

Policy 034

Share the Plate Policy

REFERENCED DOCUMENTS

- An article describing the Share the Plate program can be found at <http://www.uuworld.org/life/articles/2390.shtml>
- NUUC Bylaws Article 10, Section 3, Part D

POLICY

The community that is Northwoods is committed to making a positive difference in the larger community and the world. The Share the Plate Policy will provide for the funding social action projects that promise to make a concrete, positive contribution to the welfare of those they serve. To this end, funds raised through Share the Plate will be distributed monthly to qualifying organizations. One Sunday each month, a charity organization is chosen from member recommendations to receive the undirected cash donations in the collection plate for that Sunday, and all checks marked "Share the Plate" in the memo field.

In accordance with the church bylaws, Share the Plate will operate under the purview of the SEE Justice Committee and Chairperson.

Recipient Selection Criteria

- Recipients must be a 501c3 non-profit organization.
- Recipient organizations shall support a charitable purpose that is consistent with Unitarian Universalist principles and that exemplifies Northwoods' Mission and Vision.
- Preference will be given to grants that impact the local area, though national and world causes are also eligible.
- Special consideration will be given to grants that are part of a member-supported project for the receiving charity.
- Grant applications should include concrete plans for how the grant will be used.

- The group's willingness to work with the See Justice Committee on publicity in support of the collection may also be taken into consideration.

Recommending a Share-the-Plate Charity

Anyone wishing to recommend a charity organization to receive a Share the Plate donation may do so by contacting the SEE Justice Chair, the SEE Justice Committee, or any person delegated by the SEE Justice Chair to administer Share the Plate. Recommendations should include the following:

The Name of the Organization

- The Organization's Website
- The Organization's Facebook Page or any other relevant Social Media links, if it has them
- How does this organization make a difference through service, advocacy, or direct action?
- How does the mission of this organization tie in to the mission and vision of our congregation?
- Finally, are there ways that members of our congregation could be involved in this organization beyond the Share the Plate financial contribution?

Information Needed for Funds Disbursement

- Is there a particular month or time of year that would be best for this organization to receive a Share the Plate donation?
- If donors write a check to the organization, to whom should checks be made payable?
- To what address should contribution checks be mailed to the recipient organization?

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