



2021 / 2022 ANNUAL REPORT



2022

As the pandemic ebbed and waned throughout Academic Year 2021/2022, we continued to find ourselves in a new reality. Moving the office during a global health crisis meant meticulous planning, coordination, and endless patience. We picked the wall colors and furniture pieces, built the reinforced floor for the library, packed the old office, unpacked in the new, and waited for pandemic-delayed deliveries of everything. Now it is all set up with the state-of-the-art technology. At the time of this writing, we are waiting for students to occupy our new space for its first Fall Convocation and a week of on-campus coursework, testing out the brand-new classroom technology for multi-platform instruction.



PRESIDENT'S CORNER

When we decided to move to our new location, we did so because we wanted to be able to better center the needs of our community of learning. It was important for us to create a learning space that provided the flexibility and resources needed to facilitate multiplatform pedagogy. While we still highly value gathering in person — our time together is of central importance to students' formation, community building, and mentoring — we are also committed to justice-centered education, and it is essential for us to remove access barriers to our learning community. You can read more about this in the “President’s View” section on the next page.

One of the most exciting things to witness was the groundwork for the launch of our lifelong learning institute. We hired Dr. Kate Lassiter as Senior Director of Lifelong Learning in December. Since then, she led a team of staff and collaborators to establish its name, LIGHT—Leadership Institute for Growth, Healing, and Transformation, and put together a range of programs to offer in Fall 2022. LIGHT officially launches in October 2022, during the conference, *Post-Imperial Futures*:

Addressing Legacy and Living Into Promise that we are hosting with the Unitarian Universalist Association’s International Office.

Looking ahead, I see profound needs and opportunities for Growth, Healing and Transformation within ourselves, within our institutions, and within our world. As our supporter, I am certain that you are also keenly sensing them as well. My wish is to grow, heal, and transform with you, so together we may bring light. Thank you for being the vital part of our mission. I present to you this year’s Annual Report.

In service,

Dr. Elías Ortega
President

PRESIDENT'S VIEW

Q: How are you feeling about what's happened at Meadville Lombard over the past couple of years since you started as president? With the COVID pandemic and everything that's happened since you started in 2019, how has it been going?

A: Every year has been a different “first” for me, and I can talk about it at length some other time, but what has come out is the need for thinking about barriers to access the education we provide that we can remove. As I was considering and talking with our ML team about the needs for a new space and what the location would look like, it was important for me that we center the ability to operate in a multiplatform space. We can think



about the move to the “Zoom church” during the pandemic as a temporary solution, something that we do just up until the pandemic ends, but what we realized is that we have created a lot of artificial barriers to access that required a physical presence in a particular location, instead of creating multiple points of access and entry into a community. While understanding of course that the in-person and digital experience are not going to be the same, you can still expand the boundaries of community. Travel does not need to be a barrier to access. If you are a caregiver who cannot take time away for very important reasons, that should not be a barrier to access. Illness or a mobility issue should not be a barrier to access, particularly for an institution committed to justice, liberation, and the affirmation of worth and dignity.

We are thinking in a more expansive way that we can always encourage folks to be on campus, to be present with one another, but also understand that we have to extend that hospitality and center the needs of those who cannot be in the space in person but can be there virtually. To expand that community has been important to me. I know we are still growing into it and figuring this out. What does that entail and what does it look like, particularly how can we be more hospitable to folks who are joining us via technology? For me, that's been at the forefront. What other barriers of access have we artificially created that we can remove to live more fully into our vision? That's what I think of when I think of the last three years and going into the fourth.

One of the priorities that I presented to the school when I started my work here was to center what I'm calling iMinistry. What are the digital toolkits that every leader needs to have in order to operate in a society that is being formed by communication technology? These last few years have reaffirmed for me that this is not a fad. This is not something that is going to go away. It's part of how our senses get extended in the world. Being committed to find ways to center that pedagogically in practice is coming more to the forefront for me as a priority.

MILESTONES

WELCOMING WITH TECHNOLOGY

We look forward to welcoming our new cohort of students this August. These students, along with our current students, will have the pleasure of starting the new academic year at our new location. In preparation, faculty and staff have had a series of training sessions utilizing our new classroom technology and have established plans to offer great hospitality. This past May, we held our first multiplatform Board Meeting at our new campus. It was a moment of rich connection and experimentation as we engaged in learning the possibility that our new classroom technology offers in closing physical distance via digital technologies. As the saying goes, we are no longer on the *verge of all things new*. The moment is already upon us, and we are taking advantage of the opportunities it presents.

THE SEARCH FOR THE LEE BARKER PROFESSORSHIP IN LEADERSHIP STUDIES

In 2019, we celebrated Rev. Dr. Lee Barker's service and transformative leadership as president (2003 – 2019) through a major gift campaign designed to establish the Lee Barker Professorship in Leadership Studies. The generosity of our supporters and their gifts to strengthen Meadville Lombard's theological education made establishing this Professorship a success. We are pleased to announce that the search for this position has started. This new faculty line will strengthen our curriculum in the areas of leadership, pastoral care, and the public role of religion.

COMMENCEMENT 2022

This year's Commencement events gained special significance as our first return to in-person ceremony since 2019 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. It was a joyous occasion to celebrate students who have persevered through unexpected and emerging challenges. Rev. Ashley Horan, MDiv '04, the Organizing Strategy Director of the UUA, charged us with her powerful sermon.



At Commencement, we also celebrate the life work of three exemplary individuals who have distinguished themselves through excellence in one of these areas: scholarly production, transformative ministry, and contributions to the common good. This year we granted Honorary Degrees to the following honorees:

Dr. Ursula Goodenough is a Professor of Biology at Washington University in St. Louis. Dr. Goodenough is one of the best-known voices in religious naturalism and author of the best-selling book, *The Sacred Depths of Nature*. This book examines scientific perspectives on cosmology, evolution, cell biology, and aspects of life to propose how religious naturalism can cultivate wonder and serve as the basis for a "planetary ethic," an ethical perspective expansive enough to bring both science and religion into partnership for the sake of the world.

Dr. Valarie Kaur is an acclaimed civil rights activist, lawyer, award-winning filmmaker, educator, and author of *See No Stranger: A Memoir and Manifesto of Revolutionary Love*. Dr. Kaur leads the Revolutionary Love Project, which works to reclaim love as a force for justice in America.

Paula Cole Jones, a UU lay leader, has a long and distinguished career of leading congregational change work as a UUA consultant and a leader in the 8th Principle Project. Paula is the founder of ADORE (A Dialogue on Race & Ethnicity), a former president of DRUUMM (Diverse and Revolutionary Unitarian Universalist Multicultural Ministries), and an independent consultant specializing in multicultural competencies and institutional change.

LIGHT

We welcomed Dr. Kate Lassiter as our Senior Director of Lifelong Learning in December. The co-curricular institute has been named the Leadership Institute for Growth, Healing, and Transformation, also known by the acronym LIGHT. The Institute's mission is to equip values-driven individuals as well as ordained and lay progressive religious leaders with the skills for personal and social transformation. Dr. Lassiter has begun working quickly and efficiently to develop new co-curricular events. The first LIGHT program that starts this fall is the 2-year program, *Spiritual Direction Formation and Certification*, under the direction of Rev. Tandi Rogers. The official launch of LIGHT will be held during the *Post-Imperial Futures* Conference on October 6 – 8, 2022. Topping off this fall's program will be an adult healthy sexuality curriculum, OWL Facilitator Training seminar, on November 11 – 13, 2022.



