

Development Committee Report to the UUSJ Board of Directors
March 20, 2021

Members: David Strauss, At Large, Gary Magnuson, UUC Frederick, Peter Bishop, Washington Ethical Society, Bob McCarthy, Fairfax UUC, Eleanor Piez, Mt. Vernon UUC, and Dean Wanderer, Accotink UUC.

Ex Officio members: Pablo DeJesús, Executive Director and Bob Denniston, Board Chair

Charge: The group was formed in May 2018 to help stabilize and grow UUSJ's financial base as we advance our commitment to advocate for the issues arising from the principles and values of our UU faith.

Update on 20th Anniversary Celebration

The Development Committee is proud to report that the final tally for tickets and contributions to the December 12 event reached \$14,500. After subtracting expenses of about \$1,700 the net gain from the 20th Anniversary event was \$12,800. This represents the most successful fundraiser that the DC has led since its inception. Thanks to all the 300+ people who attended the event and to the six congregations that purchased sponsorships.

This quarter

The committee worked with Pablo to develop the next steps in the development schedule. The Spring membership drive will begin in early April and will have a focus on encouraging members and donors to convert from one-time or occasional donations to a monthly cycle of giving. While UUSJ already has such members and donors, we believe that dramatically increasing those that use that method will increase the financial base and stability of our organization.

In addition, work is ongoing in the grants subcommittee to develop a strong, short list of potential grant making organizations with which our goals and activities might fit. The Action Teams will be asked to contribute ideas for programs that can be funded by a grantor, which means activities other than direct lobbying.

Additionally, work is beginning on the bi-annual awards gala. This is going to be a virtual event and will look different from previous galas in several ways. It will be held in early October 2021 and will feature at least one national level speaker. The DC is filling subcommittees to manage the awards criteria and the mechanics of the event. WE WELCOME VOLUNTEERS TO ASSIST US IN THESE EFFORTS!