



September 25, 2021

Dear friends of UniteBoston,

As UniteBoston celebrates our anniversary of 11 years being in ministry, we were inspired by Maya Angelou's poem "Still I Rise" and chose this as our theme to recognize how people can overcome hardships through understanding their God-given dignity and the power of community. Today, we want to invite you to a virtual fundraising party where we will share stories that represent the heart of this theme and invite you to partner with us in our bridge-building work.

This year's challenges have been profound: Businesses and church buildings sought to re-open in the face of the lingering pandemic and Delta variant... Last year's unity of action against the pandemic has been replaced by profound polarization, violence, and disregard for those of differing views... Economic gaps, racial disparities and fragmentation continue to grow...

**And still we rise**, to bring renewal and resilience to the body of Christ and surrounding communities.

This past summer, UB hosted a four-part ["Renew" backyard concert series](#). These concerts opened up space for dozens of Christian artists and budding songwriters to share the songs, poems, artwork, and dances that have emerged out of the challenges of this past year. Attended by over 200 people in the area, the concerts restored bonds of friendship and healing.



Christianity in America has often been driven by the political and societal winds of change more than by God's heart. We face a very real struggle to stay connected with and truly value others who have arrived at different positions of faith and politics.

**And still we rise** to prevail beyond these distinctions because our diversity is a powerful witness to the reconciling love of Jesus Christ.

In Fall of 2020, UB launched a ["Be the Bridge" group](#), where 28 people engaged in weekly small groups in the process of Biblically-based restorative racial reconciliation. In the Spring, we re-launched the groups to focus on the systemic side of racism and locally-focused action through a 5-part speaker series which involved 40 individuals in four small groups. These groups nurtured

bonds between people of diverse races and cultures, and brought forth a shared understanding of how the work for racial justice and reconciliation is a core part of the Church's mission.

While the world today is shaking, the Christian community in Boston is still rising! UniteBoston nurtures unity among diverse Christians for the flourishing of the city, and this year, we have seen the value in our work to bridge historic divides to discover the power that comes from the collective ecclesia.

To celebrate the past and look to the future, I want to invite you to UniteBoston's Fundraising Party on **Thursday October 21 from 7:30 to 9:00pm**. This is UniteBoston's fifth annual fundraiser - an opportunity to gather virtually with the UniteBoston community near and far to meet one another and hear personal stories of rising and renewal. Please RSVP by Monday October 18 [online here](#).

There is no cost to attend, but would you consider sowing into God's great work to bring together Christians in Boston?

Staff time and supplies are needed in order to develop new leaders, coordinate our web/newsletter platform with local stories and events, plan strategic initiatives, and mobilize churches for broad participation. This year, we have been able to increase our capacity to coordinate these programs by hiring a part-time staff person to provide administrative support. This position has been influential in diversifying our core staff team in our work towards God's dream for the flourishing of our city. Our grant funding for this position will be ending this year, and we are now working to raise \$1,000 per month, or \$12,000 per year, to provide long-term sustainability and continuity for this position.

Donations can be made online by visiting [www.uniteboston.com/give](http://www.uniteboston.com/give), or by check, made out to "UniteBoston," and sent to UniteBoston, P.O. Box 240013, Dorchester, MA 02124. Please note that our mailing address has changed. 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,



Rev. Kelly Fassett

UniteBoston Executive Director  
[kelly@uniteboston.com](mailto:kelly@uniteboston.com)  
(928) 600-3236

P.S. Don't forget to mark your calendars to join us on Thursday, October 21. If you're not able to attend, be sure to send in your gift. Thank you!



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*I had the privilege of being a part of all of the concerts and I really appreciated the diversity of talent and music genres represented, especially at the last concert. There was worship music, reggaeton, hip hop, contemporary Christian music, and more. Through this, I saw firsthand the beauty of worship music and its ability to edify not just the person singing, but others who are listening and singing along.”*

CLEOPATRA MUHAMMAD  
Restoration City Church



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*It was such a fun time playing at the Renew Backyard Concert series. I sang my original song “Cherish You” because if there’s anything I’ve learned during the pandemic, it’s to cherish loved ones and human interaction like never before. Grateful for the new connections made and the inspiration shared through UB!*

JEN ALDANA  
Impact Church



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*Through Be the Bridge, I’ve gained many new brothers and sisters, white and people of color, to walk with and collaborating with on the complex issue of racial justice. This program brings the issue local and personal, and encourages us to engage as the church together.*

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