Below are Dr. Lassiter's answers to frequently asked questions about LIGHT.

What is lifelong learning?

Lifelong learning is vital to this beautiful experience of being human. What does it mean to be human if not to grow? What is growing if not developing one's sense of purpose and belonging rooted in values that call for personal and social healing and transformation?

For Meadville Lombard students, alums, and friends, lifelong learning is an opportunity to continue to be formed in theological knowledge and skills, to continue to be accompanied in your vocational journey, and to deepen your commitment to healing and to justice. The world is in ever more need of leaders who can be exactly who the god of their understanding has called them to be, who are committed to their own becoming, their own working through of their theology and practice, and who see that justice and mercy—for others and for themselves—are at the core of faith leadership in these times. Lifelong learning, especially centered at a place like Meadville Lombard, equips professional

and lay leaders to become ever more faithful and thoughtful. We welcome our friends who find themselves in the pews, rallying on the streets, or sitting in an ancient grove—or want to be doing these things—to find community with us, deepen their understanding, and renew their spirit.

Why does claiming transformation matter, especially to leadership development?

We want to equip both individuals and congregations to be agents of transformation in the world. We do this by attending to what is happening "in here" as well as what is happening "out there." Justice that happens at the end of a gun may be effective in the short term but it is soul damaging in the long term, affecting generation after generation. Likewise, we know that ministers, religious professionals, and lay leaders need opportunities to acquire skills that make it so that they can show up as authentic leaders in their organizations: not being afraid of stewardship and finances, not being afraid to communicate a vision, not being afraid of conflict...

How does lifelong learning contribute to professional development?

Research tells us that most American workers will change careers—not just jobs—up to ten times! To be a professional is to commit to developing your skills. In a theological school, professional development for professional and lay leaders, and spiritually rooted activists means deepening theological knowledge, practicing leadership skills, and developing a community for continued growth and professional accountability. More than this, our offerings, over time, stand as an invitation for the curious, for spiritual seekers, for lay people, who desire meaning and purpose in their lives.

What makes the Leadership Institute for Growth, Healing, and Transformation unique?

Three things: First, you're going to receive personalized attention and develop a community while learning with the best of practitioners and scholars who are excited to be learning with and alongside you. Second, we're committed to meeting learners' needs. Last, you'll have a transformative experience. We take pedagogy and design seriously—and want you to be inspired and changed.

MILESTONES: FACULTY



DR. MARK A. HICKS Angus Maclean Professor of Religious Education, Director of the Fahs Collaborative was on leave in Spring 2022.



DR. MICHAEL S. HOGUE Professor of Theology, Ethics, and Philosophy of Religion

- Co-authored with Dean Bell, “Interreligious Resilience: Interreligious Leadership for a Pluralistic World.”
- Published articles: “The Matrix of Whiteness” in *Currents in Theology and Mission* (January 2022) and “Spiritual Resilience and Climate Emergency” (fall of 2022).
- Paper presentation: “Of Gods and Monsters: Hate and Tolerance in the Anthropocene,” at a virtual conference at Hamad Bin Khalifa University in Doha, Qatar, February 2022.



DR. NICOLE C. KIRK Associate Professor, Frank and Alice Schulman Chair in Unitarian Universalist History

- Accepted in the Religion in the North American West Symposium sponsored by The Williams P. Clements Center for Southwest Studies at SMU and the Eiteljorg Museum of American Indians and Western Art. The selected group of scholars will examine religion in the North American West in a two-part symposium to workshop their papers leading to an edited volume.
- Panel: “A Roundtable on Eugene McCarragher’s *The Enchantments of Mammon: How Capitalism Became the Religion of Modernity*,” American Historical Association, January 2022. The proceedings of the panel will be published in the peer-reviewed journal *Fides et Historia*.”
- Publication: “More to Do Than Displace Falsehood,” in *Ministerial Conference at Berry Street 200th Anniversary*, edited by Kate Walker (Skinner House, 2021). Published September 2021.
- Invited lecture: “Holy Spectacles: The Circus and American Religion,” College of William and Mary, November 1, 2021.
- Invited lecture: “Women in UU History,” *Unitaria Academia, Czechia* (online).
- Member of the American Academy of Religion (AAR) Board of Directors, Contingent Faculty Director, and member of the Development Team and Co-chair of the Academic Labor and Contingent Faculty (ALCF) Working Group for the American Academy of Religion .
- Meadville Lombard Accreditation Steering Committee Member, reviewing ML ATS Standards 6, 7, 8 (Library and Information Services, Student Services, and Faculty).
- ML Board of Trustees, Faculty Representative, and member of the Education Team.



DR. KATE LASSITER Senior Director of Lifelong Learning

- Invited talk on The Science of Vocational Discernment at the Forum for Theological Exploration’s Christian Leadership Forum (June 2022).

DR. PAMELA LIGHTSEY Vice President of Academic and Student Affairs, Associate Professor of Constructive Theology

- Participated in two Wabash Center Workshops.
- Invited lectures: Lectures for Episcopal Divinity School at Union in New York City, Samuel DeWitt Proctor Conference, Harvard Divinity School, and Princeton Theological Seminary.
- Continued service as an LGBTQ+ Advisory Council member for Chicago’s Mayor Lori Lightfoot.
- Panelist for The Fellowship of Affirming Ministries on topic, “The Status of Progressive Theological Education.”
- Wrote several peer-reviews and endorsements for scholarly publications.
- Member of the American Academy of Religion (AAR), Theological Education Committee.
- Chair, MLTS Accreditation Self-Study.



REV. TANDI ROGERS Affiliate Faculty

- Published in *This Day In Recovery: 365 Meditations*, edited by Lane Campbell and Katie Kandarian-Morris (Skinner House).
- Theme speaker: Star Island Religious Education Week, “Religious Education as a Tool for Change.”
- UUMA Pacific NW Chapter Spring Retreat, “Recommended Daily Allowances for Spiritual Nutrients.”
- Coordinator of Pacific Western Regional Assembly Right Relationship Team.
- After 20 years of service to the UUA, Tandi resigned to pursue teaching and spiritual direction full time. This fall we welcome the first cohort of LIGHT’s Spiritual Direction Formation & Certification program under Tandi’s leadership.
- Tandi served as chaplain for the July Eliot Institute family camp. When the keynote speaker had to leave suddenly, Tandi was asked to pick up where they left off. The topic was Shaping Unitarian Universalism into a Multicultural Faith. When people asked, “how do you know how to do that?” she replied with pride and satisfaction, “I’m an instructor at MLTS. This is what we do.”



REV. JULIE TAYLOR Affiliate Faculty, Senior Director of Contextual Ministry

- Launched new podcast, “Many Windows: Conversations on Ministry.” There were 10 episodes the first season, and the second season has just started.
- Taught well-received new course, “Chaplains at Work: Navigating Organizations.” This course was designed in connection with Julie’s participation in the Wabash/Chaplaincy Innovation Lab.
- Invited to be part of Denominational Liaisons (UU) and Advisory & Communications Team (UUA Staffing & Compensation Team).
- Another good year with the 109th Airlift Wing. Julie has been requested by name to train active duty first sergeants in crisis intervention techniques and best practices.



