

Report of the St Lawrence Foundation for Theological Education

The mission of the St. Lawrence Foundation for Theological Education is to support education on the graduate level for students preparing for the Unitarian Universalist ministry and for other religious vocations recognized by the Unitarian Universalist Association. The Foundation came into being following the close of the St Lawrence Divinity School and we strive to keep our Universalist educational heritage alive.

This year (2012-13) the Foundation provided scholarships for students attending both of our Unitarian Universalist theological schools: Starr King School for the Ministry and Meadville Lombard Theological School. We established the St Lawrence Scholar at both schools, a student receiving at least \$5000 in scholarship aid. We also funded Unitarian Universalist students at the Andover Newton Theological School, where there is a St Lawrence scholar, and the Illif School, as well as courses specific to Unitarian Universalism and at Illif, a UU advisor for the students. We hold an annual essay contest and award prizes to the top essays by UU theological students.

At our board meeting in May of 2012 we made some significant policy decisions. First, because the cost of seminary is so high and so many of our ministers have significant debt, we decided that we will use our funds exclusively for student scholarships and student support services. We will no longer fund academic courses. Secondly, we decided to broaden our reach to include more of the theological schools serving UU students. To that end we determined that we would send our grant RFP to the five theological schools in the country with the highest populations of UU students.

We continue to fund the St Lawrence Internship. This program has two goals: to fund a parish internship in a small to small-midsized congregation in New York State otherwise unable to fund an intern; to keep alive the Universalist heritage of the St. Lawrence Divinity School. For next year we have already committed funds for such an internship.

Further questions about the St Lawrence Foundation for Theological Education can be addressed to the Reverend Linda Anderson, revlin23@gmail.com or 845 706-7944.

We thank you for the opportunity to tell you about our activities.

Respectfully submitted
Reverend Linda Anderson, President
St Lawrence Foundation