



MEADVILLE LOMBARD
THEOLOGICAL SCHOOL

2020/2021 ANNUAL REPORT



2020
2021



PRESIDENT'S CORNER

For many reasons, I feel confident that Academic Year 2020/2021 will be remembered as a watershed in our school's history. It certainly was a year of great change for us at Meadville Lombard Theological School.

As I look back, what strikes me as extraordinary is not only that we accomplished more than we have thought possible in these times, but also the way MLTS staff and faculty jumped into creating new ways of doing our work in a swift, meticulous manner. Even when anxiety ran high in the world around us, we supported each other and worked together to achieve more than we could imagine. It was as if I was witnessing a group of artisans working collaboratively to weave a beautiful fabric. It fills me with such joy to be able to work among them and to be able to share their accomplishments.

At the end of the previous academic year, we responded with open-minded nimbleness and grounded thoughtfulness to switch our programs and events into virtual formats. Then Academic Year 2020/2021 propelled us even further into our future as we discovered many opportunities to push forward our mission of embodying the collaborative work of liberation.

We applied for and received grants that will enable us to continue innovating and creating new programs; our faculty's scholarship continued to be as robust as ever; our curriculum was revised for our post-pandemic multi-platform learning environment; our Library and Archives exponentially expanded into online spaces; our Fahs Collaborative's signature program, *Beloved Conversations*, was reimaged into a virtual format and more than 2,000 people participated in learning about the impact of racism on our lives to unlearn the old ways and learn new ways of being.

At the same time, we also began to envision our future in bolder colors and shapes. As new

opportunities to expand our service to ministerial education started to take shape, and after faithful deliberation with stakeholders, we adopted a new Mission and Values Statement to ground our work. We took bold steps toward realizing our longtime dream of building an institute for lifelong learning within our school that will enrich our learning community. We grabbed the chance to find a new space for our campus, one that meets our students' needs better and expands our horizons.

Ahead lie opportunities to write a new chapter in our storied history that will renew our commitment to be active agents in the creation of a world shaped by equity, inclusion, justice, liberation, and healing.

We could not have done any of these things without your steadfast support. You are our warp, the vertical threads that support the weaving, that allow us to weave weft thread through to create patterns. Thank you for being a vital part of this fabric of ministry. I am proud to share with you this year's Annual Report.

In service

Dr. Elías Ortega
President

PRESIDENT'S VIEW

Q: If you were to think about the legacy you will leave at the end of your presidency, what would you like it to be?

A: If I think about my legacy, I would love for Meadville Lombard to have been a school that is committed to our UU movement and preparing

faith leaders to serve in the Living Tradition and also other faith traditions.

We need to be able to articulate an answer to the question: how are we agents of growth and change in the movement? Not only for our institutional health, but more because it matters to the world for our values to impact and shape it. That is something that gets me really, really excited to think about. It changes the question that I ask myself continually about leadership and where we are going. If I think about who's going to be in our next class of students, I get a particular answer versus thinking about who will be the faith leaders who will one day occupy our current roles as faculty members, teachers, staff, UUA leadership.

The folks who will occupy our spots in the future are in middle school right now, possibly elementary school. How do we start shaping conversations based not only on today, or next year, but around the long-term question: what do we need to be investing in now? If our investment in our current students is really an investment in the students who are coming 10 or more years down the road, what does that mean?

The questions shift dramatically when I start thinking about what that legacy looks like. It will take not thinking about just next year but thinking about 15-20 years down the road when folks in middle school are considering whether or not ministry is an option for their lives. How do we start capturing their imagination about engaging with a theological school and how do we, as a faith movement, engage with that younger generation not in the future but in the present day? I think if I can move that conversation forward, that will be my legacy. That will be something that I will be proud of. I would be honored to be part of that work.

BUILDING OUR FUTURE

We made many decisions that will move us deeper into our mission and forward into our future.

ON THE MOVE by Dr. Ortega

A move is a major change, whether it is for an individual, family, or institution. Accepting the invitation to serve as Meadville Lombard President meant a commitment for me and my family to move across the country. The East Coast had been the place we called home for 17 years. There, we started our family, navigated graduate school, cultivated relationships, and our lives were made richer by our religious communities. In moving to the Midwest, we said "yes" to living into our respective vocations, and to do this, we needed to commence again.

When I arrived at MLTS, I was made aware that securing a new office lease was a first-order priority. A number of options surfaced during this process: remaining in our current facilities, moving to a new location in Chicago, and considering the possibilities of partnering with another school. Each of these possibilities presented opportunities to imagine our institutional future. Whichever decision we would arrive at, it needed to support our institution's mission of preparing and inspiring religious professionals and lay leaders to live into the values of compassion, justice, and equity that are central to liberal religious traditions including Unitarian Universalism.

The Board of Trustees, faculty, and staff entered a period of discerning about the future direction of the school and what facilities may be needed for us to thrive in our next chapter. Through such conversations, we received feedback from students, alums, supporters, and friends that encouraged us to lean into our spirit of innovation as we considered our space needs.

As this process unfolded, it became clear to me that we must be bold now in our pursuit of facilities that meet our current and emerging needs, while we stay accountable to our institutional mission and good stewardship. Such considerations meant that our space needed to be flexible for our current educational and gathering needs, include a dedicated worship space, and be ADA compliant and welcoming to the multiple identities of our stakeholders. Furthermore, it needed to be a space that we could use to the maximum capacity in our future work as we create new programs and initiatives.

We have found such a space. And just as I committed myself to a move when I said "yes" to come and lead our school, the next chapter of Meadville Lombard Theological School entails our move to a new facility. Whether at its



former Hyde Park Location, the current Spertus Building location, or our future space at 180 North Wabash, Meadville Lombard will continue to be a theological school that lives out its mission guided by the values and history of Unitarian

Universalism. We look forward to this new chapter and to welcome you to our new facilities in 2022.

NEW MISSION & VALUES STATEMENTS

by Dr. Ortega

This Spring, the Board of Trustees voted to adopt new Mission and Values Statements. The Board's vote brought to a conclusion work that spanned over a year and included discernment, study, outreach, consultation, writing, and refining. We are thankful to those of you who participated in this effort — students, faculty, staff, alums, former board members, supporters, friends, and religious professionals. Your participation in this process was vital because it is these statements that will guide this beloved and resilient institution in the coming years as we plan for new programs, create a lifelong learning institute that will support curricular and co-curricular offerings, and move to a new facility.

By adopting this mission statement, we re-affirmed our commitment to be a learning community of excellence grounded in the values and perspectives of Unitarian Universalism for religious professionals and those who are inspired by liberal religious values. This grounding compels us to work for justice, let compassion guide our relations, and hold to the promise of transformative love to enable us to live into Beloved Community.

Meadville Lombard's new Mission Statement reads:

Carrying the Living Tradition of Unitarian Universalism, Meadville Lombard Theological School nurtures learners from diverse faith traditions to embody the collaborative work of liberation through congregational and community leadership.

Unitarian Universalist identity is unique in its commitment to learning from the wisdom of other faith traditions. This uniqueness inflects our learning with curiosity and calls us to act with humility. It opens for us pathways for weaving intentional connections within and across our denominational spaces, leading to new opportunities for learning, spiritual growth, and transformation. At Meadville Lombard, we will create an expanded table for conversations for our learning community, centered around a shared passion for collective liberation.

In adopting this new mission statement, we also considered it of central importance to state the values that will guide us to live boldly into our future. These values are:

- Integrating scholarly excellence in theological education
- Centering interculturality to deepen spiritual leadership formation
- Honing moral imagination, emotional intelligence, and faithful discernment
- Reshaping and reforming tradition to impel innovative ministries
- Harnessing accountability to repair historical wrongs and present injustice
- Mobilizing ethical leadership to build Beloved Community

The future this values statement envisions for Meadville Lombard is one in which we expand our curricular and co-curricular offerings to support clergy, religious professionals, and lay leaders in their pursuit of high-quality theological education. We aim to do this because we stand firm in our commitment to the life-altering potential of liberal religious values that ground our Unitarian Universalists tradition.

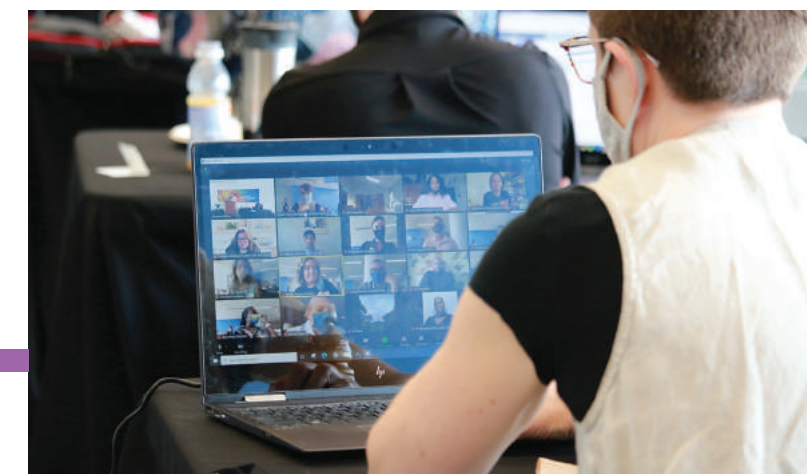
We hope that our new mission and values statements will ignite your imagination about what is possible when liberal religious traditions commit to a standard of excellence in theological education and preparing religious professionals and others to serve in their communities for the common good. We are energized to engage in the work ahead of us and hope that you will continue to partner with us in this transformative work.

LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE by Dr. Pamela Lightsey

Meadville Lombard requested funding from the Lilly Foundation Pathways for Tomorrow Initiative to implement our proposed project entitled *Sunday School as Leadership Incubators*. This is a collaborative initiative with congregations, clergy, scholars, and lay leaders. Our proposal was approved and we were awarded \$50,000, the initiative's maximum grant amount for Phase I. Through this generosity, Meadville Lombard was able to make significant progress in identifying participants, fleshing out the project's design, and began integrating the project into the school's current strategic planning discussions. This Phase I initiative will reside in what we are tentatively calling our **Leadership Institute for Healing, Justice, and Liberation**. The Institute will serve as a living, ongoing think tank for broad public use. We feel so excited about the potential of this project to grow our faith communities, help combat the current propaganda strategy (the *Big Lie*), and serve as a recruitment pipeline into our school that we are seeking additional funding from Lilly and other donors.

ATS' APPROVAL OF OUR COMPREHENSIVE DISTANT LEARNING PETITION by Dr. Lightsey

For several years now, the Intensives format has served MLTS quite well. So well, that when the pandemic required virtually all schools to move into a fully online model, we were able to make that shift with comparatively fewer challenges than many of our peer institutions accredited by the Association of Theological Schools (ATS). Looking at the future of theological education and considering what might be the best model for our school, the Leadership Team began to have discussions with faculty, Student Affairs staff, student leaders, and the Board of Trustees about a hybrid online model. Though some time is still spent on campus — students will be required to be on campus one week during the fall and spring semesters — the change we envisioned required approval from our accrediting body. On June 17, 2021, President Ortega received a letter from ATS informing him that the Board of Commissions had approved our Comprehensive Distance Learning Petition. We began this new format at the start of this academic year.



MILESTONES: FACULTY

CORE FACULTY



Dr. Mark Hicks (Angus MacLean Professor of Religious Education, and Director of the Fahs Collaborative) sponsored a reunion in commemoration of the 1921 Tulsa Race Massacre for 105 MLTS alums. He also oversaw the launch of Beloved Conversations Virtual, including the launch of Gathering Our Selves, a new curriculum to support the faith formation of UU Black, Indigenous and People of Color communities.



Dr. Mike Hogue (Professor of Theology, Ethics, and Philosophy of Religion) was honored to have the issues raised in his book, *American Immanence: Democracy for an Uncertain World* (New York: Columbia University Press, 2018), serve as subjects of a full day of discussion panels at the 2021 annual conference for the Institute for American Religious and Philosophical Thought. He participated in a year-long Wabash Symposium on Anti-racism in Theological Education.



Dr. Nicole Kirk (Associate Professor, Rev. Dr. J. Frank and Alice Schulman Chair in Unitarian Universalist History) was awarded one of the highly competitive American Academy of Religion Individual Research Grants as well as elected as the American Academy of Religion's Contingent Faculty Director.



Dr. Pamela Lightsey (Vice President of Academic and Student Affairs, Associate Professor of Constructive Theology) was selected to be a member of Chicago Mayor Lori Lightfoot's LGBTQ Advisory Council.



Dr. Elías Ortega (President, Professor of Religion, Ethics, and Leadership) presented "What Is Democracy?" at the American Academy of Religion 2020; did an interview with the author of *Cuban Literature in the Age of Black Insurrection*, Matthew Pettway for HTI (Hispanic Theological Initiative) Open Plaza; and was the speaker for the Closing Plenary at the Atla Annual 2020.

VISITING FACULTY



Dr. Elyse Ambrose (Visiting Assistant Professor of Ethical Leadership and Society and Louisville Institute Postdoctoral Fellow) received Columbia University's Center on African American Religion, Sexual Politics, and Social Justice 'The Art, Politics and Publics of Black Faith' project grant, funded by the Luce Foundation, and co-chaired Queer Studies in Religion Unit and committee member of African Diaspora Religions Unit (American Academy of Religion).



AFFILIATED FACULTY

Rev. Tandi Rogers (Affiliated Faculty) moved from Adjunct to Affiliate Faculty to take up more responsibilities with the Signature Courses framework, curriculum development and teaching. She has been working for the Unitarian Universalist Association for almost 20 years and is currently designing a nationwide initiative which includes a team of coaches supporting faithful conflict engagement in congregations.



Rev. Julie Taylor (Affiliated Faculty, and Senior Director of Contextual Ministry) was selected to do work with the Chaplaincy Innovation Lab, a partnership between Boston University School of Theology and the Wabash Center, funded by the Henry Luce Foundation.

MILESTONES: VIRTUAL EVENTS

176th Commencement

For the safety of our community, we made a hard decision to hold our Commencement virtually once again. We built on our learning from the previous year's online ceremony and offered a more streamlined, spiritually rich experience. The Honorary Degree recipients were Dr. Anthea D. Butler (LHD), Rev. Roger Bertschhausen (DD), and Pastor Ivanka Fišerová (DD). Music by several exceptional UU artists added multicultural energy and spiritual reflection. Although we wished we could have gathered in person, it was a joy nonetheless to celebrate the achievement of the graduates with them, their friends and families, and the wider MLTS community of friends, alums, and supporters.



Meadville Lombard Week

In June, before the UUA's General Assembly opened, we hosted multiple virtual events during Meadville Lombard Week. These events — an Opening Concert by Dr. Glen Thomas Rideout, Alum Annual Meeting, Mini-Lectures, Knitting Circle, Library & Archives Tour, and a Rituals of Remembrance workshop—gave us opportunities and spaces to connect and reconnect with community members near and far.



ML in the Pulpit, the worship service we offered on the last day of ML Week, has been viewed nearly 500 times on our Facebook and YouTube pages. Thirty-seven congregations nationwide shared the official recording of the service on their own channel on different Sundays at their regular worship time. We received wonderful feedback and support from those who attended the virtual service and other ML Week events.



2020/2021 FUNDRAISING STATISTICS

We received

\$1,198,184 Last year: **\$2,043,342**, including a \$800,000 bequest

from **556** donors, including **267** first-time donors.
Last year: **296** donors, including **53** first-time donors

\$834,733 (70%) Last year: **\$1,512,314** from **37** non-individual donors Last year: **27**

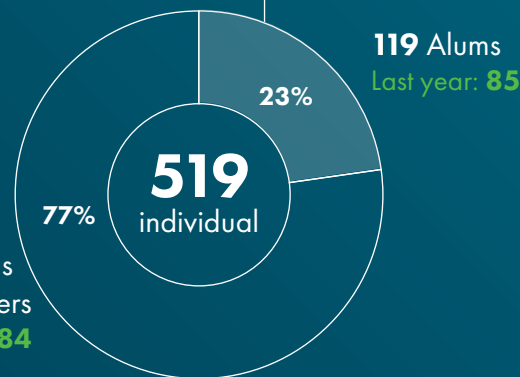
\$363,451 (30%) Last year: **\$531,029** from **519** individual donors Last year: **269**

Who were our donors:

