



**CHALICE LIGHTER CALL FOR THE  
FIRST UNITARIAN CHURCH OF ROCHESTER  
November 2007 - Call # 39**

**ST. LAWRENCE DISTRICT CHALICE LIGHTERS**

Dear SLD Chalice Lighters,

The SLD Growth Committee is pleased to bring to you for this fall's Chalice Lighter Call the request of First Unitarian Church of Rochester. This congregation is the largest and the fastest growing in our St Lawrence District. They are a very open congregation, attracting new families at a rate of three or four first time visits per week. This growth is a very exciting opportunity for that congregation and for our UU faith. Their membership has grown from 750 in June of 2006 to 850 as of October 26, 2007.

Last year this congregation participated in the UUA Youth Office Program, "Congregational Conversation for Ministry to and with Youth," and made a special effort to improve their program for youth by assigning the associate minister to that role on a part time basis. Having professional, accountable, leadership has made a great improvement in the quality of their Youth program.

They now find themselves in a position, because of their rapid growth as a congregation to have to reassign that associate minister and are seeking to hire a quarter time, 10 month Youth Ministry Coordinator to carry on this very successful effort.

They are asking Chalice Lighters to fund this position for the near term and they themselves will be paying half of the cost next church year and all costs thereafter. The SLD Growth Committee recognizes the importance that making a serious effort to retain our youth in the 8th to 12th grade age range will have on the future growth of our movement. We definitely need to plan to keep our young people actively engaged in our congregations through their growing up years. The Youth program being modeled at First Unitarian Church of Rochester can help us all to improve our youth programs in our own congregations.

We thank you for sending your donation promptly.

*Eileen M. Hamlin*

Eileen Hamlin for the SLD Growth Committee:

Amy Lent, Suzanne McNamara, Karen West

Kindly make your checks payable to the *ST. LAWRENCE DISTRICT* and mail to the St. Lawrence District, 695 Elmwood Avenue, Buffalo, NY 14222-1697.

Please note "Chalice Lighters - Roch. Unit." on your check.

Your current pledge is \$ \_\_\_\_.

A "PEEL & STICK" Chalice Lighter sticker  
for your church name badge is enclosed here.

