

Planning for Growth

**For Unitarian Universalist Congregations
With up to 100 members in Maine, New Hampshire and Vermont**

SUBMIT application to Karen Brammer (kbrammer@uua.org), **DUE November 6, 2010**
A minimum of 6 congregations is necessary to run the cycle.

WHAT IS THE PLANNING FOR GROWTH PROCESS ABOUT?

- This is a focused strategy to assist congregations to grow in strength, community service, spirituality and numbers. The strategy used is based on learning from years of congregational leaders through the Unitarian Universalist Office of Congregational Life (previously Congregational Services). This is an opportunity to learn in 6 weekend workshops over 3 years, specific turnaround and growth strategies for smaller congregations.
- A team from your congregation should include the minister and 3 lay leaders. They will work with the consultant and other congregational teams to learn what seems to work, to develop an action plan for growth and vitality building on the strengths of its congregation, and to bring that learning and plan back to the congregation.
- The cost to your congregation: focus, time for the team, travel 5 times over 3 years, \$400 total which can be paid over time. (Cost of the training cycle will increase to include a trainer stipend the next time it runs in the NNED)

This is the second cycle of P4G in the NNED. Here are two quotes from current participants:

"If you as a leader in your congregation would like to see members of your church see the strength in the liberal religious movement we are a part of, get involved in P4G. To see how small churches make big differences in their communities, hear the stories of other church teams. The amazing thing is that when you share your story and hear it reflected back, you get a whole new perspective on the strengths (and challenges) of your congregation."

"Do it if your congregation is experiencing growth and change of any kind! Participating in this process helped us see things that needed attention within our congregation and helped us navigate change BEFORE it became problematic."

**The initial workshop will take place in January 2010.
Video conferencing may be available for a group not able to travel.**

See REQUIREMENTS for PARTICIPANTS and Application

***Planning for Growth
Northern New England District 2010-2013***

REQUIREMENTS for PARTICIPANTS

1. Growth is a stated goal of the congregation and some effort has been made to grow
2. Three lay leaders and the minister agree to be the participating team
3. Three year commitment to the process which includes;
 - a. the entire team participates in as many weekend trainings as possible which include Friday evening and Saturday to 3pm
 - b. follow-up support that, depending on needs and preferences of the participants, may include cluster gatherings of participants, visit(s) from consultant or mentor, phone or video conferences
4. Access of all team members to internet for communication
5. Fee of \$400 per team total
6. Pre-workshop assignments: some reading, survey, gather items to share (TBA)

**Planning for Growth
Northern New England District 2010-2013**

**Planning for Growth Application Questions
Due by November 6, 2010**

A focused process to move towards growth will be an opportunity to process a variety of issues that may surface as a result; however, a congregation for whom growth itself is a divisive issue is not ready for this process. Tell us something about your congregation that helps us understand that your congregation is in agreement to make efforts to grow. (If you are not sure, or do not have a clear way to indicate this readiness, please consider asking for a congregational vote that states the congregational desire to grow.)

What have you attempted in the recent past to help your congregation grow, and what have been the results?

Who are the three lay leaders plus the minister who have agreed to participate? Please include current role in the congregation. Are these individuals free to reduce other congregational responsibilities in order to do this work?

Participant email addresses and phone numbers

The membership role of your congregation is up to date at the time of this application.

Yes No Current number _____

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