



August 30, 2010

Dear Chalice Lighter,

At the 2010 PNWD District Assembly in Bellevue, we told you that there would be some changes in the Chalice Lighter program. Here is a summary of two immediate changes that will affect you.

Modest increase in minimum pledge

For over 20 years, we have asked for a minimum pledge of \$10 for each call. Inflation over the years means that it would take \$16.70 today to obtain the buying power of those 1990 dollars. Starting with the next call, we will ask for a minimum pledge of \$15. We know that many Chalice Lighters now give far more than that to each call.

Contribution to administrative costs

We have always used 100% of your contributions for the grants to congregations, with the PNWD general fund covering all administrative costs. Those costs now exceed \$6,700 a year, plus the contribution of staff time. At a time when the district's budget is increasingly squeezed, it's appropriate that the Chalice Lighter program cover some of its costs, rather than impacting district support for other important congregational services. Starting with the next call, 10 per cent from call receipts – but never more than \$2,500 – will be retained by the district to help offset direct costs. We will continue our efforts to keep costs down by increasing use of modern technology and volunteers, but there will always be direct and indirect costs related to work that must be done in the district office.

Here are some other updates, for your information:

A big thank you for supporting three grants in 2009-2010

Thank you for making it possible for us to send \$18,450 to the Bellingham Unitarian Fellowship (WA) in July, to help with furnishings and appliances for their new kitchen and social hall. Your participation also provided \$15,156 to Quimper UU Fellowship (Port Townsend, WA) for their new "industrial strength" kitchen, along with improvements and extension of their sound system, and \$16,400 to Whidbey Island UU Fellowship (WA), to

support lighting and accessibility in parking lots and along pathways. That makes a total of over \$50,000 in grants for the 2009-2010 church year! Your continued generosity is very important to the growth of PNWD congregations.

More congregational ambassadors needed

During the coming months, we want to add to the growing list of dedicated UU's who represent the Chalice Lighter program in their congregations. As we do this, we are also adding some important items to their job descriptions so that they can better serve both the program and their congregation. To facilitate this effort, Dave Dierdorff will relinquish his coordinator duties to Susan Howlett and others in the team so that he can concentrate his efforts on enlisting and mentoring the local ambassadors (formerly called "local reps"). If you are interested in helping, email Dave at 99824uu@gmail.com.

Thank you again for your continued generosity.

The Chalice Lighter Team

Susan Howlett, Facilitator (Seattle)
Dave Dierdorff, Ambassador Mentor (Juneau)
Penny Reid, Consulting Member (Spokane)
Janine Larsen, PNWD District Executive

To find Chalice Lighter information any time, and to refer friends to the program, go to www.pnwd.org>*Connections*>*Chalice Lighters*.