



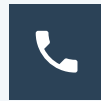
# Annual Report FY23 2022-23



[uumassaction.org](https://uumassaction.org)



P.O. Box 300159, 655 Centre Street, Boston  
MA 02130



401-216-9589



[info@uumassaction.org](mailto:info@uumassaction.org)



[facebook.com/uumassaction.org](https://facebook.com/uumassaction.org)



[@UUMassAction](https://twitter.com/UUMassAction)



# YEAR IN REVIEW

Hello fellow fighters of oppression, organizers, people of faith and justice! It has been a year full of exciting change and growth. Our climate team went to the State House day after day with signs, umbrellas, songs, and a commitment to pass a climate bill last session. Many new congregations have joined our Youth Corps. We have canvassed for Yes on 4, the Fair Share amendment, winning them both and celebrating with cake and in-person gatherings. We are looking forward to continuing to build spiritual spaces of grounding with Justice Church and creating a new format for this year's Advocacy Day. This year has given me hope in the face of so much injustice and destruction. This is a hope that I plan to grow and seed as the work of UU Mass Action continues and grows.



In Solidarity,

Rev Jo Murphy

# WHO WE ARE



**Rev. Jo Murphy**

Executive Director



**Claire Karl B.W. Müller**

Movement Building Director



**Cassandra Bensahih**

Senior Organizer & MASC  
Statewide Coordinator



**Tali Smookler**

Congregational Organizing  
Director



**Eust Eustis**

Administrator

## MISSION AND VISION

**Vision:** A world where all people are honored and valued.

**Mission:** Our mission is to organize and mobilize UUs in Massachusetts to confront oppression. We provide pathways towards justice and identify opportunities in which we can live our shared values. All our work is grounded in racial justice and we both build relationships with, and center the leadership of those who are most impacted by forms of oppression and injustice.

# CAMPAIGN UPDATES

## Climate & Environmental Justice

As part of Mass Power Forward, the state-wide coalition, UU Mass Action continues to be in solidarity with frontline environmental justice organizations calling for important policies for clean air, just transition to renewable energy, and the equitable decarbonization of our buildings. This past year, our UU Climate Leader team launched a new UU monthly gathering to educate and mobilize UUs across the state for climate justice. As part of our work this year, we rallied daily at the State House last July to help pass a climate bill, gathered hundreds of petitions and strengthened our base.

## Decarceration

As our prisons continue to be places of injustice and violence, we have committed to working towards a dream of abolition, while also working to end solitary confinement. This year we worked alongside Prisoner Legal Services to draft a policy we now support. The policy focuses on Rehabilitation, Re-Entry, and Human Rights, as well as out of cell time, which would in effect end Solitary Confinement. We have been excited to grow our connections with Families For Justice as Healing as we collaborate on their campaign for No New Women’s Prison and their other decarceration efforts.

## Indigenous justice

As part of the MA Indigenous Legislative Agenda coalition, UU Mass Action works in partnership with the North American Indian Center of Boston and United American Indians of New England for five critical policies such as establishing Indigenous Peoples Day state-wide and teaching Native curriculum in our public schools. This past year our Indigenous Justice Solidarity team met monthly to take action gathering endorsements, writing decision-makers and showing up to Indigenous led events. We’re proud to say we have turned out to hearings and action and written countless letters- making progress!



# CAMPAIGN UPDATES

## Economic and Housing Justice

This past year, we continued to build our relationship with Housing Justice groups as a central part of our economic justice work, primarily through partnership with Homes for All MA and City Life/Vida Urbana. We supported organizing the powerful Rent Control action on June 1, followed by an exploratory conversation with UUs interested in deepening our housing justice work. We invited our housing justice partners to speak at a congregation that we've been engaging in our housing justice work. Excitingly, housing justice was one of the priorities of our Youth Corps, and we worked with these partners during the year to bring them in as guest speakers for our youth.

## Immigration Justice

This past year, we launched our UU Immigrant Justice Team, which hosts monthly meetings to connect UUs across congregations. This group hosted over 50 people for our Campaign Kick off at the start of session this winter, and has gathered monthly throughout the year to organize UUs to take action in support of the policies; Driver's License/Yes on 4, No Cost Calls, and Ending ICE agreements. We bring in guest speakers from our partners at Boston Immigrant Justice and Accompaniment Network and others to share opportunities and resources around accompaniment opportunities.

## Youth Corps

This year we launched our newest program, the UU Youth Corps! The program is for UU high schoolers who are passionate about social justice. Last year, we engaged 30+ youth from three congregations, developing the leadership of six of those youth through regular events, trainings, and actions. We built new partnerships with youth-led organizations, such as I Have a Future. The culmination of our work together was a youth-led meeting with their legislators to talk about Youth Jobs and Housing Justice. As one youth said of the program, "Joining the Youth Corps is easily one of the best decisions I've made all year. I've learned so much about how to be an effective activist."



# COMMUNITY ACTIONS AND GATHERINGS

## Advocacy Day and Actions

We hosted our 18th annual Advocacy Day, engaging over 110 UUs to join for our community programming, organized over 20 legislative meetings, and supported dozens of others calling and emailing their legislators in support of our priority policies. In addition to Advocacy Day, we organize other critical actions such as our now annual Valentine's Day of action when we call upon our legislators to take 'heart' and push our bills forward.