2021 / 2022 FUNDRAISING STATISTICS

Allocation of Gifts

We received

\$1,153,400

Last year: \$1,198,184

from **334** donors, including **50** first-time donors.

Last year: 556 donors, including 267 first-time donors

\$739,543 (64%) Last year: \$834,733

from **40** non-individual donors Last year: 37

\$413,857 (36%) Last year: \$363,451

from **294** individual donors Last year: 519

Who were our donors:

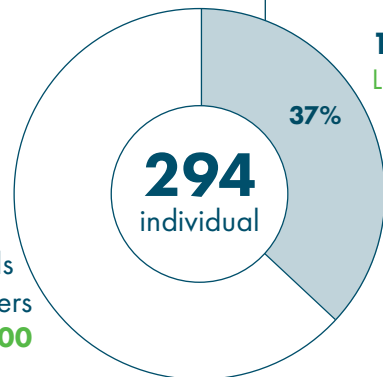
26 Congregations

9 Foundations, Trusts, or Estates

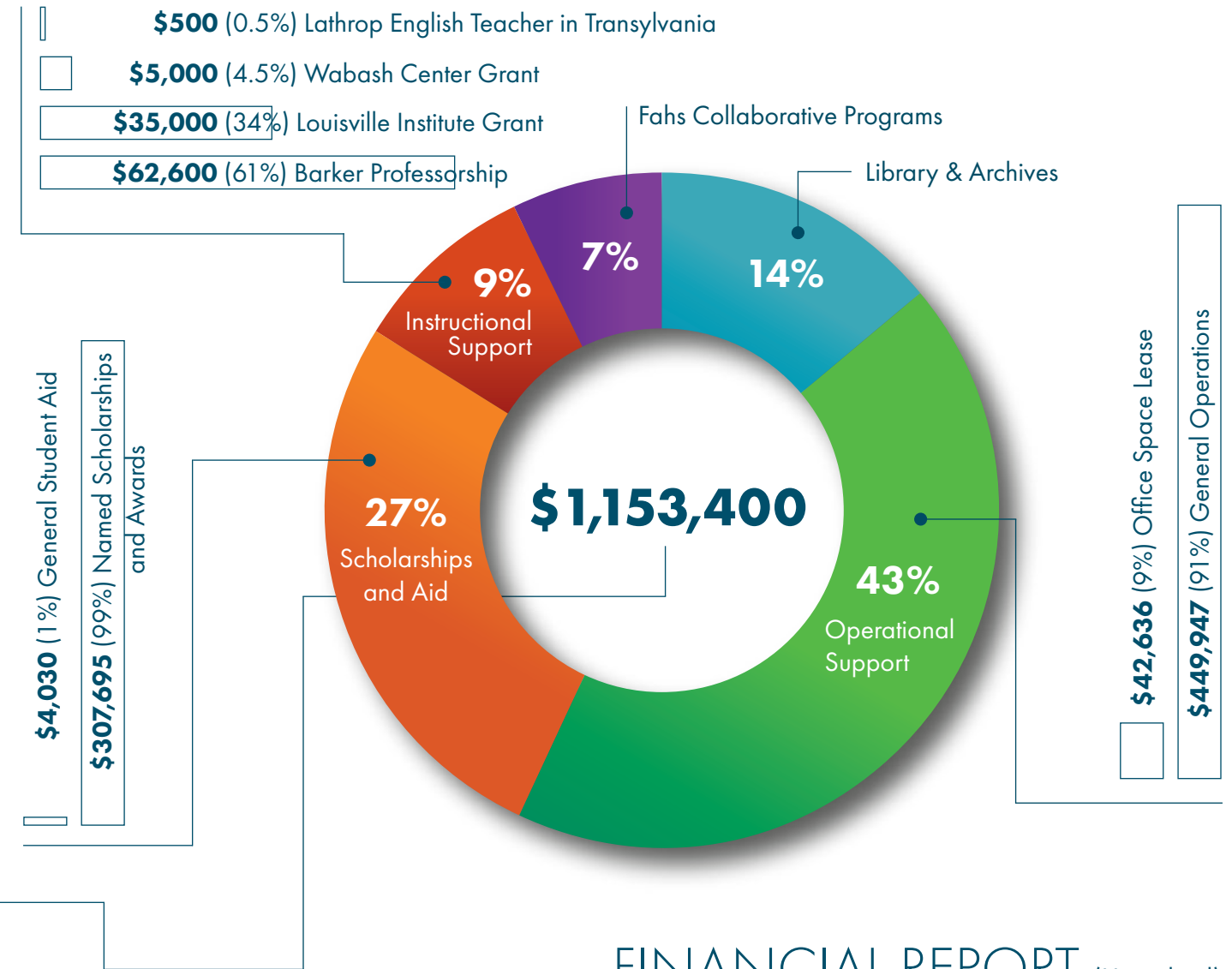
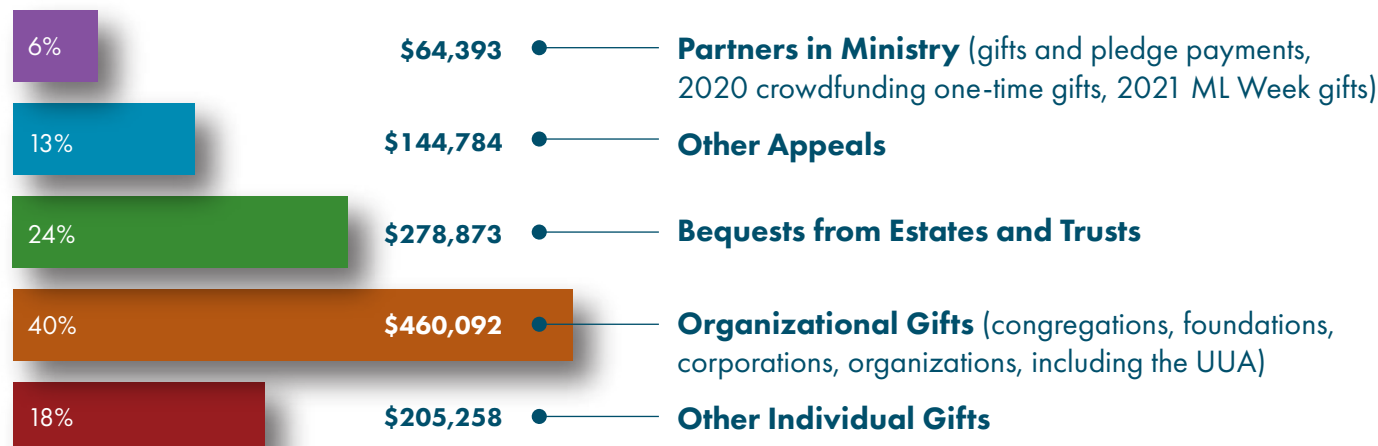
5 Other Organizations

