

Refine

UB'S FUNDRAISING PARTY

Sunday, January 14, 2023 | 5:30pm - 7:30pm

December 15, 2023

Dear friends,

As UniteBoston celebrates our 13th anniversary, we invite you to join us for our annual fundraising party on Sunday January 14, an evening of celebration with food, fun, and an opportunity to partner with us in our bridge-building work.

This year's theme for our fundraising party is "Refine." After thirteen years of fruitful ministry, UB's staff and board feel called to take a step back to refine our missional priorities and theory of change. In 2010, UniteBoston was birthed out of a vision for greater togetherness across Christians - and it grew from a newsletter, to a website, to a fully-fledged non-profit with a variety of program offerings and three staff members. This year, we are developing a framework around becoming truth learners, truth hearers, and truth tellers to address three big barriers to Christian unity: imbalanced theology, righteous hubris, and historical injustices. We believe UniteBoston's unique role is to foster renewal by bringing the streams of Christianity together and shape "ambassadors of reconciliation" (2 Corinthians 5:18-20) who can bear witness to the gospel individually and corporately.

This is an exciting season and we would love to share more with each of you, as we sit in the "refiner's fire" (Malachi 3:2-3) to clarify the change we hope to nurture and discern the way forward together.

We have already started this refining work. This past year, we launched a Christian unity cohort that brought together a diverse group of next generation Christian leaders for lunchtime conversations to explore the divisions within the current church and what might be done to bring healing and repair (photo top right). Additionally, at the second annual Boston Flourish Conference in November, we collaborated with local partners to host 200 leaders who came together to address three big issues facing our city (photo of our leadership team bottom right).



Will you be my guest at our seventh annual UniteBoston's Fundraising Party on Sunday January 14 from 5:30 to 7:30pm at PKL? This is an opportunity to gather with the UniteBoston community to meet friends old and new, play games, eat good food, and hear where God is leading us this coming year. There is no cost to attend, but would you consider sowing into God's great work to bring together Christians in Boston?

Our goal is to raise \$15,000 by January 14, 2023. Your donations will support the allocation of resources toward staff, consultants, and research. These resources will aid in refining our strategic planning process, exploring available resources related to barriers to unity, evaluating gaps, and collaborating with local partners.

Plus, this year we are excited to sow into a partner ministry in recognition of the mission partners that compliment our framework of "truth learning, truth hearing and truth telling." For this year's fundraiser, UB is providing a matching grant up to \$5,000 for the Race & Christian Community Initiative's experiential learning weekend on the history of slavery in Boston. Participants will embark on a "truth telling" journey by visiting historic sites to explore the church's complicity in slavery, cultivate a common memory of historic injustices, and learn how this shapes our city today. We believe this is the starting work of dismantling racism, one of the larger barriers hindering Christian unity. That means your impact will be doubled by supporting two organizations, rather than just one!

Donations can be made online by visiting www.uniteboston.com/give, or by check, made out to "UniteBoston," and sent to UniteBoston, P.O. Box 240013, Dorchester, MA 02124. We are a 501c3 non-profit organization, so all donations are tax-deductible.

Thank you in advance for supporting this important work. And of course, please call or email me if I can answer any questions. I greatly value your friendship, encouragement and support!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kelly Fassett". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the typed name and title.

Rev. Kelly Fassett
UniteBoston Executive Director
kelly@uniteboston.com

P.S. Don't forget to mark your calendars to join us on Sunday, January 14. If you're not able to attend, be sure to send in your gift. Thank you!

Testimonials



"Boston Flourish is unique compared to any other conference I've attended in that it goes beyond mental ascent and intellectual pontification and sees the realities and addresses the down-to-earth needs of the community, elevating the voices of those most impacted and affected and making time to plan for practical responses to these very real urgent needs."

- Katelyn Hannan, EGC / Neighborhood Church of Dorchester



"The cohort has created a safe space for processing and learning together with Christian leaders across theological, racial, and ethnic backgrounds. We are doing the good and hard work of anchoring ourselves in Jesus. Jesus is our center and holding place. It's beautiful to experience."

- Damaris Taylor, Pastor of The Bridge Church



"The joy I saw at Unite Boston was unlike "normal" worship I've been part of! The diversity of music and people truly demonstrated the expanse of the family of God. I sang in the gospel choir, and there's something about gospel music that just drops all your anxiety about "performing" and instead brings us all into a moment of shared worship. Truly an encouraging and uplifting experience!"

- Ben Hampson, Riverwalk Church (formerly Highrock Brookline)



"The questions we explored in the Christian unity cohort pushed me to think deeply about my own beliefs and convictions. Through heartfelt conversations and shared stories, we were able to celebrate our common ground, confess our shortcomings, lament the divisions, and seek repentance and repair where needed. This process has been both challenging and immensely healing."

- Michael James, Professor at Boston College / Focolare Community



Attending the "Rejoice" concert made me realize that yes, Sundays are the main days for church, but worshiping God can really happen anywhere, at any time, and while I'm doing anything, and if that means singing out loud in the middle of a park in Boston then that counts too! The more we involve and invite God into our lives and worship Him everywhere we go, the more we can continue to glorify His name and show others His love for us."

- Melody Kwong, Boston Chinese Evangelical Church