- 13 Congregations
- 16 Foundations, Trusts, or Estates
- 8 Other Organizations

37 non-individual

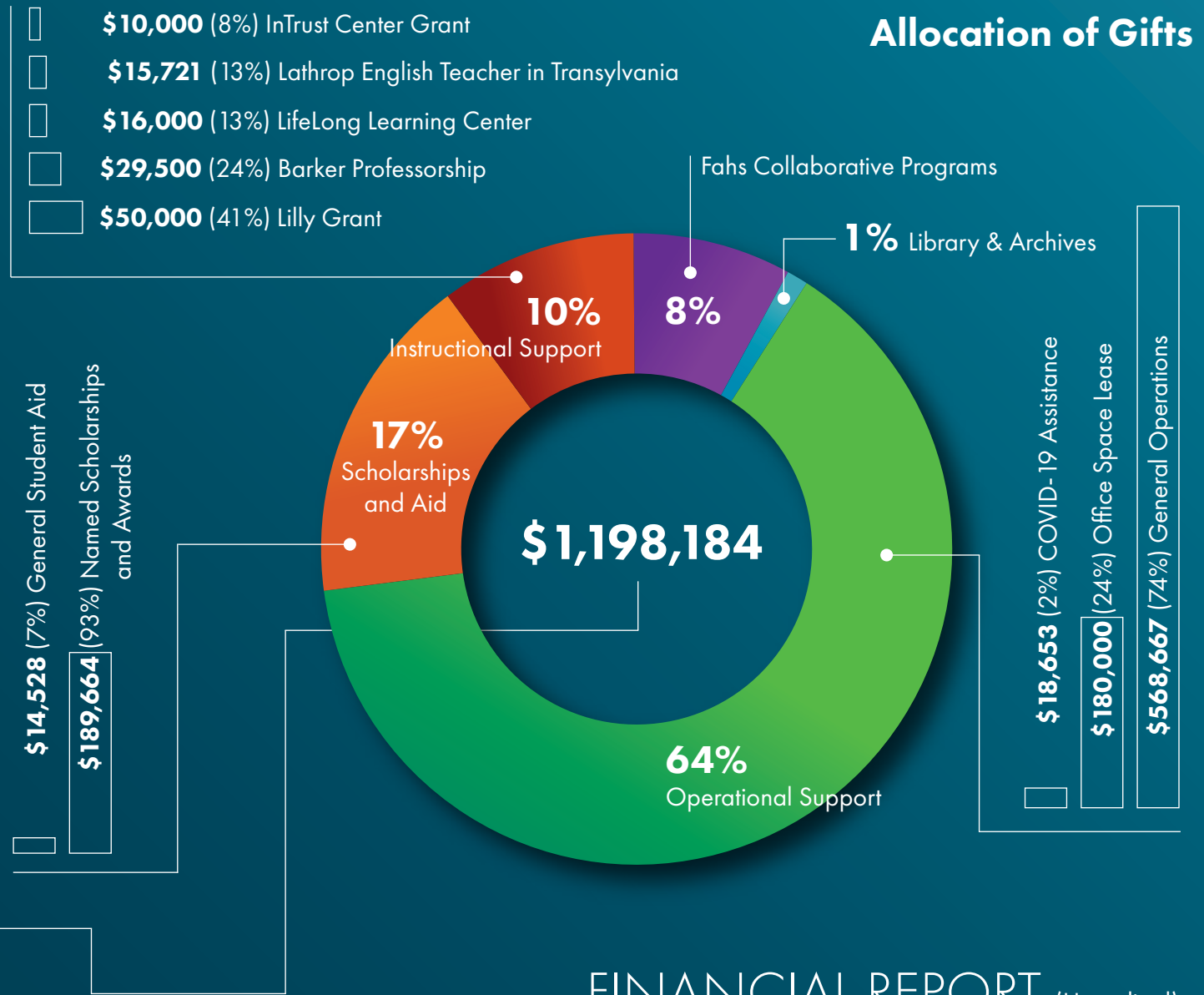
400 friends and supporters
Last year: **184**



How we received the gifts:

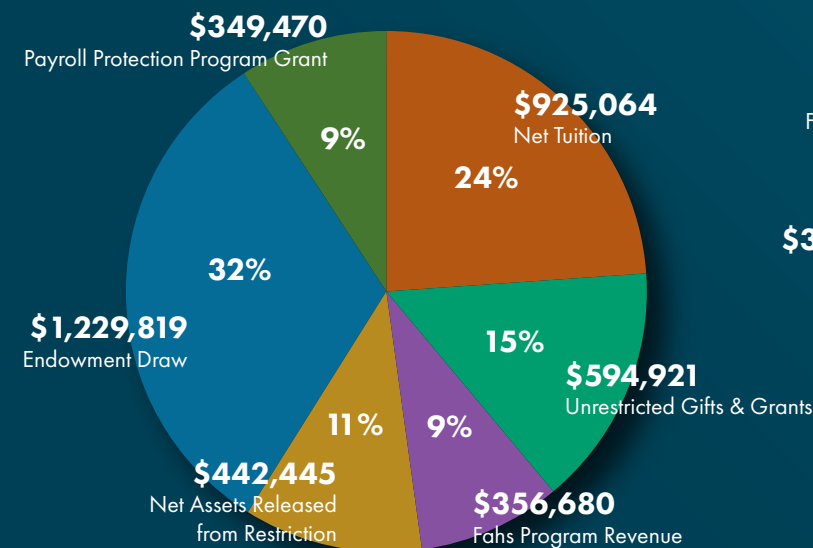


Allocation of Gifts

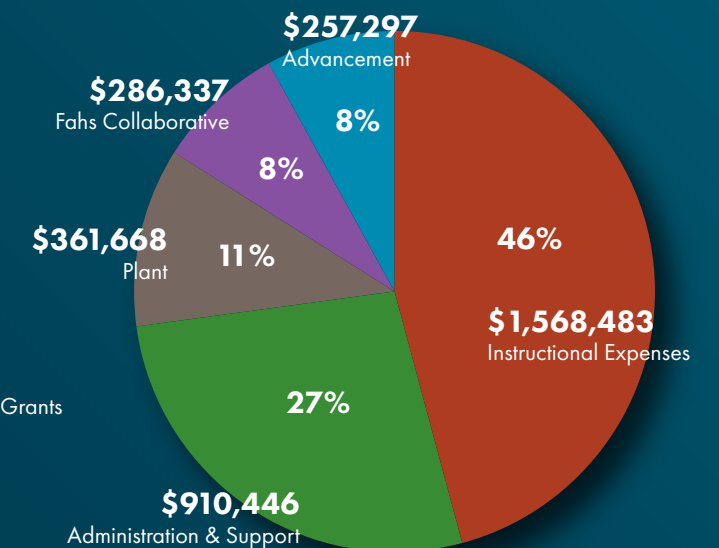


FINANCIAL REPORT (Unaudited)

Revenues: \$3,944,666



Expenses: \$3,419,431



IN MEMORIAM: Marty Atherton

Marty Atherton, DHL '11, understood the power of generosity that affirms the good labor of liberal religious ministry, empowers an institution to live boldly into its mission, and sustains the living tradition of Unitarian Universalism into the future. Marty, who transitioned from this life on October 11, 2020, and her husband Bob (d.2009) were committed to supporting the Unitarian Universalist ministry. They were also champions of Meadville Lombard Theological School and its role in preparing liberal religious leaders.

Marty's generosity was a faith commitment to nurturing excellence in UU theological education. Through the establishment of the Atherton Scholarship, she helped recipients pursue their calling in ministry. Her reach was also one that promoted ministers' education to expand



into an interculturality; her support made it possible for select international students from diverse religious traditions to attend a summer program at Meadville Lombard.

Her passion for the school motivated her to be an active agent in pursuing its sustainability. She issued a challenge grant to other Unitarian Universalists that brought over \$300,000 in new donations to Meadville Lombard. Marty's commitment to the school was evident in her transformative gifts, including her planned gift, that have assisted Meadville Lombard's facility needs from 2011-2021.

More than a generous philanthropist, Marty was a friend of Meadville Lombard. She was very much a part of our learning community, present in our classroom, events, and activities. We celebrate Marty Atherton's life of faith and generosity that transformed the school, and that, through our students and alums whom she supported, brightened the future of the Unitarian Universalist ministry.

OUR DONORS THANK YOU!

DONOR SPOTLIGHTS: Part I



Dr. Mike Hogue Faculty/Annual Donor: As a faculty member for the past 16 years (a third of my life!), I've been a part of several major transformations at Meadville—curricular, staffing and faculty, educational model, location, and leadership shifts. Through these many changes, several things stand out to me. Meadville Lombard (staff, faculty, leadership, Board, students) is always learning how to do our work better and serve our mission more fully. Our learning is collaborative—we know that we need many perspectives to learn what we need to learn to continue to change lives in a changing world. In short, to be a part of Meadville Lombard means to me that I get to be part of a cutting-edge theological community committed to active hope, continual collaborative learning, and collective liberation.

Rev. Dr. Jay Atkinson, DMin '79 Scholarship Donor/Annual Donor: My student years (1975-79) at Meadville Lombard were among the happiest and most intellectually satisfying times of my life, enriched by deep friendships that still endure. While much has changed since then, my ongoing financial support for the school is grounded in faith and hope for the school's future, as I see the quality of scholarship emerging from the faculty and the excellence and enthusiasm of recent graduates.



Rev. Ali KC Bell, MDiv '21 Recent Graduate/Monthly Donor: What ML means to me is that I know there is a place that exists where I can go to be theologically educated, spiritually nourished, academically challenged, and collegially connected. It means that I have a seminary that I can feel proud to have attended.



WE ARE SO GRATEFUL for our Fiscal Year 2020/2021 donors who made gifts to Meadville Lombard between July 1, 2020 and June 30, 2021, as well as our major donors, whose generosity continues to sustain our work. Thank you for supporting the education and training of the progressive faith leaders our world needs.

Donors with Lifetime Gifts of \$500,000 +

Martha Atherton, DHL '11
Doris A. and Lowell L. Blaisdell
Arnold Bradburd, LHD '00 and Julia Bradburd
Stanley Christianson
Spencer Lavan, LHD '97 and Susan Lavan
David Osborn, BD '52, DD '77 and Janet Osborn

Allen Hardy Sanders, LHD '03 and Betty Sanders
J. Frank Schulman, DD '06 and Alice Schulman
O. Darwin and Myra Smith
Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations
Unitarian Universalist Congregation at Shelter Rock
Marion Wertheim

The following list is based on gift amount received during 2020/2021 Fiscal Year.

