



American Ethical Union

Inspiring Ethical Communities

*2 West 64th Street • New York, NY 10023 • www.aeu.org
Phone 212.873.6500 • Fax 212-624-0203 • office@aeu.org*

2018 Annual Report to the International Humanist and Ethical Union

The American Ethical Union (AEU) is a founding member of the IHEU. The AEU creates, nurtures, and inspires ethical humanist communities to foster a world that is democratic, compassionate, just, and sustainable.

Founded in 1876, Ethical Humanism/Ethical Culture is a humanist Movement focusing on human goodness and building ethical relationships with each other and the Earth. As a non-theistic organization, we do not concern ourselves with the existence or non-existence of a deity but instead embrace the diversity of our membership.

- We recognize the unique worth and dignity of all people regardless of their race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, economic status, level of ability, or religious beliefs.
- We advocate for reason, compassion, and rational thinking so we can progress as individuals, communities, and a world.
- We act to elicit the best in others and thereby in ourselves, celebrating with and supporting each other through life.
- We realize the full capacity of our human spirit when we stimulate our thinking with new insights and inspirations.
- We are recognized as a religious movement because for us the ethical quest has the depth of a religious commitment, and because we recognize the value of a community of support, celebration, and action.
- We train future humanist leaders to promote responsible and ethical living.

2018 State of the AEU

The AEU is a primarily congregational movement and there are currently 23 Ethical Societies in the United States, ranging in size from about a dozen to over 350 members. Programs vary considerably from Society to Society though all Societies have regular meetings (usually on Sundays) that aim to help participants address matters of ethical importance. These meetings generally include talks and opportunities for dialogue. Music is an important part of most programs and many Societies have programs for children and youth.

As “Deed Before Creed” is a core concept for Ethical Society members, engagement in ethical action is an important part of Ethical Society activities. Members join social justice campaigns and participate in social caring actions, often in coalition with other community groups, always with the goal of building and sustaining a more equitable and compassionate society.

The AEU is an active participant in the IHEU. AEU representatives have served as members and officers on the IHEU Board. Randy Best is the current AEU representative to the IHEU.

103rd ANNUAL ASSEMBLY

The Annual Assembly is when all member Societies gather to meet, study, celebrate, and commiserate. This year we meet in Albuquerque, NM from June 7 – 10 on the theme of “Seeds for

the Future: Environmental Justice and Ethical Culture.”

Additional Information on the AEU can be found at the AEU website: <https://aeu.org>.