

# **Second Unitarian Church of Chicago Reconciling People and Renewing the Earth Plate Sharing Application**

## **Background**

For many years Second Unitarian has sustained a social justice outreach vision and program. Today, we live out this vision as a church by committing to build relationships in our lives and in our community. This commitment calls us to work toward the reconciliation of the human family, the creation of a more just society, and the renewal of our shared earth. If your organization has a similar mission to reach people and bring the human family together, or to care for and renew our earth, we want to hear from you! Together, we can be bridge builders and justice seekers in our community.

The principles that guide Unitarian Universalists are: the inherent worth and dignity of each person; a commitment to justice, equity and compassion in human relationships; acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth; a free and responsible search for truth and meaning; the right of conscience; the goal of world community with peace, liberty and justice for all; and respect for the interdependent web of which we are a part.

Our congregation's purpose statement asserts:

“Second Unitarian Church of Chicago is a vibrant community that inspires you to develop your own spiritual path and live out your values in the world.”

Towards this end, Second Unitarian Church shares half (50%) of its collection plate revenue with a recipient for a particular Sunday or series of Sundays. An application to the plate-sharing program is a request to be one of the collection plate split designees.

## **Funding Principles**

Second Unitarian Church selects an organization to receive collection plate revenue based on a set of criteria. The church prioritizes organizations that:

- exemplify Unitarian Universalist principles of purpose
- involve members of Second Unitarian church

## **Application Process**

A grant application for the Plate Sharing must be sponsored by a Second Unitarian Church member in good standing. The Social Justice Council reviews the grant proposal along with all others received, and determines if, when and how many Sunday collections to designate towards an organization. Applications need not follow a specific format, but should generally be 1-3 pages long and include the main sections as outlined on the attached Grant Application form.

2U member(s) sponsoring the application and lead staff persons of the organization should both be prepared to attend designated Sunday services to present short, two minute reflections on the background and mission of the organization prior to the offertory. In many cases, those individuals who are the actual participants in the organization's work are the most effective speakers.

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Organizations, programs, individuals and/or projects that receive funding must state clearly in their organizational materials that they do not discriminate based on gender, sexual orientation, or gender identity, as well as the protected federal classes. Applicants are requested to provide a copy of the agency's annual statement and operating budget, if available.

Applications should be submitted to:  
Second Unitarian Church of Chicago  
Attention: Plate Sharing Application  
656 W. Barry Street  
Chicago, IL 60657  
[programs@secondunitarian.org](mailto:programs@secondunitarian.org)  
(Email or US mail are both accepted)

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**Second Unitarian Church Member Sponsoring the  
Application:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Organization/Agency:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Email:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Fax:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Please describe your organization's mission:**

**Population Served:**

**Connection between the Project and Second Unitarian's values, principles,  
and sources of faith:**

**How Second Unitarian members currently participate in the organization (as  
staff, volunteers, board members, clients, etc)?**

**In addition to giving money, how can members of our church get involved in  
supporting your organization?**

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**Second Unitarian Values, Principles and Sources of Faith**

Our Church's Values: Building healthy relationships is the key value of our church. We long for strong relationships with each other and with the world we share.

This value is lived out through two key commitments:

- Reconciliation in our lives personally, in our community and in the wider world.
- Honoring our relationship with the earth through conservation and renewal of our shared planet.

Through these commitments we seek to be bridge builders in the world.

There are seven principles which Unitarian Universalist congregations affirm and promote:

- The inherent worth and dignity of every person;
- Justice, equity and compassion in human relations;
- Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations;
- A free and responsible search for truth and meaning;
- The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large;
- The goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all;
- Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.

Unitarian Universalism (UU) draws from many sources:

- Direct experience of that transcending mystery and wonder, affirmed in all cultures, which moves us to a renewal of the spirit and an openness to the forces which create and uphold life;
- Words and deeds of prophetic women and men which challenge us to confront powers and structures of evil with justice, compassion, and the transforming power of love;
- Wisdom from the world's religions which inspires us in our ethical and spiritual life;
- Jewish and Christian teachings which call us to respond to God's love by loving our neighbors as ourselves;
- Humanist teachings which counsel us to heed the guidance of reason and the results of science, and warn us against idolatries of the mind and spirit.
- Spiritual teachings of earth-centered traditions which celebrate the sacred circle of life and instruct us to live in harmony with the rhythms of nature.

These principles and sources of faith are the backbone of our religious community.