40 non-individual

186 friends and supporters
Last year: 400

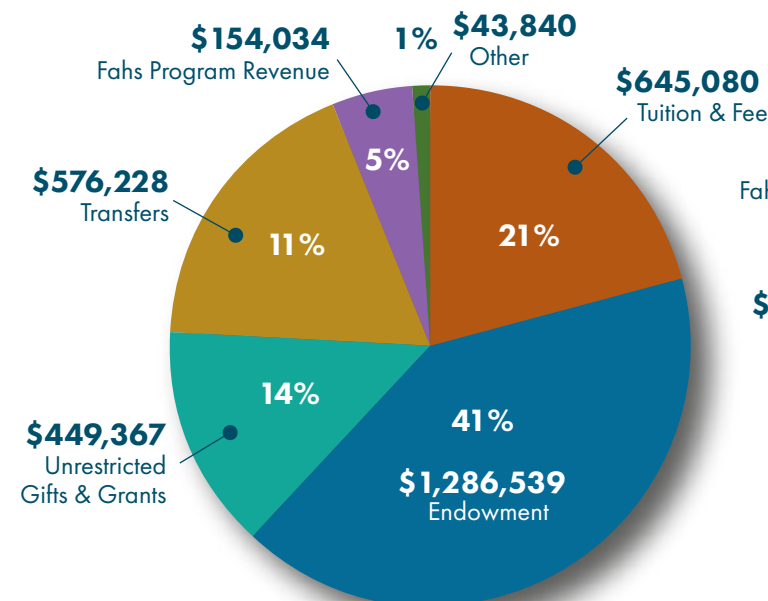


How we received the gifts:

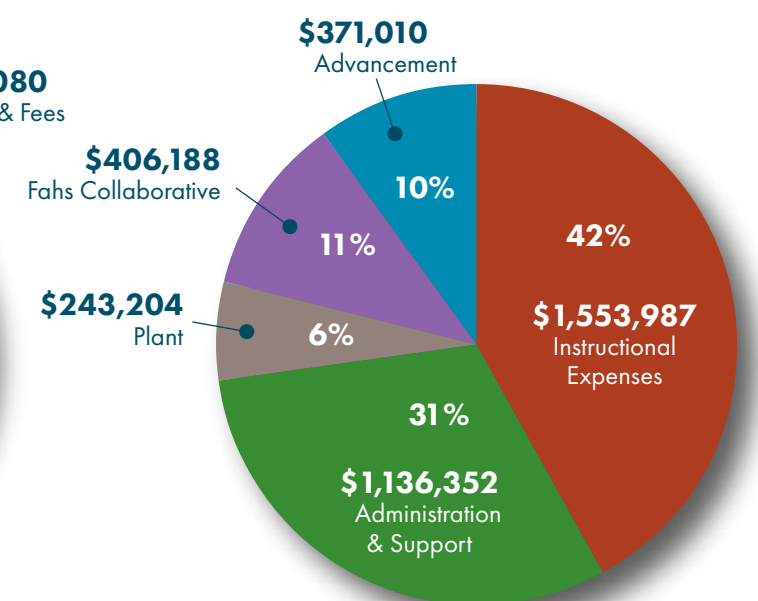


FINANCIAL REPORT (Unaudited)

Revenues: \$3,155,090



Expenses: \$3,710,741



\$42,636 (9%) Office Space Lease
\$449,947 (91%) General Operations

DONOR SPOTLIGHTS

Rev. Scott Alexander: I faithfully support Meadville Lombard (even though I am a graduate of a different UU theological school) because I believe Meadville Lombard is doing a superb job of preparing the next generation of ministers for our beloved spiritual tradition. In a nutshell: the world desperately needs UUism, and UUism fiercely needs Meadville Lombard!



Rev. Dr. Janet Newman, DMin '83: As a retired alum, I am enormously grateful for the offerings I received at Meadville Lombard. The academic rigor of our courses, combined with their practical application provided by the faculty, plus the opportunities for lifelong friendship with our colleagues, were the grounding necessary for my ministerial formation. I gladly support the School in order to enable this quality of education for generations to come. As Dag Hammarskjold says in Markings, "For all that has been — Thanks! To all that shall be — Yes!"



Rev. Emilie Boggis, MDiv '05: I support Meadville Lombard because I believe in the power of seeding the future of Unitarian Universalist ministry. When I began seminary over twenty years ago, having just paid off my college debt, my seminary education was funded by supportive family members I know and love and strangers I'll never know and still love. What a gift to receive! By giving to Meadville Lombard, I am joining the cloud of Unitarians and Universalist strangers who believe in the power of seeding future ministries. And what a transformational experience to receive! I love the ways that Meadville Lombard is teaching its students — both professional and lay folk — to meet the challenges of our times with our theologies, grounded in collective liberation.

Roger Doebke, MAR '14: I had a dream and Meadville Lombard helped me fulfill it. I thought I could do good work in building community and ML gave me the tools to do so. That's why I support Meadville Lombard.



Mac Goekler, on behalf of himself and Susan Goekler: Why We Love Meadville Lombard: We see Meadville Lombard as a foundation stone for Unitarian Universalism. The School has helped UUism to become what it is today. In 2006, I was recruited to join the UUA Congregational Study Action Core Team that was working on peacemaking. Dr. Sharon Welch, Provost of Meadville Lombard at the time, was a significant factor in our work. Her knowledge, spirit, and connections were key — this impressed me greatly. We also noticed that other lay leaders were supporting Meadville Lombard for the same reasons that we do, including the late Denny Davidoff, who had mentored Susan and me in our early days doing UU social witness. I was even involved in the Fahs Collaborative's anti-racism program, *Beloved Conversations*. We continue to be impressed with what Meadville Lombard does and ministers educated at Meadville Lombard.



Winnie McDonagh: My commitment to Meadville Lombard reflects the School's ability to change with the times. Meadville Lombard has successfully transformed itself from the traditional residential school to a flexible model of education in keeping with the needs of today's students. Many of the activist-ministers of the 60's came from Meadville Lombard. My Dad, a businessman, was proud to be knocking on doors on Chicago's West Side to make sure people knew about Food Stamps thanks to the influence of Meadville Lombard seminarians. When UUs started to explore prayers, Meadville Lombard made a presentation at General Assembly on the topic. Most recently, as we renewed our commitment to antiracism work, Meadville Lombard developed the program *Beloved Conversations*. I am proud to support Meadville Lombard.



Janet Randolph: I support Meadville Lombard because it provides a robust education for students who embrace Unitarian Universalist principles and wish to engage in sharing their messages through ministry. The school is also flexible enough to make operational adjustments in response to the realities of life while effectively meeting the needs of the students. Such flexibility requires greater financial support and I feel compelled and honored to contribute.



Rev. Dr. Barbara Wells ten Hove MDiv '85, DMin '07, & Rev. Jaco B. ten Hove: Progressive ministry matters now more than ever. We support both Meadville Lombard Theological School (Barbara's Alma Mater) and Starr King School for the Ministry (Jaco's Alma Mater) through annual giving and in our wills because we are deeply committed to the transformative education we know UU seminaries offer their students.



Rev. Ned Wight: The world in which I was ordained for UU ministry in 1991 has virtually vanished. There are extraordinary new demands and expectations of religious leaders in this decade of global pandemic, climate crisis, recommitment to racial equity and justice, democracy under threat, and languishing consensus about truth. Meadville Lombard is preparing religious leaders to inspire and empower people in community to deepen their faith and develop their power to be agents of compassion and change for the long haul. Meadville Lombard is training leaders for the essential work of transforming a fractured world.



OUR DONORS: THANK YOU!

