



ACCESSIBILITY AND
INCLUSION MINISTRY
AIM PROGRAM

*Committed to the full participation
of people with disabilities*

JANUARY 2018 NEWSLETTER

CONGRATULATIONS ROCHESTER!

The Accessibility and Inclusion Ministry Program is delighted to announce that the First Unitarian Universalist Church of Rochester (Minnesota) officially achieved AIM Certification in 2017. Congratulations to team leader, Paula Horner and the other members of the Rochester Disability Task Force who guided the work with their congregation and church staff.

The Rochester AIM team reflects on some of the changes they have observed since beginning their AIM journey in 2014:

"Through workshops, worship services, social justice programs and projects our congregation has become more aware of the importance of inclusion and accessibility. Committees regularly consult with us when they have a specific concern.

Individual members of our Church have sought us out for specific concerns or suggestions... With education and awareness our congregation has a deeper understanding and appreciation of individual members and their needs."

We look forward to giving official AIM recognition to UU Rochester representatives during General Assembly 2018 in Kansas City.

UU ROCHESTER TO SHARE LIMELIGHT

AIM Program Administrator, Rev. Helen McFadyen and members of the AIM Coordinating Committee are very optimistic that two additional congregations currently working to complete their AIM plans are likely to certify early in 2018.

ANTI ABLEISM MEDIA PROJECT

Young Adults, Skylar and Lydia (pictured left) pose with their "Anti Ableist" messages at the AIM/EquUal Access booth in Exhibition Hall at General Assembly 2017 in New Orleans. Lydia's sign reads, "My congregation loves me when I cannot". Skylar's message is, "Stairs are not an **obstacle** for me"

The Anti-Ableism Media Project continues in production.



RECORD NUMBER OF CONGREGATIONS ARE AIM-ING!

The AIM Program meets congregations where they are, so different congregations pursue different goals at different times depending on the unique characteristics of their community.

As the AIM program itself evolves, adapts, and improves, we are seeing increasing numbers of UU congregations drawn to AIM. Our latest tally counts SEVENTEEN congregations within the AIM umbrella.

Here's how these 17 congregations fit into the designations we use to distinguish where they are at in the process.

3 AIM Post-Certified (congregations that have completed their AIM plan, received AIM certification, and potentially carrying on AIM "re-certification" activities) – First Parish Bedford, Ann Arbour, Las Cruces

3 AIM Pilot (active congregations that are among the first AIM program pilot or test launch group) – Rochester, Buffalo, First Parish Cambridge



6 AIM Aspirant (congregations which have met the initial requirements and been accepted into the program) – Atlanta, Montpelier, Summit, Hartford, Dupage, Lacrosse

5 AIM Emerging (congregations that have expressed serious interest or intent in pursuing AIM but have not yet completed their application or been accepted into the program) -- these will remain unnamed until officially part of the AIM program

An additional three congregations remain "On Hold" in their AIM process, having withdrawn until further notice due to changes in their circumstances.

INFORMATION

[HTTP://WWW.UUA.ORG/ACCESSIBILITY/AIM](http://www.uua.org/accessibility/aim)
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