

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.

2024-25 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 UUFA CotM Task Force 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.

2024-25 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 UUFA CotM Task Force or is available at UUFA.

PLEASE NOTE: Our current **2023-24 Justice Partners** (the Economic Justice Coalition, the Athens Anti-Discrimination Movement, and Athens Pride & Queer Collective) do NOT need to be nominated as they will automatically be a 2024-2025 Cause of the Month.

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 UUFA CotM Task Force of 4-6 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 UUFA CotM Task Force reviews completed questionnaires to determine which organizations are to be placed on the ballot based on the criteria and considerations, limiting the number to a maximum of 18 organizations. Since the three 2023-24 Justice Partners will automatically be 2024-25 Causes of the Month, voting members will select up to 9 of the up to 18 organizations that will be on the ballot.

Timeline:

December 17, 2023	SAC establishes the 2024-25 UUFA CotM Task Force.
January 16, 2024	CotM task force meets via Zoom to discuss schedule and make recommendation re Justice Partners and CotM ballot
February 12, 2024 (after February 4 SAC mtg)	Nominations open for 2024-25 Causes of the Month 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 26, 2024	Nominations close for 2024-25 Causes of the Month
February 27, 2024	Questionnaires sent out to all nominated organizations.
March 27, 2024	Deadline for a nominated organization to submit completed questionnaire .
March 27-April 6, 2024	UUFA CotM Task Force discerns and creates 2024-25 ballot (both online and paper).
for April 7, 2024, SAC mtg	The online and paper ballot for 2024-25 CotM voting is shared. The ballot includes a CotM blurb and the organization's website (for voter education purposes)

April 8 to 21, 2024	Voting --either by paper ballot or online--is open.
May 5, 2024, SAC mtg	SAC counts ballots (electronic and paper) and affirms results.
after May 5, 2024	The 2024-25 CotM results announced/publicized and the successful organizations are informed of their month for being a Cause of the Month..
July 1, 2024	The 2024-25 UUFA program year begins.
July 7, 2024	The July CotM representative presents to Fellowship at the Sunday worship service.