\$100,000 +

Martha Atherton, DHL '11, Estate
Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations

\$50,000 – \$99,999

Jay Atkinson, DMin '79
Lilly Endowment Inc.
Unitarian Universalist Congregation at Shelter Rock

\$10,000 – \$49,999

Arnold Bradburd, LHD '00 and Julia Bradburd
William E. Churchill
John and Jacki Davidoff
Douglas Eads
Dan H. Fenn, Jr., Estate
Lois Hayward, Estate
Charles L. Hutchinson Fund
In Trust Center for Theological Schools
Lyssa Jenkins, MDiv '14 and Patricia Houck
Bruce and Barbara Mickey
St. Lawrence Foundation for Theological Education, Inc.
U.S. Treasury
Ken and Jerusha Vogel
Susan Weaver and Eric Alan Isaacson

\$5,000 – \$9,999

Annie Eaton Society
Stephen Charles
Andress Kernick and Marjorie Brooks Kernick
Charitable Remainder Trust
Brock Leach, MDiv '11 and Julie Leach
Nick Lewis and Judie Rinearson
Midwest Unitarian Universalist Conference
Makanah Morriss, ISP '82 and Robert Morriss
Pennsylvania Universalist Convention
Anthony Pinn
Janet L. Randolph
Rissho Kosei-Kai
William Pitt Robinson Fund
Diana Strassmann

\$1,000 – \$4,999

Virginia Alonzo
Anonymous Donors
Wayne B. Arnason and Kathleen Rolenz
J. Randolph Burnham and Linda Hudson
Carol B. Conger
Diana Davies, MDiv '17
Holly Fluty Dempsey, MALS '20
Nancy Felix
Lucia and Bruce Field
First Parish Church of Groton, MA
First Unitarian Society of Schenectady, NY
Peter and Karin Fontneau
Claudia Frost, MDiv '08 and David Frost
John Gibbons
Marjorie L. Girth
Johanna Godbey, Estate
Clyde Griffith Fund
John Gubbings and Cathy Knapper
Laurel Hallman, DMin '81, DD '97
and Lawrence R. Ladd, LHD '13
John B. Hooper
Hillis Howie, Jr. and Margaret Shaklee
Dave Hunter and Kerry Mueller
Kimberly Quinn Johnson, MDiv '15
Paul Stanley Johnson, DMin '75, DD '02
and Carol Rowan
Holly Kerr
Carla Kindt
Nicole Kirk
David and Marjorie Kroll
David H. Leonard
Bonnie Lepoff
Pamela Lightsey
Charles Loflin, MDiv '21
William F. Lyon
Douglas Edward McCusker, MDiv '14
Carrie McEvoy
Morristown Unitarian Universalist Fellowship
Janet Newman, DMin '83
Carolyn Owen-Towle, DD '88
Kathleen Owens
Richard and Cindy Pardo
Parisa Parsa



Elaine and James Peters
Leslie and Susan Polgar
Jeanne Pupke, MDiv '04 and Regina Largent
Kenneth E. Redd
Robert Renjilian, MDiv '90
and Christy Renjilian
Bessie Robinson Fund
Glenn and Patricia Solomon
Kurt and Pat Steele
W. Lowell and Janice L. Steinbrenner
Arvid Straube, DMin '79, DD '13
and Sonya Prestridge
Alan Taylor and Angelica Taylor-Cortes
Unitarian Universalist Society of Amherst, MA
Wabash Center
Erin J. Walter, MDiv '17
Mark Ward, MDiv '04 and Deborah Ward
DeWitt P. Whittington
Ralph Wyman

\$500 – \$999

Scott W. Alexander
Barry M. Andrews, DMin '76, DD '04
and Linda Andrews
Jane and Lee Bannor
Nancy Bechtolt
Deborah and Klaus Bieber
Jacqueline C. Brett, MDiv '17, MALS '19
Michael W. Brown, MDiv '91
and Diane Fuller Brown
Colgate Rochester Crozer Divinity School
Miriam H. Daughtry
Alice Diebel, MDiv '19
Roger Doebke, MAR '14 and Judy Doebke
Richard and Cathryn DuBow
Peter and Alison Fenn
First Parish in Concord, MA
First Unitarian Church of Rochester, NY
Lauren Furst and Peter Koos
Susan and Malcolm Goekler
Terrie Vaile Hauck
Bunny Hodas
Michael Hogue
Heather Janules, MDiv '05
Chihiro Kase, MALS '20
James Patrick Keane, Jr.
Lori and Gary Lerude
Peter J. Luton, DMin '82 and Linda L. Berg
J. Arnold Meardon, BD '55
Jo Anne Heywood Miller and Rick Miller
Margret O'Neall, MDiv '09
Cynthia Redman
Bruce Russell-Jayne, MDiv '05
and Cece Russell-Jayne
Anya Sammler-Michael, MDiv '07
and Scott Sammler-Michael, MDiv '08
Lynne C. Schaefer
Michael and Kelly Scott
N.E. Stevens Fund
Karen Stoyanoff, MDiv '96

Russ and Jan Taddeo, MDiv '11
Unitarian Universalist Congregation
of Princeton, NJ
Emil Jay and Joyce Van Cura
Lynnda White, MDiv '13
Edward D. Wight
Teresa C. Wilmot
Shari Woodbury, MDiv '15

\$100 – \$499

Viola Abbitt, MDiv '19
Robert B. Adams
David Alley
Helen Ambuel
Barbara Baldwin
Maria Baratta
Lee Barker, DMin '78, DD '01
and Kristina Barker
Darcy Baxter
Beacon Unitarian Universalist Congregation,
Summit, NJ
Ali K.C. Bell, MDiv '21
Robert and Pat Berthold
Gary Boone and Alice Sheppard
Marsha Borders
Jeremy J. Brigham, DMin '71
Carin Bringelson, MDiv '20
Jeffrey Brown and Kate Hays
Janet Burns
Carole Joan Camp
Fred Campbell, BD '67
Rita A. Capezzi, MDiv '18
Jan Carlsson-Bull
Colin N. Ceperich
Peter King Clark
Stephen Cook
Judy D'Arcangelis
John Drew Daubenspeck
Joan DeArtemis
James Robert Dempsey
Monica D. Dobbins, MDiv '17
Augustin Douoguih
Mary L. Doyle
Raymonde H. Dumont
Robert Scott Eden and Janice Lynn Bird
Roberta Edge
Pam El-Dinary
Russell Elleven, DMin '07
Eno River Unitarian Universalist Fellowship
Frederick F. Fagal, Jr.
Charles Fantz, MAR '15
First Unitarian Church of Albuquerque, NM
First Unitarian Church of Cincinnati, OH
First Universalist Society, Franklin, MA
Megan Foley
Richard and Christina Folger
Susan Frances, MDiv '19
Andrew Frantz, MDiv '19
Linda and David Friedman
Dorothy E. Fuller

James Galasinski, MDiv '15
Joseph and Jane Gano
Jan Garbosky
Dorothy and Charles Gerena
Gordon and Judith Gibson
Richard Gilbert, DD '06 and Joyce Gilbert
Ruth Gnagey, MDiv '03
Carol Haag, MDiv '96 and Carl Haag
Rayna Hamre, MDiv '18
Soren Hansen
Scot and Maureen Harvey
David B. Hawver
Janice Hazlehurst
Cynthia Higgins-Westlake and Ross
Westlake
Charles J. Hoch
Carol and Bob Hopper
Jon Horne
Margaret Huyck
Sandra Ingham
Pamela Iverson
Abhi Janamanchi, MDiv '98, DD '18
and Lalitha Janamanchi
Cynthia B. and Albert M. Johnson
Roger D. Jones, MDiv '97
Eric Kaminetzky, MDiv '09
and Cathy Kaminetzky
Friederike Kaufel, MDiv '20
Andrew C. Kennedy, MATS '72, DMin '74
and Lois Wesener
Thomas A. Kennedy
Iris F. Kiesling
Patty Knight
Roberta W. Knight
Judith M. Kroll
Ivan M. Lappin
Diana Leslie
Tom James Levi
Arthur Levin
Evy M. Lipecka
Joseph B. Lipton and Donna Monturo
Greg Long
Edward Loomis, MDiv '07
Christe L. Lunsford, MDiv '18
Nina Lytton, MDiv '19
Mary MacCormac
Claus and Pat Makowka
Frances Manly, MDiv '97
and Kenneth Manly
Chris Marietti
Kim Mason, MDiv '19
Rachel Maxwell
Winnie McDonagh
Peggy McIntosh, DHL '12
Daniel and Tammy McKanan
Laura McKee and Tom Denio
Elaine McMillan
Laurence J. and Jerri Jones Meisner
Deborah Mensc
Andrew Mertz, MDiv '16

