



# UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST SOCIETY

## 2023 Operating Budget Pledge Campaign



Coming back, together!

Celebration of Commitment  
October 16, 2022

## A Message from our Minister

Creating an ever evolving and deepening community based in Love requires each of us sharing our skills, passions, and resources to strengthen this community. During the last 2 ½ strange and difficult years we've done this, continuously creating new ways of building community, finding spiritual sustenance and growth, and living our values. Each week it's inspiring to meet new people at UUS or in the wider community and find that during the pandemic they've been connecting with UUS through our multiplatform worship services, programs, or outreach – and now are seeking to get more engaged.

Now, as this year begins, I'm excited that by working together we're once again expanding our ways to connect. We're "Coming back, together!" through small group ministries and religious education for all ages, multiplatform worship services, vibrant justice and service work, compassionate connections, and much more. What's more, this year we're building on UUS' past accessibility, preemptive radical inclusion, and racial justice work by further developing our culture and practices of radical welcoming so that we can be an even brighter beacon of love for each other and our community.

This exciting and inspiring work requires all of us, together. As you engage with this year's stewardship campaign, I encourage you to reflect and act on how you can share yourself – your skills and passions – and your resources to build this congregation and help us live Love ever more fully and fiercely into the world.

*Blessed be,  
Rev. Diana*



# A Message from the Stewardship Committee

The 2023 Stewardship Campaign is pivotal as we come back, together. Coming back is a multi-year process and the UUS board has developed a strategic plan to...

- come back to higher member growth
- come back to higher non-pledge revenues
- come back to a balanced budget by 2024  
(no more than 3 to 5% per year from General Endowment Fund)



During this multi-year process, the goal is to maintain the excellent staff and valuable programming at UUS. This includes reaching everyone through in-person and remote services, providing youth education, and growing our work in the community.

We are asking you to increase your pledge by 7% over last year's pledge levels to reach our 2023 Stewardship Campaign goal of \$440,000.

To help reach our campaign goal, three anonymous donors have stepped forward to match all pledge increases of 7% or more, up to \$11,000. Thank you to our match donors. We hope your gift inspires all of us to give generously within our own individual abilities.

The UUS community relies on the pledge you make on or before **October 16th** to finalize the budget for 2023.

- *Diana Miller, Liz Swanson, Pete Brokaw, Michael Schmitz*

# How much should I pledge?

Your annual contribution is a personal decision to be made after reflecting on the significance of UUS in your life and your financial abilities. We offer this adaptation of the UUA's Fair Share Giving Guide as a reference.

Begin with your "adjusted annual income", a concept meant to capture your unique circumstances. This is your total income minus major or unusual expenses (e.g. large medical bills).

## Adapted UUA Fair Share Giving Guide

Adjusted Annual Income	Fair Share (percent of income)
\$12,000 - \$49,999	2 - 5%
\$50,000 - \$149,999	3 - 6%
\$150,000 - \$299,999	4 - 7%
\$300,000 - \$499,999	5 - 8%
\$500,000+	6 - 9%



## Mission

We are a welcoming, spiritually diverse home. We act on our values:

- Honor the Earth;
- Advocate for racial and social justice;
- Nurture deep connections;
- Embrace the ongoing quest for meaning

## Vision

We aspire to be a more inclusive, loving, diverse congregation that welcomes all people. We will defend and celebrate the Earth, confront racial and social injustice, and nurture deep connections.

# Last Year's UUS Campaign Pledge Levels

Pledges	Pledge Level	Totals
56 (28%)	\$1 - \$500	\$15,377 (4%)
33 (16%)	\$501 - \$1,000	\$25,985 (6%)
47 (23%)	\$1,001 - \$2,000	\$68,706 (17%)
32 (16%)	\$2,001 - \$4,000	\$91,786 (23%)
21 (10%)	\$4,001 - \$6,000	\$107,588 (26%)
7 (4%)	\$6,001 - \$8,000	\$50,902 (13%)
5 (3%)	\$8,001 - \$10,000	\$46,312 (11%)
<b>Total Pledges</b> 201 (100%)		<b>Total Pledged</b> \$406,656 (100%)
Donor Matches		\$20,000
		<b>Total Campaign</b> \$426,656

*Median Pledge: \$1,200*

*Average Pledge: \$2,023*

*68% of pledges were below average pledge*

*Donor matches for current campaign: \$11,000*

# Community Pride



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I remember the first few times that I attended services at UUSIC more than 10 years ago. I didn't know a single person and yet almost immediately I felt a genuine connection that called me back and before long I became a member. I met more people as I attended services and programs and helped out on different teams and committees and I made so many new friends along the way.

There have been big changes since then, but the feeling of being connected has never gone away. I don't think anyone could have predicted the effect of the COVID pandemic on our everyday lives and I worried that I would feel less connected as we moved to being exclusively remote. Those first few services on Zoom were a "learning experience" for us all but I still felt that connection as we all fumbled our way through.



Committee meetings and my covenant group all adjusted to the brave new online world and we learned how to make it work over a flat screen. I was excited but cautious when we eased back into in-person services.

When I did return, I immediately felt that connection that comes from being physically together, even if we were masked and keeping a safe distance. It felt awkward at first but so exciting at the same time--seeing my old friends in person!

When I did contract a mild case of COVID in the Spring, I was so happy that I could still be a part of the service from home, but I wanted to get back as soon as it was safe for me to do that.

For me, there's nothing like being together. I'm looking forward to seeing more old friends and meeting some new ones!

”

- Pete Brokaw