WE ARE SO GRATEFUL for our Fiscal Year 2021/2022 donors who made gifts to Meadville Lombard between July 1, 2021 and June 30, 2022. Their generosity continues to sustain our work. Thank you for supporting the education and training of the progressive faith leaders our world needs.

The following list is based on gift amount received during the 2021/2022 Fiscal Year.

\$100,000 +

Doris Blaisdell, Estate
Arnold Bradburd, LHD '00 and Julia Bradburd
Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations

\$50,000 – \$99,999

Unitarian Universalist Congregation at Shelter Rock

\$10,000 – \$49,999

R. Ken and Lois Carpenter
Michelle Collins
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Laurel Hallman, DMin '81, DD '97
and Lawrence R. Ladd, LHD '13
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\$5,000 – \$9,999

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\$1,000 – \$4,999

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Pamela Lightsey
Shari Loe
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Rachel Maxwell
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Barry and Maija Nobel

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of Chautauqua
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DeWitt P. Whittington
Edward D. Wight

\$500 – \$999

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Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Princeton
Unity Temple Unitarian Universalist Congregation
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Shari Woodbury, MDiv '15
W. Frederick Wooden, DMin '79 and Wendy Wooden
Ted and Christine Yang

Tax-Wise Giving with IRA Charitable Rollover

There is a way to make a charitable gift that will benefit both you and Meadville Lombard. We invite you to consider making a qualified charitable distribution (QCD) from your Individual Retirement Account (IRA). You pay NO TAXES on the transfer and your gift counts dollar-for-dollar to support our mission.

The IRA Charitable Rollover, or qualified charitable distribution (QCD), is a special provision allowing particular donors who are at least 70.5 years old to exclude from taxable income—and count toward their required minimum distribution—certain transfers of IRA assets that are made directly to charitable organizations.

- Transfer up to \$100,000 from your IRA directly to a charitable organization.
- If you and your spouse each have an IRA, both of you can use the IRA charitable rollover for a potential total gift of \$200,000.
- You can also count the gift against your required minimum distribution (RMD), which could help to lower your income and any potential tax liabilities.

To benefit this tax year, your IRA rollover gift must be made before December 31, 2022.

For more information, please contact:
Evy Lipecka, Director of Development
Email: elipecka@meadville.edu
Phone: (773) 322-7213

\$100 – \$499

Viola Abbitt, MDiv '19
All Souls Community Church of West Michigan
Barbara Baldwin
Lee Barker, DMin '78, DD '01 and Kris Barker
Simona Bartl
George Beach, DD '87 and Barbara Beach
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Emilie Boggis, MDiv '05 and Gordon Boggis
Barbara Bonney
Marsha Borders
Katherine K. Brobeck
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Rayna Hamre, MDiv '18
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Cynthia Higgins-Westlake and Ross Westlake
Tomo Hillbo
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William Irons
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and Lalitha Janamanchi
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Douglas Edward McCusker, MDiv '14
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Peggy McIntosh, DHL '12
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Laura McKee and Tom Denio
Elaine McMillan
Laurence J. and Jerri Jones Meisner
Andrew Mertz, MDiv '16
Betty Jo Middleton, ISP '83 and J. Howard Middleton
Catharon Miller
Gregory Moore, DMin '09
Judith Moores
Mary Ellen Morgan
Mark Morrison-Reed, DMin '79, DD '07
and Donna Morrison-Reed, DMin '79
George and Patricia Mrazek
Sarah Munson
Donald and Carolyn Neeper
Christopher Nelson
Juliana Neuman
Gail Riley and Tom Nixon
Eileen Earhart Oldag
Margret O'Neill, MDiv '09
Elías Ortega
Charles Ortman, MDiv '92 and Judy Ortman
Anne Osborne
Stuart F. and Margaret Tresch Owen
Stephan Papa, MATS '74, DMin '75
Elaine and James Peters
Richard Pokorny
William P. and Roberta Potsic
Patrick Price, MDiv '95 and Jennifer Innis
Jennifer Raffensperger, MDiv '21
Gerald R. Rescigno
Sarah C. Richards, MDiv '13
Bruce D. Rieder
David Robins, DMin '78 and Jean Robins
Millie Rochester, MDiv '03 and Roger Rochester

Anne and David Sailer
Robert and Margie Sallies
Anya Sammler-Michael, MDiv '07
and Scott Sammler-Michael, MDiv '08
William Sasso, DMin '99
and Kathleen O'Laughlin
Karen Scrivo and Kenneth Shilling
Stanley Sears, DMin '81
Greta Seidohl, MDiv '19
Constance M. Simon, MDiv '18
William Sinkford, DD '03 and Maria Hadley
Glenn and Patricia Solomon
Bruce Southworth and Kay Xanthakos
Carole M. Stephens
Lynn Thomas Strauss, MDiv '90
Rexford J. Styzens, BD '59
Sandra Szelag, DMin '84
Anthony Taylor
Julie Taylor
Barbara Wells ten Hove, MDiv '85, DMin '07
and Jaco ten Hove
Unitarian Church of Evanston
Unitarian Universalist Area Church
Unitarian Universalist Congregation at Montclair
Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Columbia
Unitarian Universalist Congregation of the Catskills
Unitarian Universalist Congregation of the Upper Valley
Unitarian Universalist Society of Grafton and Upton
Unitarian Universalists of Sterling
Carol Taylor, ISP '84, DD '08 and Joel Weaver
Susan K. Weickum, MDiv '83
Gretchen E. Weis, MDiv '13
Lynnda White, MDiv '13
Louise C. Wilkinson
Laura and Andy Wilson
Eileen R. Wiviott, MDiv '17
Alison Wohler and Robert B. Adams

\$1 – \$99

Leonard Adler
C. William Bechman
Rebecca Benner, MDiv '99 and Derek Benner
Jeremy J. Brigham, DMin '71
Anne Marie Bussolini
Susan Caravello
Carol Carter Walker
Denise Cawley, MDiv '20
Kristina Church, MDiv '20
Barbara Coeyman
Emily Conger, MDiv '17
Colleen Crawley

Lynn and Jan Dash
Vilius Rudra Dundzila, DMin '06
Marc A. Ferrara
Nicholas Filzen, MDiv '20
Jane Flueckiger
Debbie Foster
Edith Brodhead Good
W. Bradford Greeley, DD '01 and Catherine Greeley
Joel J. Haffner
Christina Hockman, MDiv '16
Gail Holm
Laura Horton-Ludwig, MDiv '05 and John B. Ludwig
Beth Hospadaruk
Steve Howard
Monica Jacobson-Tennessee, MDiv '18
Wendy Jerome, MDiv '87
Matthew Johnson, MDiv '03
Simon Knaphus
Katherine J Kramp
Linda Lawrence, MDiv '99
Dominika Lipecka
Evy M. Lipecka
Roy and Shirley Lundin
Joan Montagnes, MDiv '94
Rachel Anne Murphy
Nell Newton, MDiv '15
Susan Nichols
Sally J Parsons
Gregory Scott Pelley, MDiv '14
Pamela Philips, MDiv '16
Douglas R. Pillsbury
Helen Popenoe
Lora Powell-Haney, MDiv '20
Albert Christopher Pucio
Joseph Rettenmaier, MDiv '19
Lillie Searles
Linda Secretan
Steven Serikaku
Laura Shennum, MDiv '12
Sarah Skochko, MDiv '20
Adair and Kenneth Alan Small
Richard Speck, DMin '90 and Janet Tillman
Kristine Stuart, MDiv '20
Jane Thickstun, MDiv '00
Christina Leone Tracy, MDiv '11
Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Lakeland
Marianne Vakiener and Paul Kohlbrenner
Sarah Voss, DMin '93 and Dan Sullivan
Jocelyn Walker
Jacqueline Ann Ziegler, MDiv '94
Melissa Carvill Ziemer, MDiv '05



OUR TRUSTEES



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.