Betty Jo Middleton, ISP '83
and J. Howard Middleton
Sarah Gibb Millspaugh
Louise Moed
Bob Monahan
Joan Montagnes, MDiv '94
Lloyd D. Moore
Thomas Moran
John Morehouse, MDiv '90, DMin '15
and Francis Morehouse
Mark Morrison-Reed, DMin '79, DD '07
and Donna Morrison-Reed, DMin '79
Cheryl Mounts and Carla Williams
Ruth J. Myers
Donald and Carolyn Neeper
Christopher Nelson
Hiroshi Munehiro Niwano
Gail Riley and Tom Nixon
Barry and Maija Nobel
Jolie Olivetti
Lisa Orange
Charles Ortman, MDiv '92
and Judy Ortman
Pacific Western Region, UUA
Lee Page, MDiv '04 and David Page
Lynn Pappas
Linda Olson Peebles, MDiv '97, DD '11
Becky Peterson
Maureen Phillips
Richard Pokorny
Cynthia W. Pratt
Katie Rensch
Mildred M. Reynolds
Sarah C. Richards, MDiv '13
Katherine P. Roberts
David Robins, DMin '78 and Jean Robins
Millie Rochester, MDiv '03
and Roger Rochester
Diane Rollert
Carolyn Ross
Robert and Margie Sallies
Rodney Sauter
Barbara Schectman
Ellen Schoenfeld-Beeks
Teresa and David Schwartz
Sally Scott
Karen Scrivo and Kenneth Shilling
Stanley Sears, DMin '81
Madeleine Sifantus
Constance M. Simon, MDiv '18
William Sinkford, DD '03 and Maria
Hadley
Mark Skrabacz
Darien Smith
Shirley Smith
Deb Solis
Bruce Southworth and Kay Xanthakos
Kelly Spahr, MDiv '12
Richard Speck, DMin '90 and Janet
Tillman

Paul Spicer
Paul Sprecher
Melinda Staveley
Gail Stratton, MDiv '16 and Pat Miller
Lynn Thomas Strauss, MDiv '90
Elizabeth Strong, ISP '83, DMin '00, Estate
Rexford J. Styzens, BD '59
Anne Sullivan
Angela Swanger
Leslie Takahashi, MDiv '04
Betsy Ann Taub
Margie Teall
Barbara Wells ten Hove, MDiv '85, DMin '07
and Jaco ten Hove
Doris Teplitz
Richard and Marilyn Thompson
Audrey W. Vincent
Michelle A. Walsh
Patricia A. Wand
Mark D. Watanabe
Carol Wayne
Gretchen E. Weis, MDiv '13
Sharon D. Welch, DHL '19
Sally Wetzler
Alice White
Corinna Whiteaker-Lewis
Beth Williamson
Andrew Woodall
Dan Wright
Ted and Christine Yang
Ruth B. Young
Sally Youngs
Sara E. Zimmerman, DMin '09

\$1 – \$99

Shirley Adams
Susan Aigner
Becky Andrews
Caron Armstrong
Paul O. Arneson
Linda Arredondo
Rosemary Baldwin
Therese Ann Baumberger
George Beach, DD '87
and Barbara Beach
Rebecca Benner, MDiv '99
and Derek Benner
Joshua Berg
Madeleine Binsfrahm
Doris A. Blaisdell, Estate
Eric Bliss
Laura Bollettino
Karen Bonislawski
Steve Bottorff
Carrie Bowman
Tracy Breneman
Sue and Bill Browning
Irene Burkner
Jerome Bushnell
Kenneth Button

Jean Butzen
Hannah Capaldi
Denise Cawley, MDiv '20
Linda Clark
Barbara Coeyman
Helen and Donald Cohen
Susan Comstock
Emily Conger, MDiv '17
Janet Cooper
Jodi Lynn Cooper
Maryanne Cordahl
Edith Croake
Judith M. Croft
Jennifer Crow, MDiv '04
Aria Curtis
Sandra Danforth
Daniel D'Arcangelis
Ivy Darden
Lynn and Jan Dash
Richard Davis
Dana Deane
Mary Dudek
Maury Edwards
Janet Elicker and Clifton Hardin
Francesca Elms
William Epes, MDiv '17
Henry Fandel
Barbara Fast
Debra J. Faulk
Chris Ferguson
Melissa Wimbish Ferrell
Andrew T. Fisher
Karen Fisk
Shannon Flanders
Donna Flotron
Jane Flueckiger
Kimberly Fowl
Scott Franciscus
Sarah Franklin
Lisa Friedman, MDiv '95
and Wayne Schneider
Alexandra Fussell
Renee Gatsis
Steven Gelb
Lois Gish
Karen Fraser Gitlitz
Betsy Gomoll
Markus Grae-Hauck
Mario P. Grasso, II
Nicoline Guerrier, MDiv '14
Joel J. Haffner
Jenny Hall
Sara Hall Phillips
Finnegan Hamill
Tish Hamilton
Ashley Hamlin
Jennifer Hamlin-Navias
Martha Harnit
Michelle Harvey
Tracy Haskell

Marilyn Hathaway
 Kathryn Hawbaker, MDiv '91
 Margaret Henderson
 Thomas A. Henderson
 Barbara Herring
 Nancy Higgs
 Wendie Highsmith
 Melanie Hirsch
 Janet Hitti
 Lori Gorgas Hlaban
 Christina Hockman, MDiv '16
 Michanne Hocter-Thompson
 Ostara Hollyoak
 Martha Holman
 Norman Horofker
 Laura Horton-Ludwig, MDiv '05
 and John B. Ludwig
 Lonnie L. Houck
 Erlene Howard
 Steve Howard
 Sylvia Howe and Paul L'Herrou
 Jill Jarvis, MDiv '09
 Elena Maria Jimenez
 Andrea Kalb
 Ron Karash
 Wendy Karn
 Susan Keiter
 Elea J. Kemler
 Dick Kessler
 Jana Kirkman
 Peg Kirkpatrick
 Monica Kling-Garcia, MDiv '21
 Wolfgang Koch
 Jenna Koines
 John Kramer
 Tim Kraus
 Carrie B. Krause
 Natsuki Kudo
 Judy LeFevour
 Nancy Lewin
 Robert Lewis
 Stanley Lichtman
 and Paulette M. Lichtman-Panzer
 Laura Lochner
 Linnea Lose
 Roy and Shirley Lundin
 Laura Maguire
 Jody Malloy
 Cynthia Elaine Marsh
 Eleanore Maurer
 Suzanne O. McDougal
 Janet McFarland

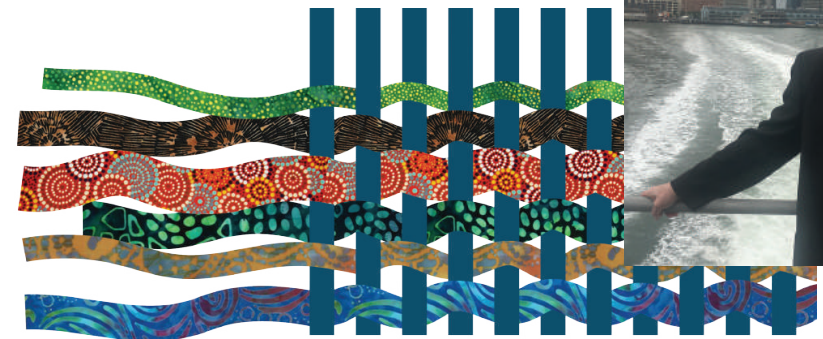
Linda McGan
 David McGowan
 Kathy McLean
 Nicole McNeill
 Mary Ellen McNulty
 Barb Mersy
 Barbara Meyers
 Ernesto Michelucci
 Dolores Mier
 Michael Morran
 Amlan Mukherjee
 Correna Ness
 Juliana Neuman
 Clara Neves-Mireles
 Pennie Ann Nichols
 Monica Nolan
 Dena Omar
 Patricia Ann Owen, MDiv '14
 Stuart F. and Margaret Tresch Owen
 Lowell and Marjorie Owens
 Rita R. Parks
 Margaret Pekarek
 Linda Pepe
 Sheri Phillabaum
 Rebecca Phillips
 Douglas R. Pillsbury
 Shantale D. Pipkins
 Regina Podhorin Zilinski
 Helen Popenoe
 Lora Powell-Haney, MDiv '20
 Elizabeth Presley, DMin '07
 Virginia Preuss
 Amanda Radak
 Mike Radow
 Colleen Rathbun
 Kathleen Razmus
 Donna L. Renfro
 Kathleen Robbins
 Grace D. Rollins
 Joseph Romeo
 C. Leslie Runnels
 Susan Russell
 Cindy Hastings Sakaan
 Linda Savard
 Stacy Sceiford
 Greta Seidohl, MDiv '19
 Steven Serikaku
 Barbara N. Shaw
 Lise Sherry, MDiv '11 and Nelson Sherry
 Chuck Shields
 Winifred Shuttleworth
 Lisa P. Sinclair

