



# A Chalice Lighter Call For Two Florida District Unitarian Universalist Congregations

## Friendship Fellowship at Pineda, Unitarian Universalist

Furnishings for New Meeting House

## Unitarian Universalist Church of Tampa

Fulfilling the Master Plan ~ New Religious Education Center



### Mission of Florida District Chalice Lighters

*To support and encourage the excellence and growth  
of Unitarian Universalism in the Florida District  
by providing resources to new and existing congregations  
through the distribution of Chalice Lighter grant funds.*

From time to time, the Florida District issues a Chalice Lighter "call" seeking contributions to expand and strengthen Unitarian Universalism in the District. These requests are to help individual congregations achieve a significant step in their growth - typically to provide assistance with a new building, hiring professional religious staff for the first time, to form a new congregation, or to supplement creative growth projects.

We are pleased to send out this call to benefit two of our congregations:

**1. The Friendship Fellowship at Pineda** is located in Rockledge on the east coast of central Florida. In 2008, the just over 100-member congregation began and completed construction of its first dedicated meeting house and worship center. Like other Florida congregations of late, this project was entirely self-financed through the creation of a limited liability corporation (LLC). This means the congregation really believes in itself!

Prior to the construction of "Friendship Hall," the congregation met in a double-wide trailer and a small house. After the hurricanes of 2004 and 2005, the membership decided it needed more weather-worthy and spirit-worthy meeting facilities.

Today, a new, very attractive building now rests on a hill overlooking the Indian River, north of Melbourne. Readily visible from US Route 1 and adjacent to the Suntree community, the congregation's prospects for growth are good. The building, dedicated just last summer is already well-used and attracting those who otherwise had not known of the congregation's presence.

Like many families moving into their first home, there are some essentials that have not yet been obtained, even as the membership stretches to make new mortgage payments. The national recession, of course, has not helped. And then there were those surprise costs counties tend to inflict on congregations these days.

So, the congregation turns to its friends and neighbors in the Florida District. Would you be able, willing to make a modest gift of \$25 to help the congregation move more comfortably into its new home ~ allowing them to complete window treatments, the sound system, building a proper stage, and acquiring a new sign to identify Unitarian Universalist Friendship Hall?



Ably led and energetic, Friendship Fellowship is worth investing in. Won't you please help? Help the light shine more brightly on our east coast!



Insofar as it has been some time since we last issued a Chalice Lighter call (over a year ago!), we also come to you in this call with a simultaneous second appeal,

**2. The Unitarian Universalist Church of Tampa** is in one of the strongest communities of all Florida, well-situated on the east side of the Bay, close to the University of South Florida. After a setback subsequent to the death of a previous minister, the congregation has now settled into a vibrant and renewed ministry with The Reverend Sara Zimmerman. Attendance is up! New guests arrive regularly! Ah, but there is a problem: inadequate space to grow a religious education program for families and adults.

With Reverend Zimmerman's inspiration, the congregation has returned toward an unrealized dream to address this challenge. Eager now to become a leading "center for liberal religious education for people of all ages" in the Tampa Bay, they ask for support from Florida Unitarian Universalists to help them build.

A consultant has helped them assess their capacity and has encouraged them to complete a 2000 master plan. The congregation has enthusiastically committed to this project, eager to build appropriate facilities for their children and growing membership.

At just over 125 members, this is an ambitious project for the membership. Thus far, they've committed in excess of \$325,000 and invite others to "Join in the Journey." Your response to this Chalice Lighter Call may be just the thing that helps them move yet another step closer to fulfilling the dream.

We enter the season of giving. Please do what you can to assist UUC Tampa! You will make a difference.

Long ago, John Murray, founder of American Universalism, challenged religious leaders with these words. Let us follow their admonition and return the form below by year's end.



*You possess only a small light, but uncover it, let it shine,  
use it in order to bring more light and understanding  
to the hearts and minds of men and women.  
Give them, not hell, but hope and courage.  
— John Murray (1741-1815)*

With thanks and heartfelt appreciation for all your gifts of time, talent, and treasure.

The Reverend Kenneth Gordon Hurto  
District Executive

**Thank you for your donation.**

Florida District Unitarian Universalist Association is a 501(c)(3) organization.  
Chalice Lighter donations are tax deductible.

Please help us update our Chalice Lighter mailing list by including  
your current email address, snail mail address and congregation.

Florida District CHALICE LIGHTERS Gift ~ December 2009					
<b>Name</b>					
<b>Address, City, ZIP</b>					
<b>E-mail</b>					
<b>This gift:</b>	\$25 each (recommended)	\$20	\$15	\$10	<b>Other:</b>
<b>Your Congregation:</b>					
<b>This gift is intended for:</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Friendship Fellowship at Pineda		<input type="checkbox"/> Unitarian Universalist Church of Tampa		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Both, equally. Total: \$ _____				
<b>Please make gifts to: "Florida District UUA," memo line "Chalice Lighters"</b>	Remit your gift to: <div style="text-align: right; margin-top: 10px;">                         Florida District UUA                          Attn: Chalice Lighters                          1901 E. Robinson Street, Suite 18                          Orlando, Florida 32803                     </div> Need additional information? <a href="mailto:FloridaDistrictUUA@cfl.rr.com">FloridaDistrictUUA@cfl.rr.com</a> or 407-894-2119				
<b>On-Line Donations at:</b>	<a href="http://www.floridadistrict.org/?page_id=429">http://www.floridadistrict.org/?page_id=429</a>				
<input type="checkbox"/> Thanks, but please remove me from future Chalice Lighter requests.					