

What You Need to Know about COMT's, Staff & You!

January 2024 with Rev. Kathleen Rolenz and Rev. KP Hong

The Community Outreach Ministry Teams were created to further the ministry of Unity Church in service to the larger community. *The purpose of this Q & A is to answer some questions that have arisen since Fall 2023 about budget, honoraria, policy, procedures, etc.*

When is our next COMT Application due?

All COMT applications for new and/or continuing COMT's are due by September 1, 2024. The application form can be found [here](#).

Can my COMT be the recipient of a Sunday Morning offering? If so, when?

At the last COMT Summit, the Executive Team proposed and implemented the idea that all COMT's were eligible to receive a yearly offering. These monies would go to the COMT to sustain their work, to purchase supplies, to pay for guest speakers at programs and/or to be used in whatever way they decide to support their programs. Below is a proposed schedule for COMT offerings.

January – June 2024 (Please email kathleen@unityunitarian.org w/date changes)

January	No COMT's scheduled
February	Feb. 25 – Racial and Restorative Justice
March	March 23 – Mano a Mano (TBD)
April	April 7 – Act for the Earth (TBD)
May	May 12 – Partner Church (TBD)
June	June 2 – Gun Violence Prevention Team
July	TBD

COMT'S NOT YET SCHEDULED FOR GENEROSITY MINISTRY OFFERING:

Evergreen Projects | JJ Hill-Obama School

How much does my COMT currently have to spend? (Current funds available)

\$4,790.28	Act for the Earth
\$ 567.56	Mano a Mano (doesn't include regifting sale on 01/14/24)
\$ 810.09	Indigenous Justice
\$ 993.41	JJ Hill/ Obama School
\$1,259.14	Gun Violence Prevention Ministry Team
\$2,545.71	Evergreen
\$20,222.27	Partner Church
\$ 2,221.31	Housing Justice
\$ 755.55	Racial Restorative Justice

Our COMT wants to pay a speaker to present a program at Wellspring Wednesday.

We strongly encourage you to use the funds you have available to you. A standard honorarium for a speaker's fee is \$200.00. Please submit a check request a week before your program.

What is the best way to ensure a room in the building for my COMT?

Heidi Birkholz is now handling schedules for COMT events that happen IN the church. CC your space needs to Heidi (heidi@unityunitarian.org) and to your Ministerial Liaison. Please be aware that scheduling at Unity church is complex! The more advance notice you give the staff, the more likely we can accommodate your event/request.

Our COMT would like to meet in between services on Sunday AM, or on Wellspring Wednesdays.

Space is at a premium on Sunday AM's, particularly between services. Generally, we cannot schedule COMT meetings between the 10:15 – 11:15 church hour. Meetings AFTER the 2nd service during the church year are not a problem. Re: Wellspring Wednesdays: Generally, we try not to schedule meetings during Wellspring Wednesdays.

Our COMT would like to meet on-line.

Please contact Heidi Birkholtz (heidi@unityunitarian.org) in advance of your meeting. She will give you a zoom link, and an access key that will enable you to have full sharing options. If you are unsure or have any questions, set up a time to meet with Heidi for a brief training on how to navigate your meeting on-line.

Our COMT wants to publicize an event.

Send your information to Martha Tilton (martha@unityunitarian.org) and be sure to cc your ministerial liaison, Revs. KP or Rev. Kathleen. For all newsletter items, the deadline is the 15th of each month. Martha often receives communication from community partners; i.e, MUUSJA, UU Social Justice; Side with Love campaigns, etc. Will forward those to ministerial liaisons as appropriate.

Our COMT would like to be able to represent Unity Church Unitarian in the public sphere.

This is an important question – not only for our Community Outreach Ministry Teams, but for many programs and initiatives in the church that feel called to witness in the larger community. To guide our deliberations, the Executive Team has consulted with both the UUA, the Office in Washington, our own Governance Policies and the IRS limitations on non-profit organizations. [The attached document](#) is our current policy and best practices on how the church can respond to the political demands of our time.

We used to have a dedicated staff member to oversee the COMT's. What's the plan?

We have not budgeted for a dedicated staff member to oversee the COMT's in the 2024 budget year. However, the newly re-designed Membership Coordinator/Programs Assistant portfolio (as of yet unfilled) has responsibility for some administrative oversight of the COMT's. Until June 2024, the COMT ministerial liaisons are as follows: Rev. KP Hong's COMT: Act for the Earth, Evergreen Projects, JJ Hill-Obama School, Racial and Restorative Justice, Mano a Mano | Rev. Kathleen Rolenz COMT: Gun Violence Prevention Team, Housing Justice, Indigenous Justice, Partner Church

Thank you for your ministry of service, advocacy and justice!