Carol Slomski
 Rodrigo Emilio Solano-Quesnel
 Cindy Spring
 Kathryn Ann Spring
 Tracy Springberry, MDiv '10
 Betty and Tom Stapleford
 Erika Steinhubl
 Carole M. Stephens
 Elizabeth Stevens, DD '03
 and Frederick Stevens
 Jennifer Stevens
 Donna Stimpson
 Carol M. Stoehr
 Doddie Stone
 Barbara Storms
 Catherine Strickland
 Mary and Walter Stromquist
 Christina Strong
 Sue and Art Stukey
 Margaret Z. Sutro
 Joe Sweet
 Diane Szymasz
 Lois Taft
 Marguerita Tajibnapis
 Diane D. Teichert and Donald Milton
 Elizabeth Ann Terry
 Jane Thickstun, MDiv '00
 Laura Thomas
 Leona Thomas
 Anita B. Thompson
 Nora Thompson
 Richard T. Tolley
 Denice Tomlinson
 Marlo Turner Ritchie
 Marian Urquilla
 Colleen Vahey
 Marianne Vakiener and Paul Kohlbrenner
 Todd Van Gordon
 Paula van Haagen
 Ellis Vance
 Jennifer VonRue, MDiv '17
 Marlene Walker and Gloria Perez
 Marilyn S. Warner
 Danielle Webber, MDiv '16, MALS '18
 Judith Weisenfeld
 Kaiulani Wharton
 Joanne Whelden, MDiv '04
 Patrick Whorton
 Bruce Wiggins
 WIST Data Solutions
 Miriam Woito
 Marge Wurgel

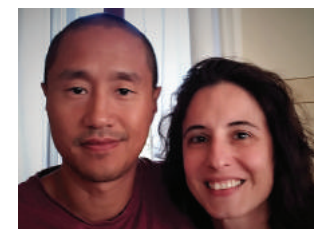
Joshua Berg Student Donor: Meadville Lombard provided me, at 50-years-old, a chance at a second career that is more meaningful and fulfilling than any job I've ever had. At MLTS, I also found a peer group I am confident will support each other for the rest of our lives. The existence and growth of Meadville Lombard, as one of only two Unitarian Universalist seminaries, is essential to the future of our faith.



Rev. Dr. Roger Jones, MDiv '97 Monthly Donor: Meadville Lombard's excellent faculty, staff, and volunteers prepare students to have an impact around the world through their leadership for justice, faithfulness, and love. I make a monthly donation and have included MLTS as a beneficiary because I want to sustain its success in the academic, spiritual, and professional formation of ministers for years to come. It helps me keep the faith.



Bill Lyon Maching Gift Donor/Occasional Student: I have always been inspired by the story of Alexander Papaderos (as told by Robert Fulghum in his book *It Was on Fire When I Lay Down on It*) using the metaphor of a mirror to describe the meaning of his life. "I am not the light or the source of light — truth, understanding, knowledge ... will only shine in many dark places if I reflect it." That's what peace and justice seekers do. That's what the best educators, facilitators, ministers, and lay leaders do. Meadville Lombard not only helps shine the light into the growing number of dark places in our society, but it inspires others to do likewise. And that is why I am proud to support this institution with my time, talent, treasure, and best intentions.



Ted and Christine Yang Annual & Planned Giving Donors: Meadville Lombard is fertile ground which grows and nourishes UU leaders, and UU leadership is needed more than ever in our fractured society. We are proud to support Meadville Lombard's mission with our time and treasure.



Dr. Nicole C. Kirk Faculty/Annual Donor: Why do I devote my vocation, time, and money to Meadville Lombard as a Professor, board member, and donor? In our hurting world and in these uncertain times, progressive faith leaders are the first responders in times of crisis, the spiritual care providers for our communities and the larger society. Faith leaders guide and lead our efforts to create, in the words of James Baldwin, "a more just world and humane world." Since 1844, Meadville Lombard has educated those faith leaders. We nurture, cultivate, and inspire those called to serve as they become socially engaged, interculturally and spiritually grounded ministers, chaplains, and religious leaders. I believe in our work—I have dedicated my life to Unitarian Universalism—and to me, to have the most significant impact in this world is to support Meadville Lombard's training of future leaders.

DONOR SPOTLIGHTS: Part II

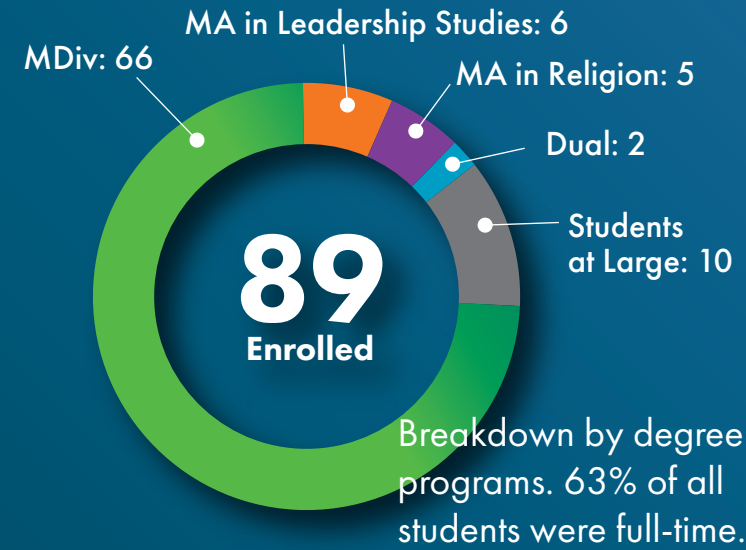
Drs. Bruce and Barbara Mickey Annual & Planned Giving Donors: Meadville Lombard trains the UU religious leaders and congregational ministers who help our faith contribute to a future in which people from all racial, ethnic, religious, and sexual orientations will live and work together in an atmosphere of mutual love and respect. Barbara and I believe in Meadville Lombard. We have supported their mission for the past 10 years, and we will continue to support them going forward. Please join us.



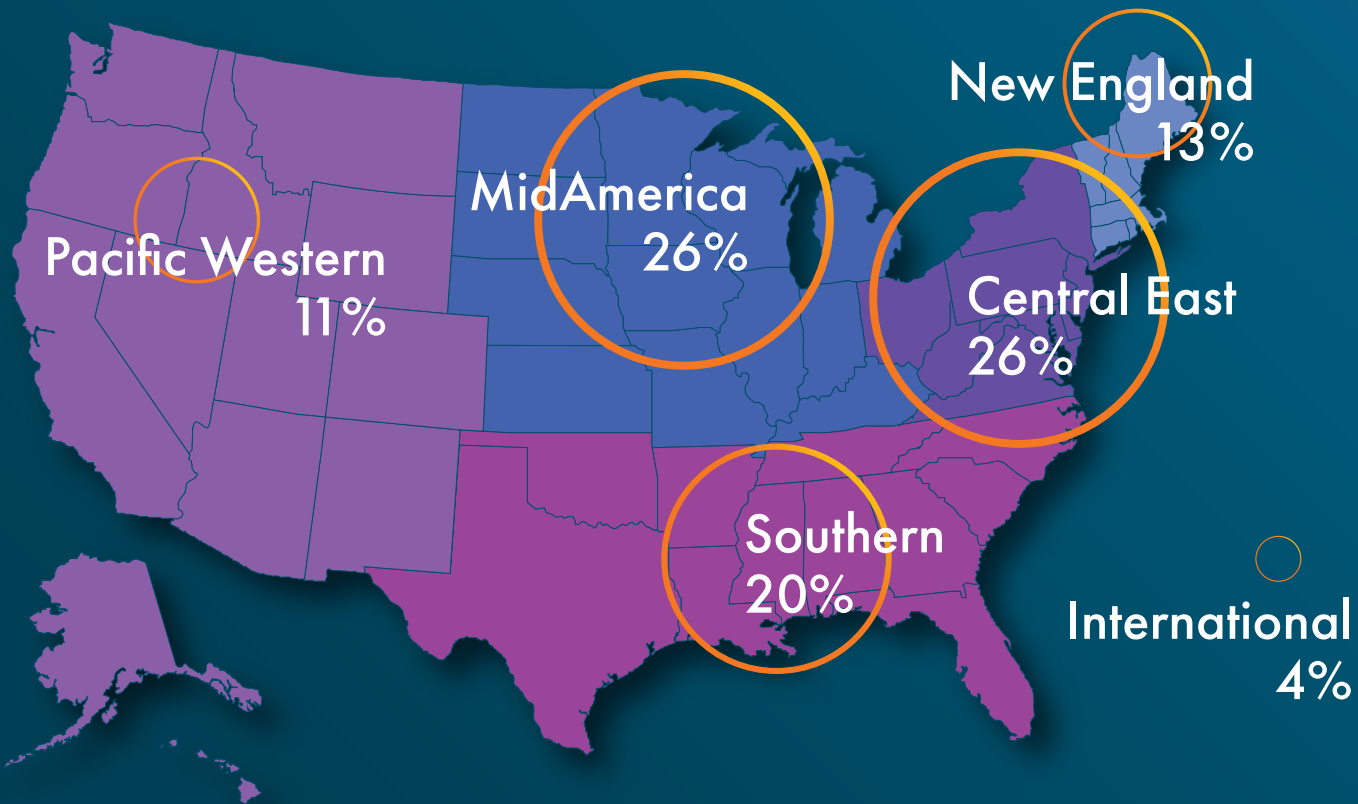
When our Fahs Collaborative reimagined its signature program for antiracism learning, *Beloved Conversations*, we offered the registrants a sliding scale pricing as reparations and interdependence action. The positive reaction was overwhelming. It raised funds for us to be able to offer registration discounts for those who need them, and for continued program development.

