

Connecting with Congregations

New England Regional Advisory Council

Have you ever wondered how to influence the UUA system, short of being elected president? Have you thought about what your neighboring UU congregation is thinking? Which congregations have the same interests as yours or are dealing with similar issues? The answer to these and other questions are being addressed through the Regional Advisory Council. In addition to gathering and sharing information horizontally with regional staff and other congregations, it will be shared vertically because two members of the regional advisory council will serve on the National Advisory Council, which reports to the UUA Board of Trustees.

The New England Regional Advisory Council is comprised of lay leaders from throughout New England who volunteer to take the emotional temperature and assess the UUA body politic in New England. They make monthly calls to congregations throughout the region to ask a series of questions like, What's working well? Where do you need help? What do we need to know about your congregational experience? Answers to these questions and others, over time, will provide us with the ability to connect the dots across congregations, conditions and concerns.

Regional Advisory Council members will reflect diverse socio-demographic sectors in the region. They serve a one-year renewable term. Council members call congregations from throughout the region and meet monthly to share their experience. This information is shared with field staff as well as the UUA Board through the National Advisory Council. This body is able to bring the opinions and experiences of congregations across the region to the attention of senior UUA leaders.

Regional Advisory Council members devote approximately five hours per month listening deeply, recording faithfully and reporting timely the joys and concerns of congregations throughout New England. We are also seeking to honor the voices of marginalized communities within the faith to meet the need for authentic geographic and demographic inclusion. If you are a leader of color and interested in joining the regional advisory council, we would love to hear from you. If you would like to know more about this exciting, new development, contact the New England Regional Lead, Woullard Lett, at wlett@uua.org.

Current New England Advisory Council:

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