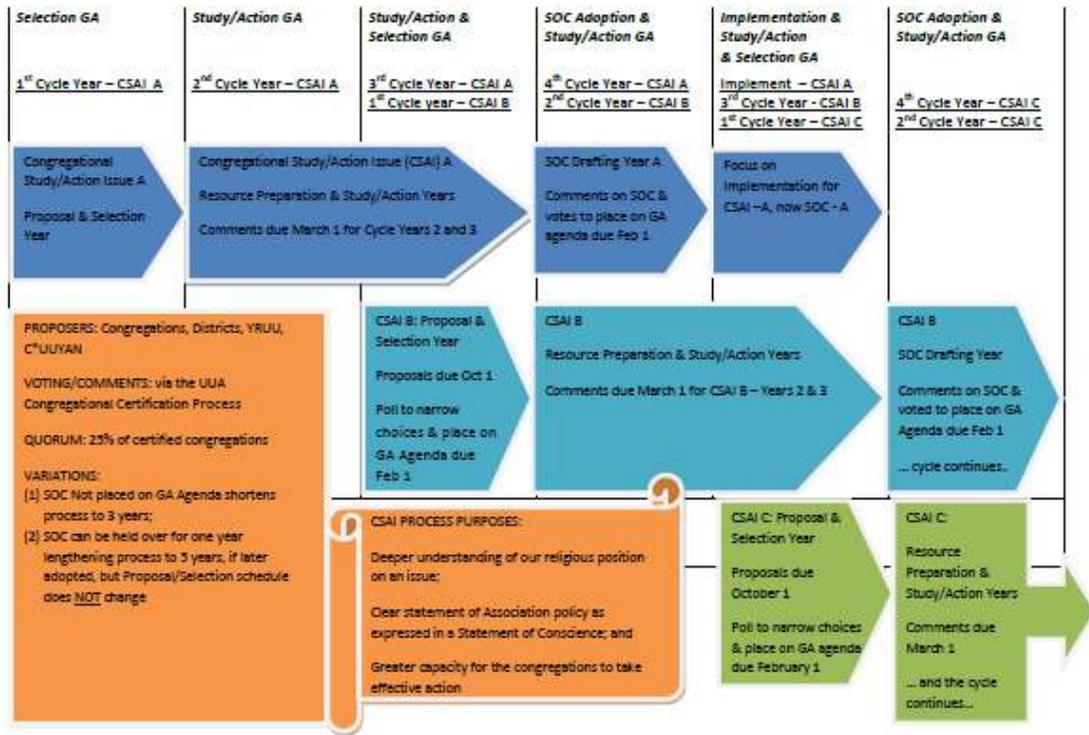
Relevant UUA Email lists (<http://www.uua.org/lists/175584.shtml>) – At least one connector should sign up to receive emails from each group.

<b>Email List Name</b>	<b>FUSD Liaison</b>	<b>NOTES</b>
UU Leaders	TBA	Leadership
UUA – GA	TBA	GA
UUA News Alerts	Kathy Glatz	UUA
UUA Updates	TBA	UUA
CSW-1	TBA	Commission on Social Witness
PSWD-L	TBA	Pacific Western Region
UUSC (International Work)	Kathy Glatz	Sign up for email list at website - <a href="http://www.uusc.org/">http://www.uusc.org/</a>
Standing on the Side of Love	TBA	Sign up for email list at website - <a href="http://www.standingonthesideoflove.org/">http://www.standingonthesideoflove.org/</a>
UU College of Social Justice	Kathy Glatz	Sign up for email list at website - <a href="http://uucsj.org/">http://uucsj.org/</a>
MDD – Mountain Desert District	TBA	See website – unsure if there is an email list <a href="http://mdduua.org/contact-us/">http://mdduua.org/contact-us/</a>

<b>Month</b>	<b>TASKS</b>
	<b>Also take note of CSAI deadlines which change every year</b> (see included chart below for the current deadlines)
January	Investigate options for funding GA delegates
February	Advertise about Needing Delegates for the MDD Meeting
February	Advertise about Needing Delegates for GA
March and April	Have UU Connectors collect potential GA and MDD Delegate Names (and who may need a scholarship)
March	Matching Grant Deadline for applying for a UUA scholarship to help with registration – have board vote on members needed scholarships, and check about potential funds
March 1-April 30	Advertise GA registration
April	Make sure delegate panel is on the agenda for the April board meeting
April	MDD Meeting
May	Vote on GA and MDD delegates at the FUSD Annual Membership Meeting
May	GA delegates read agenda and materials ahead of time and send to congregation for input, as needed
June	Mike has to sign and authenticate credentials before delegates leave for GA
June	General Assembly Meeting
June / July	Inform congregation about GA
August / September	Advertise about UU Affairs “Connectors” and confirm for the next year / Make sure that UU Affairs Booklet and website are mostly up to date for the next year

## UUA CSAI Social Witness Process

CSAI (Congregational Study/Action Issue) to SOC (Statement of Conscience)



# 2014 Officers/Committee Chairs

(Also see FUSD Photo Directory & Google Docs list)

- UUA (uua.org) - Number of Delegates – 8
  - Moderator – Jim Krey
  - President – Peter Morales
- Pacific Western Region - Region Lead - Nancy Bowen (<http://www.pnwd.org/>)
- Mountain Desert District (<http://mdduua.org/>)
  - 2014- Sheridan, WY – Delegate - Sally Isaacson
  - 2015 – Denver, CO (April 10-12 at the Marriott in Tech Center)
  - We can have up to 8 delegates
- Boulder/Denver Cluster (<https://www.facebook.com/boulderdenveruus>) – disbanded
- Create Meaning - Denver Executive Director - Rev. Amy Roland (<http://www.createmeaning.org/>)
- CHUM - Co-Presidents – (<http://www.chumdenver.com/>)
  - Reverend Mike Moran (FUSD)
  - Rev. Miriam Slejko (Trinity UMC)
- Colorado Faith Communities United to Gun Violence (<http://www.fusden.org/>)
  - FUSD Representatives - Julie Meyers & Lila Laux
- FUSD Ministers and Staff (<http://www.fusden.org/>)
  - Community Minister - Rev. Nathan Woodliff-Stanley
  - Ministers Emeritus -Nan and Jim Hobart
  - Minister – Rev. Mike Morran
  - Assistant Minister - Beth Chronister
  - Events Manager - John Vivian
  - Office Manager - Glenn Barrows
  - Bookkeeper - Heather Doyle-Maier
- Social Media & Web Site Contacts (<http://www.fusden.org/>)
  - Facebook - Eddy Carroll or Glenn Barrows
  - Twitter - Jennifer Martin, Scott Guthman, and the church office
  - Website - Scott Guthman
- Google Docs Committee Chair and Members List
  - Updates - Jenny Marx (Leadership Development Committee) and office
  - Committee Chairs can ask the office for access to this shared file.
- UU Affairs Committee Chair – Jennifer Martin