OUR STUDENTS: FALL 2020

Our students come from a variety of vocational paths—lawyers, nonprofit administrators, psychologists, educators, to list a few—and educational and religious backgrounds, bringing a diversity of experience and wisdom.



Which region are they from?

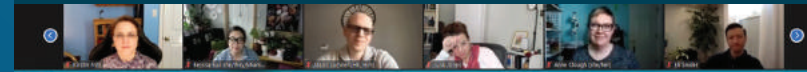


We are an Open and Affirming Institution. Our students express multiple gender identities. 62% of them identified themselves as female last year. About 79% of our student body identified as white, the age range was 24-76, and average age was **45**.

FINANCIAL AID

In 2020/2021, we awarded over **\$561,000** in grants and scholarships to our students.

Since the start of the pandemic, we have awarded **\$118,725** in direct emergency grants to students: **\$108,725** in HEERF (Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund) grants and **\$10,000** in MFC emergency funds.



Full Online Learning Experience

After quickly transitioning the Spring 2020 term online as an emergency measure, we planned for online learning in a more deliberate way for Fall and Spring 2020/2021 based on student feedback. The core faculty received instruction that enabled them to deploy current resources and pedagogical practices for the online classroom. Everyone — faculty, staff, and students — contributed to make this model work. We also improved communication processes around course registration and orientation, which has been appreciated by new and continuing students.

STUDENT LIFE

Innovation Leads the Way for Student Life

Navigating a full academic year through the lens of a worldwide pandemic and political upheaval brought challenges as well as opportunities; we chose to lean into the opportunities. Innovation was key in addressing concerns surrounding student's learning and wellbeing this year.

Care envelopes were sent to the entire student body, faculty, and staff twice over the course of the fall and winter. These envelopes contained letters of encouragement, a booklet of spiritual practices from Dr. Ortega, coloring pages, and two contributions from our Director of Communications, Tomo Hillbo, who is also our graphic designer: an MLTS-branded face mask and a "flat chalice" that could be cut out, put together, and displayed. Two monthly online vespers services that brought our community together virtually will continue to connect students and alums as we move into the future.

2020/2021

ALUM ASSOCIATION

It is our pleasure to report that our Alum Association, which had been dormant for some time, experienced great revitalization this year. Dr. Ortega and Tomo Hillbo, Dir. of Communications, worked with the Association's outgoing President, Rev. Lynnda White, MDiv '13, and Secretary, Rev. Connie Simon, MDiv '18, to create a pathway to pour energy back into the Association and increase overall engagement of our alums.

We appointed a Nominating Committee to create a leadership team for the association. The committee identified candidates:

- For President: Rev. Connie Simon, MDiv '18
- For Vice President: Rev. Viola Abbitt, MDiv '19
- For Secretary: Rev. Kevin DeBeck, MDiv '18
- For Covenant Officer: Rev. Kali Fyre, MDiv '17

All four of them were officially elected to be the next leadership team of the Alum Association. The team will be working on reviewing the mission and purpose of the Alum Association and ways in which it can support and connect alums; having open discussions around establishing, restoring, and, in some cases, repairing relationships between alums and MLTS; and completing the revision of the Alum Association Bylaws.



Connecting with Alums: Phone-a-Thon

Reported by Caroline Bright, a current student

This summer, a few current students and recent alums had the good fortune to work with Director of Development, Evy Lipecka, on a fun project—calling donors to say thank you and connecting with alums! We diligently texted and called, reaching out to folks who are a part of the Meadville Lombard community but who might not get to interact with students regularly. Our recent graduates were able to connect with other alums and hear from them about where their journeys have led them so far. All of this was possible thanks to an anonymous patron who sponsored this inaugural phone-a-thon so that 100% of any donations that followed the calls would be available to the school's annual fund.

While other denominations significantly sponsor their theological students' education, that's unfortunately no longer the case for Unitarian Universalist seminarians. The path to UU fellowship is an expensive one that typically results in student debt by the time the Ministerial Fellowship Committee meets with a Candidate to determine whether they will be granted Preliminary Ministerial Fellowship. With only two remaining UU theological schools, it is particularly critical that those who are able increase their generosity and invest in the up-and-coming UU Ministers.

I was deeply grateful to have the chance to thank some of the Meadville Lombard donors who have made a UU theological education an option for me. It was also fun getting to know some of the folks who believe so strongly in the value of a UU education! I hope that this is an opportunity that we'll continue having in the future.



Monica Kling-Garcia "I am preparing to move out of state for a chaplain residency that will last one year. After that, my ministry is wide open to where the spirit takes me! Meadville helped me understand that my call to ministry is so expansive, as the experiential learning allowed me to experience different types of ministry firsthand."

Charles Loflin "I am extremely fortunate to have been named Executive Director for UU FaithAction NJ (uufaction.org) which focuses on legislative advocacy for social justice issues in the state of New Jersey. UUFANJ is a member of the Coalition of UU State Action Networks (CUUSAN.org). Overall, I do feel equipped for this ministry as a result of my studies at MLTS. In particular, the Signature courses (Community Studies and Leadership Studies) were foundational."



Jenny McCready "My vocation is small parish ministry, and I've had the good fortune of being asked to serve as a contract minister at a small church, Columbine Unitarian Universalist Church, near my home for the next year. After many staff and ministry changes recently, the congregation and Board and I are all hopeful that this will be a long-term ministry. I am blessed to be able to serve part time and also in a church that has done a fair amount of racial awareness work in the past few years. Meadville Lombard gave me a solid grounding in doing this work, as well as a good understanding of systems, governance, and administration. Paired with my two-year part-time internship, I was able to learn by doing and then discuss and process my learning with my cohort. I was exposed to many different professors and their methodologies and I was able to develop collegial relationships, both of which I carry with me into my ministry. I'm very glad I had the opportunity to go to Meadville Lombard for seminary, and I look forward to lifetime relationships with my fellow alumni and professors and staff."

Jen Raffensperger "I started my first-ever ministry this summer at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of York, PA. For me, finding Unitarian Universalism felt like finding a home, and the call to ministry felt like being asked to create a home for others—for many—for all that may ask. Community building and spiritual companionship feels like work I will engage in for a lifetime. MLTS engaged my heart, mind, and body with the idea of a deeply complex community during a complex time, and I believe we all engaged in the grace of learning about how we fail together. And then how we build back again and again. I will take those lessons with me into every ministry context."



OUR TRUSTEES

The Meadville Lombard Board of Trustees is a group of dedicated individuals who value Meadville Lombard's theological education as work of justice, healing, and liberation, weaving our future.



Rev. Dr. Wayne Arnason is a retired UU minister who has had a 40-year career in Unitarian Universalism. His service includes parish ministry, Chair of Ministerial Fellowship Committee, and President of UU Ministers Association.



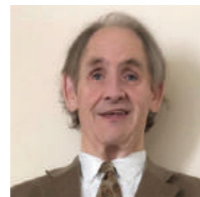
Rev. Diana Davies, MDiv '17, serves as minister at the First Unitarian Church of Oklahoma City. Before seminary, she was the Vice Provost for International Initiatives at Princeton University. She holds a Ph.D. in Comparative Literature from the University of Rochester with language majors in Russian and Spanish.

"Serving on the MLTS Board is one way I can give back to the institution that prepared me so well for ministry. Meadville Lombard gave me a solid grounding in Unitarian Universalism even as it nurtured in me the resilience and creativity that have proven to be essential during this time of pandemic. I'm honored to have a role in stewarding the School that will shape tomorrow's faith leaders." —Diana Davies



Nancy Felix is the Associate Dean for Advancement in the Mellon College of Science (MCS). She has extensive experience and impressive track records in higher education and non-profit advancement, with a focus on capital campaign fundraising and international development. During her time at Dartmouth College as a senior advancement officer, the college completed a \$1.3 billion capital campaign.

Rev. Mr. Barb Greve is an ordained UU minister, a Credentialed Religious Educator, and a hospice chaplain. He served as Co-Moderator of the UUA with Elandria Williams from 2017-2020.



Daniel Frye is the Student Representative to the Board. As well as being a current MLTS student, he serves as the Administrator of Services for the Blind and Vision-Impaired, New Hampshire Bureau of Vocational Rehabilitation, State Department of Education.

"At Meadville Lombard, I have the opportunity to study with an excellent faculty and gifted peers, in an institution infused with genuine values, vision, and a mission that resonates with me." —Daniel Frye



Rev. Abhi Janamanchi, MDiv '98, serves as Senior Minister at Cedar Lane Unitarian Universalist Church in Bethesda, MD. He has been actively involved in international interfaith and multicultural work for three decades, including serving as president of the International Association for Religious Freedom, an Executive Committee member of the Faith Community Advisory Council of Montgomery County, and a founding member of the Tampa Bay Interreligious Council.



Dr. Hiroshi Munehiro Niwano has been President of Rissho Kosei-Kai's Gakurin Seminary in Tokyo since 2011. He is also Chair of the Board of Directors of the Niwano Peace Foundation.

