

Do you have a good idea to make our community better? We'd like to hear from you!



We invite you to send us ideas, proposals, and plans for programs that address concerns about local children, youth, or other environmental and social justice needs in this community.

The Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Petoskey (UUCoP) is a welcoming liberal religious community that holds values of equity and justice centered in love. We have been in the Petoskey area and the Northland for over 40 years. Our goal is to take meaningful community actions that improve and enrich the lives of people hereabouts. We are hoping you can lead us in such a program! Despite the political chaos around us, we wish to support small programs of good purpose. We are committed to demonstrating [Unitarian Universalist values](https://www.uua.org/beliefs/shared-values)¹ (UU) in our community regardless of faith.

Initially we are seeking projects on a 1-year timeline, with the potential for projects to develop into something longer term. Any project should be consistent with the UU values linked above and help bring those values to life in our community. We offer three suggested topics below but will consider other ideas. The members of our congregation wish to be involved in some meaningful way in the project, perhaps working shoulder to shoulder with project participants. We are interested in meaningful engagement, not charity. Successful applicants will represent our congregation in the community.

1. **By August 1** - Send us approximately two pages with enough detail to demonstrate a clear idea and brief plan to implement the idea. No format required; if we can understand it, it's great. Your proposal should show clear goals and steps to create community impact. We will be looking for how UUCoP members can be supportive and how the proposal reflects UU values.
2. **By September 15** - We will review every proposal and select the best three. After an interview with each of the three leaders, we will offer a stipend of \$500.00 to develop a more complete proposal that includes a one-year timeline and a budget.
3. **By October 15** - If we approve the project proposal, we can negotiate support and funding in the range of \$3-5K to lead and actively implement the proposed project. We expect the project to start the Fall of 2026.

¹ <https://www.uua.org/beliefs/shared-values>

Please consider these areas for your proposal.

Children and families

What are the needs of children, families with children and youth in our community? What can a values-driven organization like UUCoP do to serve that sector of our community? We have no interest in duplicating services already provided by organizations or agencies that have more resources. But are there gaps in those services or ways those services could be made more accessible, or other needs that are simply not being met? How would you propose to address those needs?

Youth

Is there a space for youth in our community that a welcoming, open-minded values-driven faith community could fill? One example would be to start a local chapter of [Navigators USA](#), an alternative, non-denominational scouting experience, or similar organization, perhaps in collaboration with other organizations or faith communities. How would you propose organizing a youth-oriented group in our community? Or do you have an idea for another project that would fill a need for youth in our community?

Community

Most in our liberal religious community feel that we are living in troubled times. In the model proposed by Joanna Macy and Chris Johnstone in “Active Hope,” we are experiencing a “Great Unraveling” of economic and social systems and the environment in which they are embedded. While the mainstream powers-that-be want to continue with “Business as Usual” assuming all will be fine, many of us are looking toward the “Great Turning” to create a better world and a better way.

How would you propose we engage our community in conversations and actions about what we want our community to become, what we need to put in place to create a world guided by UU values so we can all live together in a better way? Can we build a space where we can grow mutual dialogue, understanding and action together. How would you identify the first small steps toward building that better world?

We are looking for leaders and innovators. Are there areas you have thought of and we haven't?

Send your initial proposal to petoskeyunitarians@gmail.com or to PO Box 873, Petoskey, MI 49770, by **August 1, 2026**. We will review all proposals received by that date.