

Mission Statement

The mission of the Cause of the Month program is to give gifts of time, talent, and treasure to local and/or UU-related organizations that are focused on racial and social justice work.

This initiative focuses on the financial contribution from the Share the Plate Program having a significant impact on the work of the organization and its work in the community.

2023-24 Cause of the Month (CotM) CRITERIA for Nomination

- The organization must currently have non-profit 501c3 status or be under the auspices of an organization that has such status.
- The organization should address needs occurring primarily in the Athens area and/or be an organization connected with Unitarian Universalism.
- The purpose of the organization must complement the Seven Principles of the Unitarian Universalist Association and the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Athens Mission and Vision Statements
- The organization must complete a [CotM nomination questionnaire](#) by the deadline.

CONSIDERATIONS

A subcommittee of SAC members will use the criteria above and the following considerations to determine if a nominated organization is placed on the ballot:

1. the impact of the money given on the organization itself
2. the effect of the money given on the larger Athens community contributing to lasting change as opposed to focusing on charity
3. the existence of opportunities for involvement with the organization within the UUFA community
4. the organization having limited funding
5. the organization serving communities of color and/or is being led by person(s) of color

On the [Questionnaire](#):

- The organization shares how the CotM money received will significantly impact the organization.
- The organization shares how the CotM money will be used.
- The organization shares volunteer opportunities available.
- The organization shares its most recent budget.

2023-24 Cause of the Month Procedures

Nominating an organization:

A member of the congregation can nominate only one CotM organization either online or through a paper nomination form that can be requested to be snail mailed from the SAC CotM Subcommittee or is available at UUFA.

The **nomination form** includes the organization's name, contact, and contact info (email and phone), along with the name of the nominator and the nominator's contact info (email and phone).

An identified SAC CotM Task Force of 3-5 individuals shares the **online questionnaire with the nominated organization, cc-ing the nominator**. Nothing precludes the nominator from also contacting the organization about filling out the questionnaire.

A list of nominated organizations and confirmation of a returned questionnaire will be available online.

Nominated organizations have 30 calendar days to complete the online questionnaire.

The SAC CotM Task Force reviews completed questionnaires to determine which organizations, based on the criteria and considerations, are to be placed on the ballot, limiting the number to a maximum of 18 organizations. The previous year's Justice Partners are automatically on the ballot and are part of the 18 organizations.

Timeline:

January 8, 2023 SAC establishes the 2023-24 CotM Task Force.

February 6, 2023 Nominations open for 2023-24 Causes of the Month (after February 5 SAC mtg) A UUFA member may nominate only one Cause of the Month. A list of nominated organizations will be available for viewing.

The CotM nomination form will be available [online](#) and as [a paper form](#).

The period for nominations will be publicized through all UUFA communications channels. ([graphic](#))

February 19, 2023 Nominations close for 2023-24 Causes of the Month

March 20, 2023 Deadline for a nominated organization to submit completed [questionnaire](#).

March 20-April 1, 2023 SAC CotM Task Force discerns and creates 2023-24 ballot (both online and paper).

for April 2, 2023, SAC mtg The online and paper ballot for 2023-24 CotM voting is shared. The ballot includes a CotM blurb and the organization's website (for voter education purposes)

April 3 to 17, 2023 Voting --either by paper ballot or online--is open.

May 7, 2023, SAC mtg SAC counts ballots (electronic and paper) and affirms results. after

May 7, 2023 The 2023-24 CotM results announced/publicized.

June 4, 2023 The 2023-24 Justice Partners are determined.
SAC meeting ([UUFA Justice Partner Criteria](#))

July 1, 2023 The 2023-24 UUFA program year begins.