Dr. Nicole Kirk serves on the Board as the Faculty Representative. She is a historian of American religious history. She joined the Meadville Lombard faculty in 2012 after earning her Ph.D. at Princeton Theological Seminary. Her research interests include religion, business, technology, and material culture in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.



Carla Kindt is a retired development executive with 30 years of experience. Before her arrival, Northeastern University was raising less than \$100,000 per year in private philanthropy. Working with the dean, Carla crafted a fundraising strategy that resulted in gifts totaling \$16 million over six years for a capital campaign.



Rev. Parisa Parsa serves as CEO of Cortico, a nonprofit whose mission is to build systems that bring unheard voices into the center of a healthier public dialogue. She has served in religious and secular nonprofit leadership for over 25 years, including serving in both parish and community ministry settings within Unitarian Universalism.

Dr. Patrick B. Reyes is an author, Chicano educator, administrator, and institutional strategist. He is the Senior Director of Learning Design at the Forum for Theological Exploration. He is president-elect of the Religious Education Association and serves on several boards in education and the non-profit sector supporting the next generation of BIPOC leaders and educators.



Rev. Anya Sammler-Michael, MDiv '07, is a co-minister with Rev. Scott Sammler-Michael at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation at Montclair, NJ, since 2017. In college at the University of the South, Rev. Anya studied philosophy and fine arts, as she worked to build bridges of understanding between diverse social circles. She has worked as a fine art photographer, darkroom artist, caterer, and chef.

"To be a part of Meadville Lombard is to be a part of something larger than myself, larger than my own ministry, larger than the capacity of all the present ministries operating in service to Unitarian Universalism; serving Meadville Lombard I am a part of the challenging present and the potent future of a liberal and liberating tradition of faith." —Anya Sammler-Michael

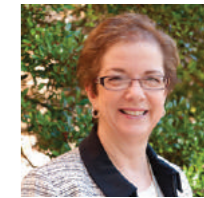
Rev. Connie Simon, MDiv '18, is the President of the Meadville Lombard Alum Association and the Alum Representative to the Board. She serves as minister of First Unitarian Church of Cincinnati. Committed to supporting each of us finding our inner divine, she describes her ministry as "helping people heal from the inside-out so they can do the outside-in work our world so desperately needs."



Rev. Jeanne Pupke, MDiv '04, has served as senior minister of First Unitarian Universalist Church of Richmond, VA, since 2006. She is a founding member and a director of UU Legislative Ministry of Virginia and frequently testifies for women's, LGBTQI, and youth rights. Once a Catholic nun, she was an executive for Diemakers, Inc., and Batdorf & Bronson Coffee Roasters before entering the UU ministry.



Ken E. Redd is Senior Director, Research and Policy Analysis at the National Association of College and University Business Officers (NACUBO). At NACUBO, Ken directs the annual survey of college and university endowments and other studies on higher education finance issues.

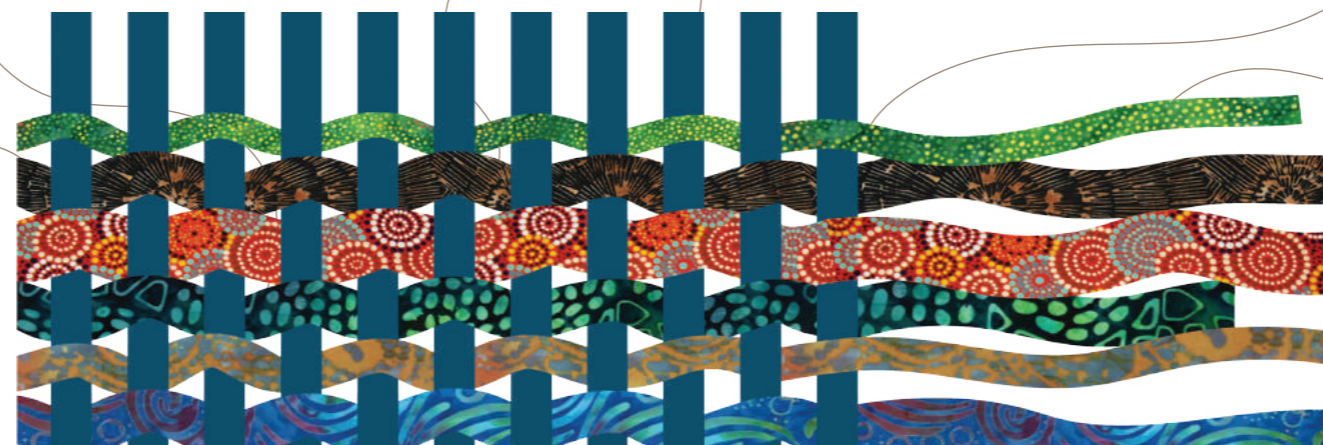


Lynne C. Schaefer has served as Vice President for Finance and Administration at the University of Maryland, Baltimore County (UMBC) since 2005. In her role as the chief business officer at UMBC, she is responsible for all aspects of financial management for annual operations exceeding \$450 million.

Dr. Jenice L. View is Associate Professor of Transformative Teaching at George Mason University. Her research focuses on critical pedagogy in teacher professional development, the impact of history teaching on youth voice and civic engagement, and the uses of arts integration.



"What is meaningful to me about working with Meadville Lombard is to gain a clearer sense, as a UU congregant, of the care and supporting infrastructure that goes into educating theological students who then become our UU ministers. MLTS is one of several such sister institutions, and it is also standing on the cutting edge of shifting the UU movement into the 21st century." —Jenice View



FAHS COLLABORATIVE

Beloved Conversations is a program for Unitarian Universalists seeking to embody racial justice as a spiritual practice, to heal the impact of racism on our lives and get free together. In Fall 2020, the Fahs Collaborative launched **Beloved Conversations Virtual** (BCV). A team of visionary UU leaders reimagined the in-person program into an online learning experience. Along with increased accessibility, the new Virtual curriculum includes a focus on the spiritual needs of Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC+) communities, and an ongoing emphasis on a developmental approach, meeting our learners where they are and moving forward together.



In the 2020/2021 church year, 2,189 learners — 13% BIPOC+ and 87% white — joined from 41 US states, 8 Canadian provinces, and 4 countries in the first phase of the virtual program, *Within*. This phase focuses on the personal learning and spiritual growth we each need to do to understand how race and racism function in our world. *Within* ran in two cohorts concurrently, one for BIPOC+ and one for white folks, with different learning goals and practices in each.

This year, in addition to offering *Within*, we are launching two new phases of BCV. Beloved Conversations: *Among* is a year-long program for *Within* alums in UU congregations who are ready

to transform their congregational systems to overcome white supremacy culture and to build multicultural, radically inclusive spiritual homes. We are also launching *Within: Exploration Stations*, play stations for the soul where *Within* alums can focus in deep and creative ways on one topic as it intersects with issues of race and racism.



In addition to BCV, the Fahs Collaborative creates congregational curricula that develop UU identity, covenantal community, and shared theological grounding, helping prepare UUs for faithful justice work. In 2020/2021, the pandemic forced a strategic shift in how programs could safely be offered. We worked urgently to adapt our most recent curricula — **Creating Theology Together** and **Beloved Conversations: Families** — virtually. New spiritual needs emerged during lockdown; innovative approaches, rather than simple online adaptation, were required. As congregational planning for safe gathering continues to be in flux, we expect to offer these virtual options in Fall 2021. Two other projects were in early development this year: **In Good Faith**, a faith formation program for UUs active in social justice, and **Youth Voices**, the creation of a UU Coming of Age credo archive. Both were paused as we directed resources toward the virtual adaptations of *Creating Theology Together* and *BC Families* but have resumed development and will debut in the upcoming church year.



Our Library and Archives provide resources not only to Meadville Lombard students and faculty, but also to religious professionals, members of the broader Unitarian Universalist community, and scholars of all (or no) faiths. Our complete library catalog is accessible to search online and most of our books can be shipped directly to users. Our digital archive is open to all users.

LIBRARY & ARCHIVES

While COVID-19 has had a significant impact upon access to print resources, the Library and Archives at Meadville Lombard has worked to expand our digital offerings for both students and the larger UU community during the past year.

We expanded our offerings early in the year to our students with a new website, an improved online catalog, and increased access to ebooks. During the year, we expanded course reserve access through course specific webpages created by library staff. Working with faculty, we incorporated video, audio, images, and interactive resources for students on these webpages to support their coursework, in addition to links to assigned readings.

To support the larger UU community, we created a customized version of the library website that contains a unique catalog, book displays, and over 400 free digital resources for alum and community patrons. This new community library website makes it easy to access print books, digital resources, and internally produced Meadville Lombard library resources. As with students, we can mail library books to any alum and community patron in the United States. We currently have 55 alumni and community patron accounts and hope to grow this number.

2020/2021

Our work continues...



MEADVILLE LOMBARD
THEOLOGICAL SCHOOL



610 S. Michigan Ave. Chicago, IL 60605 USA
meadville.edu