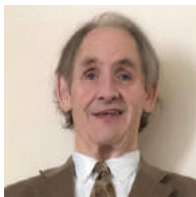


Nancy Felix is the Associate Dean for Advancement in the Mellon College of Science (MCS). She has extensive experience and impressive track records in higher education and non-profit advancement.

"Several years ago, I was privileged to lead a search committee for a settled minister. It was an amazing experience, and I was left feeling that the world needs more UU ministers. This is why I give to MLTS — to support the incredible students who will someday be the ministers our faith needs, today more than ever."



Dr. Nancy Franklin serves as Interim Chief Innovation Officer at Radford University. She is also a Principal of Franklin Solutions and consults with leaders of higher education, government, and community on strategic initiatives, planning, innovation, and change agendas.



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.



Vanessa Gomez Brake is the Associate Dean of Religious Life at the University of Southern California. She is the first humanist chaplain to serve in this capacity at any American university.

"I serve on the board and support Meadville Lombard because of the School's commitment to a religiously pluralistic education for future spiritual leaders, who will serve people and communities with a variety of worldviews, not just Unitarian Universalists."



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.

"Serving on the MLTS Board is an opportunity to honor our collective past, steward our present, and invest in the future of the world (within and beyond Unitarian Universalism). It is to engage in the practice of collaborative work; joining with others who are committed to imagining a new world grounded in liberation, peace, and justice."



Rev. Abhi Janamanchi, MDiv '98, serves as Senior Minister at Cedar Lane Unitarian Universalist Church in Bethesda, MD. His UU-Hindu faith, his Indian heritage, and his American citizenship inspire and guide his life and ministry.

"Serving on the board is an opportunity to show my gratitude for the support and the education I received at Meadville Lombard that called me into ministry, and to give back to support the future of Unitarian Universalism, to train and equip lay and professional religious leaders, and to advance multi-faith engagement in the 21st century."



Carla Kindt is a retired development executive with 30 years of experience. She crafted a fundraising strategy for Northeastern University that resulted in gifts totaling \$16 million over six years through a capital campaign.



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

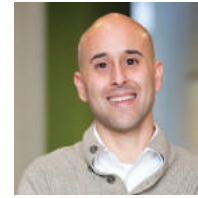
interests include religion, business, technology, and material culture in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.



Rev. Parisa Parsa, Board Chair, until recently served as CEO of Cortico, a non-profit that builds systems to bring underheard voices into the center of a healthier public dialogue. She has served in religious and secular nonprofit leadership for over 25 years.



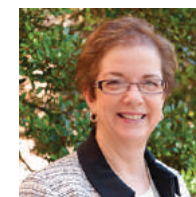
Ken E. Redd is Senior Director, Research and Policy Analysis at the National Association of College and University Business Officers (NACUBO). He directs the annual survey of college and university endowments and other studies on higher education finance issues.



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.

"I serve on the board at Meadville not just because I believe in the mission or the impact the institution can have on society. I serve on the board because I believe in the people who serve its mission and the students who come to the institution hoping to live their values. I love the people. Love is what will advance the mission of Meadville. Love is why I am here."



Lynne C. Schaefer has recently retired from her position as VP for Finance and Administration at the University of Maryland, Baltimore County (UMBC). In her role as the chief business officer at UMBC, she was responsible for all aspects of financial management for annual operations exceeding \$450 million.



Rev. Connie Simon, MDiv '18, is the President of the Meadville Lombard Alum Association and the Alum Representative to the Board. She serves as interim minister at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Davis, CA. 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."



IN MEMORIAM: Rev. Jeanne Pupke

Rev. Jeanne Pupke, MDiv '04, had an unfailing commitment to the growth of Unitarian Universalism in the world. She mentored many of our students, supported the school financially, and brought her leadership skills to the school as a ministerial internship supervisor and a member of our Board of Trustees. She believed the future of our faith movement depended on progressive theological education, and passionately advocated for support of Meadville Lombard. Rev. Jeanne passed on unexpectedly in February 2022.

Whether as a Catholic nun, successful businessperson, or UU minister, to be spiritually and morally the best person she could be to serve the good was the ideal Rev. Jeanne lived by. Her tenacious love for Unitarian Universalism guided her to apply her leadership skills to the work of congregational growth and public ministry. When

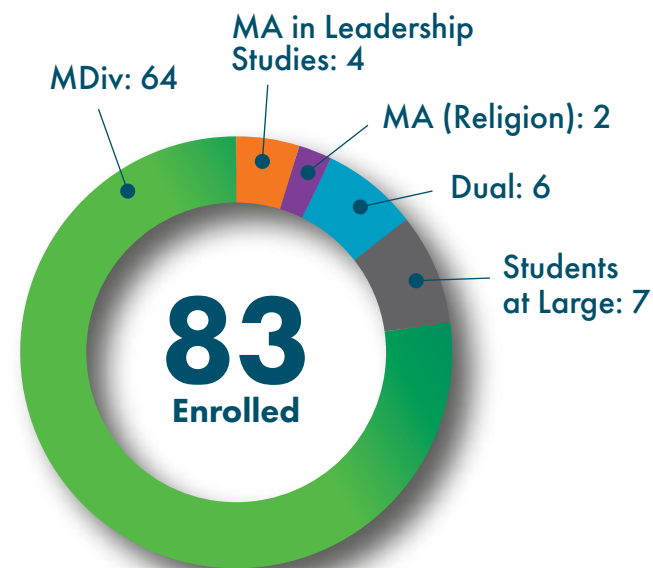


she was a part-time minister at the UU Fellowship of Central Oregon, she also served as the growth minister for the Pacific Northwest District, assisting small and emerging congregations from Idaho to Alaska. During her 16 years as the Senior Minister at the First UU Church of Richmond, Virginia, she not only led the church to grow into one of the largest congregations in the denomination, but also founded and led the UU Legislative Ministry in Virginia and frequently testified for racial justice, women's, LGBTQ+ and youth rights. Rev. Jeanne served as a Trustee of the UUA Board from 2009 to 2013 and ran for the UUA President in 2017.