## Action Hour

We continued to host our monthly Action Hours, with over 75 unique registrations over the course of our 11 Action Hours this past year, with countless others taking these actions on their own time using the premade guide. This gathering is an opportunity to hear updates about all our campaigns and take action together in support of our frontline-led partner campaigns across all our issues.

## Justice Church

This year we launched our new monthly offering, UU Justice Church, a virtual service for UUs who care about justice to come together to reground spiritually, connect, and build power together. In our first year of Justice Church, we had 124 UUs register for our six Justice Church offerings, and covered topics such as Solidarity, Power, Indigenous Justice, Trans liberation, and more. This is one of the best ways to learn what we are up to, meet other leaders in your area, and find spiritual nourishment together as we live out our values and work towards liberation.

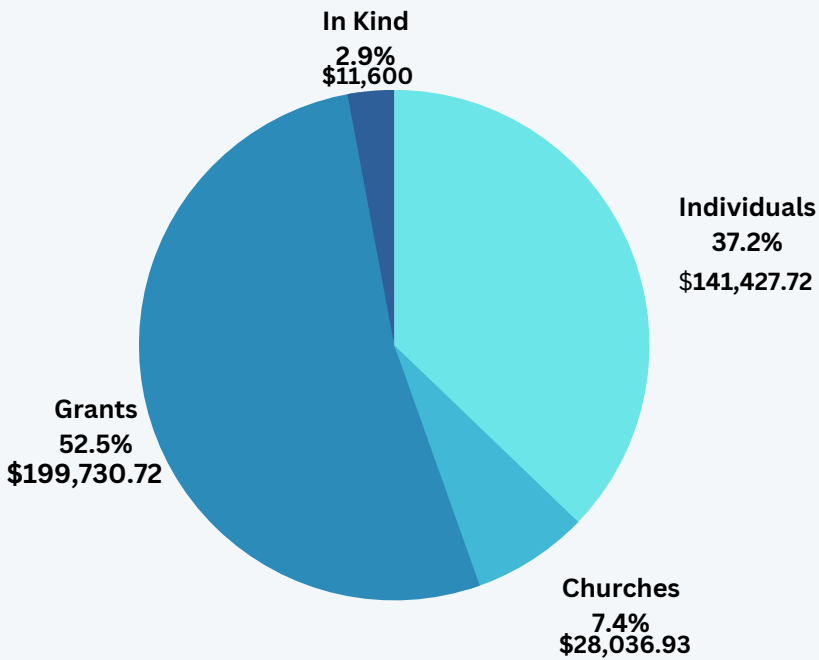




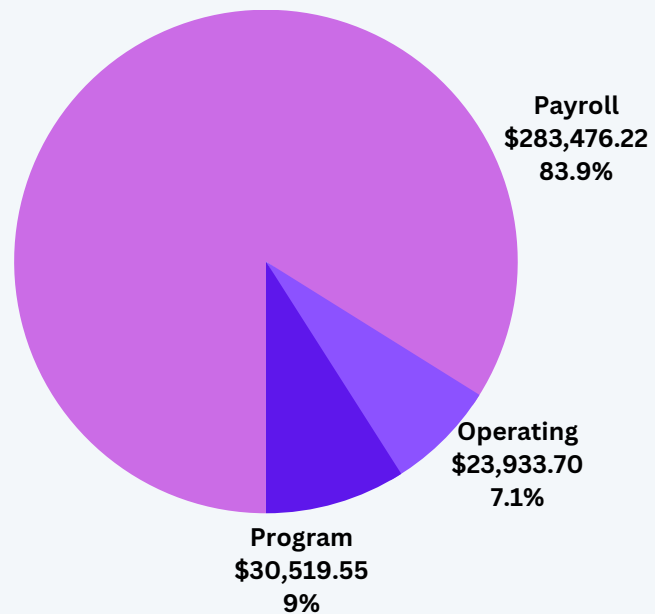
# FINANCIALS

We could not do what we do without the generous support of individual donors, congregations, and our foundation partners. Below you can see the breakdown of our Revenue and Expenses for FY23.

## REVENUE



## EXPENSES



# MAJOR GRANTS

Unlock the Box Campaign: \$50,000  
Ben & Jerry's Foundation: \$30,000  
Community Action Works: \$25,000  
Episcopal City Mission: \$20,000  
Unitarian Universalist Funding Program: \$18,000  
UU Association of Congregations: \$13,000  
UU College of Social Justice: \$5,500  
Wild Geese Foundation: \$5,000  
Spinney Mudge Foundation: \$2,000  
Winchester Unitarian Society: \$1,000

## CONGREGATIONAL PARTNERS

This year we launched our Congregational Partnership Covenant Program. This program is an opportunity to formalize and deepen our relationship with congregations. We thank our Congregational Partners from this year!

UU Society of Martha's Vineyard  
First Parish Watertown  
First Parish UU of Arlington  
Northshore Unitarian Universalist (Danvers)  
North Parish of North Andover, UU

In addition to our official partner congregations, we also thank the 34 other congregations who supported UU Mass Action with a financial gift this year.





**Thank  
You!**



[uumassaction.org](http://uumassaction.org)



P.O. Box 300159, 655 Centre Street, Boston  
MA 02130



401-216-9589



[info@uumassaction.org](mailto:info@uumassaction.org)



[facebook.com/uumassaction.org](https://facebook.com/uumassaction.org)



[@UUMassAction](https://twitter.com/UUMassAction)