

May 8, 2013

Dear Chalice Lighter,

We are living in dynamic and changing times full of opportunities and challenges. Imagine congregations in the Pacific Central District responding to these times with a prophetic message and increased ministries of love and justice. Imagine congregations taking a Leap of Faith to provide leadership in shaping the future of liberal religion and transforming the world.

We are inviting you, as progressive and faithful Chalice Lighter supporters to join in the first ever ***Pacific Western Regional Leap of Faith Initiative***. This first-time, exciting collaborative initiative among the Pacific Western Region's four Districts, (Pacific Central, Pacific Northwest, Pacific Southwest and Mountain Desert) address these times with a powerful Unitarian Universalist faith practice of Bold Faith: No Borders.

Leap of Faith is an innovative initiative that connects aspiring congregations with successful mentoring congregations in the Pacific Western Region. The success of the National Leap of Faith Initiative has proven that cross-congregational learning inspires and promotes growth, innovation and public witness for Unitarian Universalist congregations. (Learn more and see inspiring congregational stories at <http://www.uua.org/growth/leap/index.shtml>)

A professional outside evaluation team reports that Leap of Faith consistently:

- Enlivened and motivated lay leaders
- Increased leadership awareness of the difference between technical fixes and adaptive challenges
- Deepened lateral relationships between congregations
- Improved congregational capacity
- Opened taboo and difficult topics to creative conversation
- Increased and intentioned use of Unitarian Universalist language and values
- Increased understanding of significance of congregational mission
- Developed heightened risk profiles - trying new things, risking experiments
- Increased expectations of membership is met with approval
- New understanding of the balance of professional leadership and lay leadership

This is truly a collaborative initiative among congregations, the four Pacific Western Regional Districts, the UUA Funding Panel funding and UUA Leap of Faith Initiative. Your contributions will combine with funding from each of the participating partners and launch the *Pacific Western Regional Leap of Faith Initiative*.

Let's take a Leap of Faith together!

In faith,

Rev. Lucas Hergert

On behalf of the PCD Growth Committee

Checks should be made out to:

PCD-UUA / 4100 Redwood Road, #344 / Oakland, CA 94619

With *Leap of Faith Chalice Lighter Call* in the Memo Line

You may donate on line at <http://www.pcd-uua.org/chalice-lighters/lighters.htm>

Please email us at pcd@pcd-uua.org if you would like to receive these Chalice Lighter Letters via email and help us save paper and postage!

