

NYSCU Grant Progress Report 2026

DEADLINE: This report of a 2026 grant received from the New York State Convention of Universalists in is due to Tom Hackett, Clerk ON OR BEFORE SEPTEMBER 30, 2026. Please use the form below to submit your report.

If there is a visual component to the program, please send a photo or two (labeled, please) or other appropriate visual. If there is an audio or video component, please include as well using the form upload below.

CONTACT: If your project is not yet underway or is just beginning, you may defer your report until 2027. Please inform the Clerk at NYSCUTom@gmail.com.

Email *

pegmcgsherman@gmail.com

Organization Name *

New York Unitarian Universalist Justice

Name of respondent *

Peggy Sherman

Phone number of respondent *

518-669-3278

Purpose of Grant *

The purpose of this 2025 initiative is to develop robust Issue Teams that will deepen engagement and strengthen UU justice work across New York State. With the guidance and support of our Program Manager, Rev, Ashley DeTar Birt, this initiative will create sustainable structures for UUs statewide to participate in justice work while developing leadership capacity that benefits both NYUUJ and local congregations.

Amount of Grant *

\$6,000

How was the money spent? *

So far, the money primarily supports the time spent on this initiative by our Program Manager. The project budget also will support the cost of needed software for collaboration as well as Program Manager travel.

By your best estimate, how many people were/are being reached/served? *

About 50 UUs have signed up for issue teams. Through their work on issues, we hope to inspire and engage more of the approximately 7,000 UUs in 60 New York congregations.

How well have the *goals* of the program/project been met, and how has this determination been made? *

We are gradually realizing the potential of Issue Teams. The advocacy work of UU leaders and volunteers for Medical Aid in Dying legislation, in collaboration with the Compassion and Choices organization, is an example of what we can accomplish together. During the legislative session, UUs were a regular presence at weekly actions in the State Capitol. UU volunteers organized a special day of advocacy on March 25 that drew more than 30 participants from the congregations in Saratoga, Canton, Albany, Schenectady and elsewhere for demonstration, singing and engaging lawmakers in the halls of the Capitol.

Subsequently the Assembly passed the MAID legislation in April, and the Senate passed it in June. It awaits the Governor's signature to become law. NYUJJ is now inviting UUs to Albany on Friday November 14, the day before our second statewide Justice Convocation, to call on the Governor to approve the bill.

Our UU minister leader of the Housing Issue Team took an active role with her local housing coalition in the Bronx and joined the Housing Justice for All organization at its Advocacy Day in Albany in March. She also shared information about NYUJJ and its work at an event organized by First Unitarian in Brooklyn.

Members of our Criminal Justice and Climate Justice Issue Teams also wrote letters, signed petitions and showed up in Albany. We continue to work to identify leaders for these Issue Teams.

What *concerns* developed in the course of the program/project? *

We see the positive impact of strong volunteer leaders, and we will continue to work to identify and develop volunteer leaders who will facilitate the work of the Issue Teams.

We also recognize that the NYUJJ list of issue priorities cannot be static, but must change to reflect the changes in the world around us. Our second annual Justice Convocation is titled "From Revival to Resistance" and will consider the work that UUs are doing and planning to protect democracy, as well as how to build on the work that many congregations accomplished in their "Climate Revivals" last year.

Project Completion Info

Is the project fully complete? *

☐ Yes

☒ No

IF THE PROJECT IS COMPLETE, what are the implications for the future?

IF THE PROJECT IS NOT COMPLETE, when will it be completed and evaluated, and by whom?

During the next year, NYUUJ will work to develop additional Issue Team leaders, encourage broad participation, and evaluate whether new Issue Teams should be launched.

Upload Photo of Project or Other Supporting Document

UUs at the Capit...

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