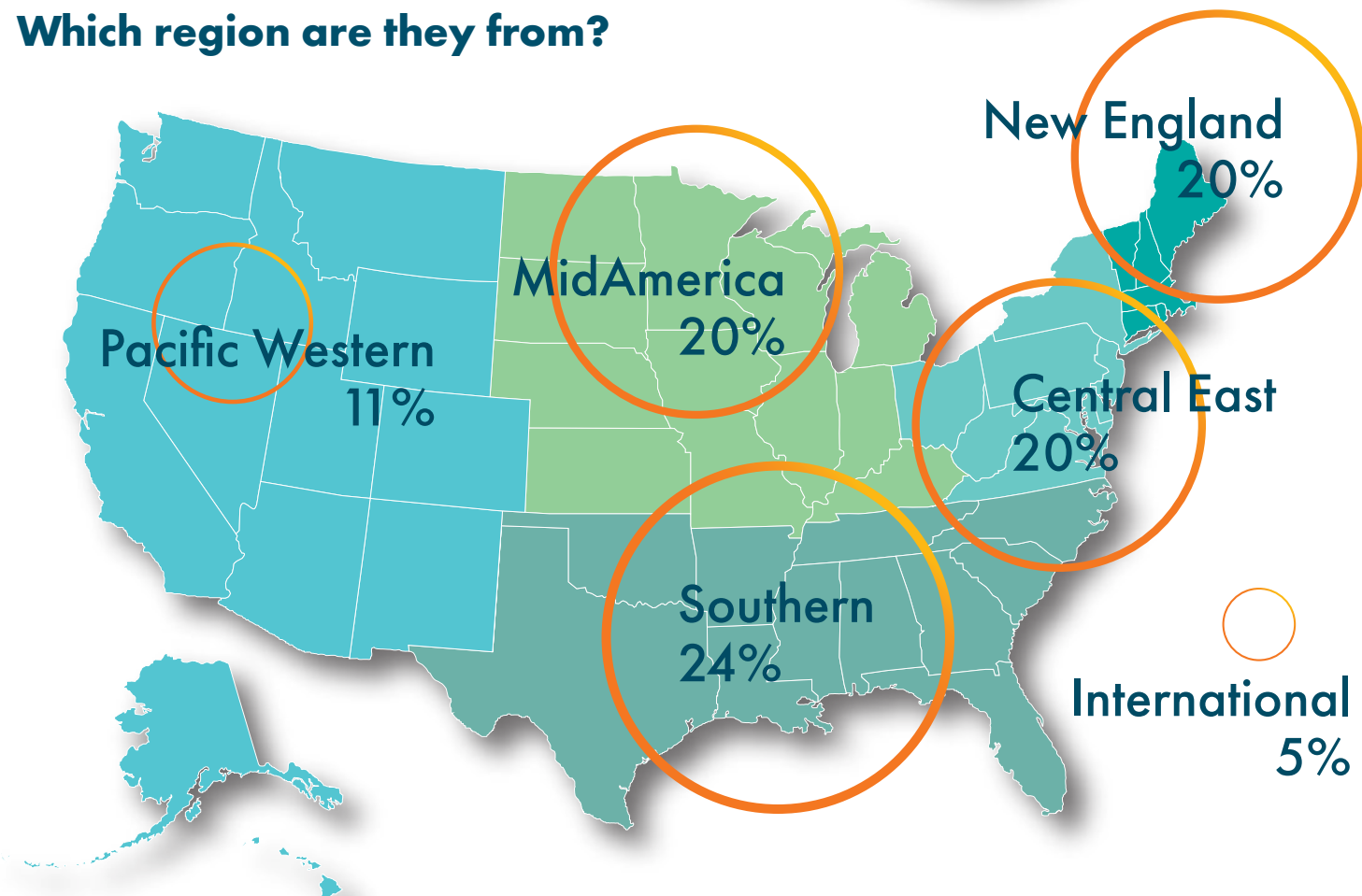
We celebrate Rev. Jeanne's life with countless souls who have been touched by her enormous heart and genuine spirit. We also hold her life partner Regina Larsen in our hearts. May Rev. Jeanne's memory guide us as we continue her path of building Beloved Community.

OUR STUDENTS: FALL 2021

Just as the ability to collaborate is essential to social impact and effective religious and spiritual leadership, collaborative learning is an essential element of a Meadville Lombard education. Our students come from a variety of vocational paths and educational environments, bringing a diversity of experience and wisdom. We ensure that our students learn as much from one another as they do from their coursework.



Which region are they from?



We are an Open and Affirming Institution. Our students express multiple gender identities. 70% of them identified themselves as female last year. About 72% of our student body identified as white, the age range was 26 – 75, and average age was **46.**

FINANCIAL AID

In 2021/2022, we awarded **\$560,433** in grants and scholarships to our students.

Of our degree-seeking students, **72%** received some form of institutional financial aid.



Self-Study as part of our ten-year re-accreditation process with the Association of Theological Schools. It is a big collective effort, including all faculty and staff, current students, and some alums. We are very grateful to the alums from the classes of 2010, 2014, and 2019 who completed our alum survey!

More About Our Students

Our students bring different perspectives and knowledge to the classroom that enrich learning at Meadville Lombard. In Academic Year 2021/2022, a class consisted of a former attorney, a social worker, a college professor, an activist, a performer, a public-school teacher, just to name a few. Although their paths varied, they came to Meadville Lombard for a common reason: to learn to become a justice-informed progressive faith leader to create change in the world.

STUDENT AFFAIRS

Pivoting Between Platforms

In August 2021, we held the Fall 2021 Convocation in person and multiplatform at our old campus in the Spertus building. We planned our January 2022 Convocation to be held at our new campus, but due to the ferocious spread of the coronavirus' Omicron variant, we pivoted it to an online only event. We are continuing to learn how best to plan multiplatform events for our students to ensure optimal educational experiences on all platforms.

ATS Re-Accreditation Self-Study

This has been a year of reflection on our work as we have been conducting a



ALUM ASSOCIATION

Rev. Connie Simon, MDiv '18

Just as our families, our communities, and our country have explored new ways of gathering and operating, our Alum Association has been busy reimagining how alums can remain connected with the Meadville Lombard community. At our annual meeting last year, next officers were elected:

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

The first act of this new Alum Leadership Team was to launch an alum engagement survey. We received more than 50 responses from a wide range of graduates representing the classes of 1964 through 2021, from all regions of the country, and serving as chaplains, community ministers, settled ministers, and spiritual directors. We learned that our alums, like other religious professionals, have been stretched by the pandemic and would welcome renewed connection with Meadville Lombard.

Overwhelmingly, our alums praised the excellence and commitment of the Meadville faculty and the opportunity to build lifelong relationships and collegial connections. They also expressed a desire for continuing education and a willingness to support current students at Meadville Lombard. We hosted a special Alum



Association gathering at General Assembly in Portland that was attended by more than 60 friends and alums and held a fundraising challenge that garnered \$3,525 for the ML Partners in Ministry program, including \$2,725 from the crowdfunding campaign, supporting education for future students. Several alums volunteered to work with the Alum Leadership Team to execute and promote programming during the coming year. Some of our initiatives include:

- Regular communications with news relevant to alums
- Hosted alum social media platforms
- Lunch and Learn Zoom gatherings featuring ML faculty and others discussing their work, as well as other topics of interest
- Student Advisory Council/Alum Connection matching alums and incoming/current students for informal mentoring
- Healing Circles and Conversations to address issues of conflict and tension between and among alums and ML
- Greater involvement and an increased voice for alums on the Board of Trustees and in school administration

It is my honor to serve as President of the Alum Association and to represent Alums on the ML Board of Trustees. I am excited for the opportunities and possibilities the future offers.



