

# Budget Information

Mike Pavelich, Treasurer, Board of Trustees

The 2024 Operating Budget (OB) is projected to be \$548,000 as we take a big first step to corralling our systemic OB deficit problem. This OB is \$61,000 lower than the OB for 2023. The decrease comes mainly from our decision to retire one full-time staff position in mid-2023 when Peggy moved on. The OB contains a 2.0% salary increase for two full-time staff in 2024 and has set in motion a change in health insurance sharing that will give cost reductions in 2025 and beyond.

Of note is that the UUS Congregation now owns 100% of the solar array. In 2023, the UU Solar LLC group signed over the last of the solar panel ownership to our community. This will save us about \$10,000 per year in energy costs compared to years past. We wish to thank the generous UUS members who saw to the construction of the solar panels and then gifted them to us.

Our projected regular income for 2024 of Pledges, fund raising, rents and annual supplemental allowance (ASA endowment draw) does not cover all our costs. We project a deficit of \$43,000; but this is well below the \$100,000 we projected for 2023. We will cover this 2024 deficit with extra monies in the bank account, essentially roll-over deficit coverage from previous years. No extra draws from Endowment Fund earnings, above the normal ASA, are anticipated to be made in 2024 or 2025. Again, a definite improvement from our past few years. We are getting there, folks.

As a next step in managing our budget deficit, we will begin developing an overall financial plan for the years to come. It will require a number of us discussing, researching and then planning a long-term viable path. This is exciting stuff. We will start with a workshop in January (run by a UUA expert) that will have us look at our long-term stewardship, focusing particularly on sustaining a healthy endowment. From there, the Board, Finance Committee and other interested members will explore ways to further address the budget deficit as we aim for a balanced budget in 2026. We welcome participation in various aspects of this effort. Any UUS member who might like to be a part of this work is asked to communicate that to the President or Treasurer in the next few weeks.

This email packet contains a spreadsheet that will allow you to compare the 2024 OB with that of 2023. This is a condensed form. If you have questions or want a more detailed spreadsheet before the Congregational meeting, please contact Mike Pavelich at [treasurer@uusic.org](mailto:treasurer@uusic.org) or phone 319-338-5168.