OUR RECENT GRADUATES

Sarah Osborne, MDiv '22

With much joy, I will be continuing my ministry leading the lifespan faith formation program at Neshoba Unitarian Universalist Church in Cordova, TN. In my near future, I am open to the call of parish and or community ministry and I will be delighted to see what the Universe reveals to me. During my time at Meadville Lombard, I feel like I have been unraveled and woven anew. As a result, my ministry is strong, inspired, and agile. My experiences at MLTS transformed me in ways that I didn't know were possible. I understand ministry in a much broader and deeper capacity. I am incredibly energized by the vision and practice of collaborative ministry. In the care and challenge of the Meadville community, I learned to succinctly articulate my theology of grace. The calling of my ministry is about helping people find wholeness, to thrive in community, and to work toward the goal of collective liberation. Meadville Lombard prepared me to lead with love.



Ebony C. Peace, MALS '22

MALS studies at Meadville Lombard equipped me with a spiritual foundation in compassionate leadership. I feel ready to live into my call to serve in innovative community-based settings and apply my values to the world of work. The faith formation and mentorship I experienced during my internship at All Souls Church Unitarian in Washington, DC was especially affirming and profound. During my time at Meadville, I was both humbled and honored to be the recipient of 2022 Charles Billings Prize for Excellence in Preaching.

Currently I am full throttle into my holy work as a Spiritual Entrepreneur with InnovativeSpirit.org and as a Lay Community Minister in private practice through SunstoneChapel.org. Through my ministries, I provide community spiritual enrichment and open-hearted human resources services to liberal faith communities, and spiritual career direction to individuals.

Recently, I have registered for adult OWL facilitator training this fall. I have also completed training as a volunteer facilitator for both the Spiritual Alliance of Communities for Reproductive Dignity, where I help teach curriculum to progressive congregations of all faiths, and the DC Center for the LGBT Community, where I will use my HR and career consulting background to serve in their job support program.



Catherine Trevor-Roberts, MDiv '22

I am a 2nd Lieutenant and a Christian Science Chaplain Candidate in the US Air Force. I came to Meadville Lombard Theological School as the first part of my journey towards becoming a Christian Science Military Chaplain. Previously, I was a youth development professional. When I started my MDiv at Meadville, I was working for DiscoveryBound National Leadership Council, a 4-year youth servant leadership development program. Now that I have completed my MDiv and all the requirements of my church, I am actively working to become a Christian Science Chaplain in the US Air Force. I just completed my first internship tour and am in the process of going on my second internship tour.



FAHS COLLABORATIVE

The Fahs Collaborative is a unique resource for congregations, developing curricula that center faith formation for shared lifelong learning and more faithful living. We have had a busy year imagining together how our new role in LIGHT (Leadership Institute for Growth, Healing, and Transformation) can ensure the sustainability and continued excellence of Fahs' work, as our curriculum development has continued.

Social Justice Stewards debuts later this year, developing young adults' leadership capacity for social justice work. **Creating Theology Together** (CTT) and **Beloved Conversations: Family** are multigenerational offerings that strengthen UU identity and deepen covenantal community. CTT helps Unitarian Universalists do better social justice work by grounding a public witness of our faith in UU theology; BC: Family responds to a call for resources developed specifically to connect



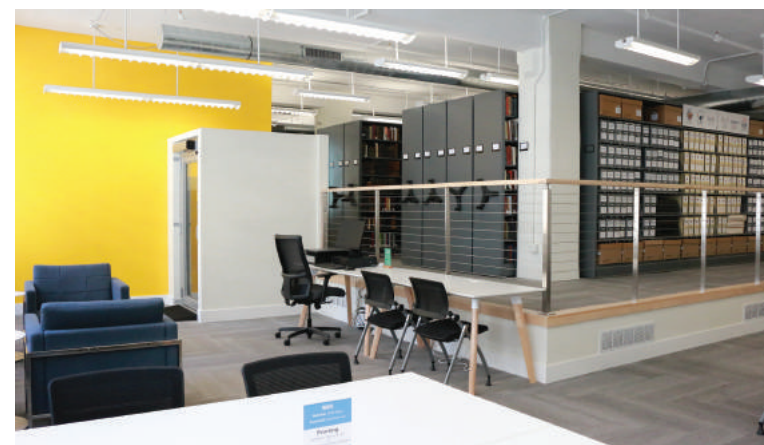
BIPOC+ and multiracial families and support their needs in congregations. Both launch this Fall after a pause during the pandemic. We are especially excited to announce a new partnership with the UUA's Young Adult Office, to develop a new version of **Beloved Conversations Virtual: Within** program, made specifically by and for young adults. We will collaborate to hire a design team, co-lead an incubator to launch the work, and supervise the design process. We plan to launch the program in Fall 2023.

Fahs' best-known offering, **Beloved Conversations**, helps Unitarian Universalists embody racial justice as a spiritual practice, heal the impact of racism on our lives, and get free together. In the Fall of 2020, the Fahs Collaborative launched **Beloved Conversations Virtual** (BCV), reimagining our 10-year-old program for this particular moment.

BC: Within, the first phase of the virtual program, focuses on the personal learning and spiritual growth we each need to do to go deeper in our racial identity formation and racial justice education. Within is offered in two separate courses: **Gathering Our Selves** for BIPOC+ and **Un/Learning for Liberation** for white folks, each with different learning goals and practices. During BC: Within's first two years, we have built a learning community of over 3,000 participants, both lay leaders and religious professionals. Within continues as a 12-week term each Fall and Spring, with different content each term.

In 2021/2022, we launched the second phase of the program, **Among**, for congregations ready to enact antiracist systemic change and build multicultural, radically inclusive, spiritual homes aligned with our UU values. Nine congregations from Canada and the US participated in our pilot year of Among, working directly with BC coaches to try "change experiments" in one of eight different areas of congregational life. We are extending this pilot for a second year, accompanying those congregations in ongoing work, and accepting applications for new Among congregations in Fall 2023.

LIBRARY & ARCHIVES



This year of growth in the Meadville Lombard Library & Archives began not with books or archival manuscripts, but with shelves, tables, chairs, and floor plans. As part of the move to 180 N. Wabash Ave., the library was given the opportunity to design an entirely new space for our books, archives, and most importantly, the patrons that will use them. We created a library space that emphasizes natural light, flexibility, and creature comforts, such as comfortable lounging chairs, private study carrels, and plentiful charging stations. Once the space was designed, the Library & Archives team began preparing to move 40,000 bound volumes and 1,700 boxes of archive material documenting over 400 years of history into their new home. As part of this move, we

took this opportunity to weed and reorganize the physical collection creating a separate rare books section, expanding UU reference holdings, and weeding dated and redundant material. The biggest transformation was in the archives. During the summer of 2021, the entire archive was audited, barcoded, and sent to a document storage facility that allows us to continue growing our archive collection beyond the footprint of our space, while also having same day recall of all archival materials.

Once we moved into the new location, we were able to return to archival digitization for the first time since March 2020, completing the digitization of both the UU Women's Federation Records and the UU Women and Religion Records. These two collections were a capstone to a multiyear digitization project dedicated to digitizing material and documenting the impact of women upon UU ministry. Our current large-scale archives project is the digitization of the records of the American Humanist Association (AHA). The AHA Records document the early growth of humanist philosophy and the institutions and communities behind it. The first part of this project focuses on the early history of the AHA, from the late 1940s to the late 1960s and will help tell community-centric story of the rise of humanism. There are several exciting collections in the queue for digitization, and we cannot wait to share those stories with you, too.



2021/2022

Our work continues...



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THEOLOGICAL SCHOOL



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