

***2020:
Vision and Visibility***

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**Unitarian Universalist Congregation
Stewardship Campaign
March 1-29, 2020**

A Message from Your Minister and Board President

This year as we embark on our stewardship campaign, we are **envisioning** who we are and might become in the new decade, but also how we might become more **visible** in our community. As someone said in a recent Sunday service, "This place is a wonderful place of refuge for me and my husband but only because we found it. What are we doing to make sure that the thousands of young people around here know we're here, especially those of color?" Similar sentiments have been expressed by others, including in a recent gathering of past presidents of UUC.

Those of us who have found this religious community **know** how valuable it is in our lives. That's what motivates us to be generous with our *time, talent*, and, especially during the stewardship drive, our **treasure**. We know that we are responsible for inspiring, creating, and transforming—not just by volunteering our time and our talents to the many programs and ministries of UUC, but also by pledging our financial support. Our generosity enables us to pay our beloved staff, invest in our acclaimed lifespan faith development programming, maintain and improve our beautiful buildings and grounds, reach out to the wider community, connect to the larger denomination, and pay off our debts.

We've asked some folks to share the value of UUC in their lives (read on), and we invite you to consider its place in your life as well. What does it inspire in you? How do you engage in creating compassionate community? How has it transformed your life? But don't stop there. Envision how much more we could do together—not just for ourselves but also for those who have not yet joined us. The new Strategic Planning Committee will be starting us on an intentional consideration of who we want to become and what we might want to do.

As you consider your pledge this year, we invite you to *increase* your gift by 10% to help us not only maintain the programs and ministries we know and love but to fully realize our vision and to increase our visibility.

In faith and joy,
Rev. Pam Philips, Minister
Steve Keighton, President of the Board

What we have to say about UUC: Why We Love & Support It

Why I like to take part in our annual pledge drive.... In a nutshell, or short version: It's a fact...well perhaps two facts: – 1. Our way of faith truly enhances my sense of awe about being a human alive for a while on this particular wondrous (corner?) of the universe; and, 2. this Congregation, in particular, has never failed to offer me ideas and playmates - as spurs for my personal growth and benevolent leanings. Strangely, over the years (63) at my various UU congregations, I have always appreciated budget time,.., even during those years when I was a financially strapped single mother.... I suppose it's because it reminds me in its special, concrete way, to put a value, yet again, on my faith... (not a bad exercise in appreciation).

Our UUC congregation is my home - my spiritual home, my community home, and my heart's home. It is the base and the basis for my living, and I am alive in its light.

It has been life changing to be my whole self, earth worshipper, King James bible studier, homeless banquet guest, card-carrying member of the ACLU and NAACP, mood disordered, mentor and protégée, re-deemed and unashamed, and to look around in any gathering and love everyone I see, especially those I may disagree with.

For me, it was a miracle finding the UUC. It is the first religious place where I've ever felt truly welcomed and valued, where I can be my whole self and be fully accepted. The friends and community I have at the UUC is something I never imagined finding.

Being part of UUC and attending weekly worship has filled my soul! Exploring what it means to live our lives in a spiritual community that is both challenging and affirming is the essential environment to explore the spirit well. Whether it is singing a favorite hymn together, holding silence as a congregation, or reflecting on the words of the sermon, worship - and UUC - makes me think more deeply and feel more richly.

I've found UUC, to be a '*Beloved Community*' --a '*Safe Harbor*'-- where my spirit is replenished and grown. *Then* I went to UU General Assembly and thrilled to discover the great '*Sea*' of which our '*Safe Harbor*' is a part!

When I started attending UUC regularly 2 1/2 years ago, I had no idea how much my life would morph by being a part of this congregation: I found community, rediscovered my love of singing, and even got married here last fall. It makes the NRV my home, and my stewardship helps to sustain this community for years to come.

What we have to say about UUC: We Love It for Our Families

I have friends to play with! (3-year old)

I love how everyone gets along, even when we have different ideas.
(6 year old)

Raising open minded and spiritually aware children can be an overwhelming task. I am so grateful to the UUC for offering such varied rich content in a variety of formats. This content, plus all the efforts between RE, MSYG, YRUU, OWL and Parents' Covenant Group, to build the youth community provides them with a supportive cohort, encouraging attendance, learning and civic engagement.

I feel grateful that the UUC provided a wonderful refuge for my family, especially when my children were young, and take pride in claiming the UUC as my spiritual home.

I came in as hopeful skeptic searching for a spiritual home I was convinced didn't exist. A place where I might fit in and where my beliefs and questions wouldn't label me as an outsider. I found that spiritual home and much more besides. My family gained a community, my children gained a variety of perspectives. We have gained another family...one that pushes us to live better, love bigger, and to be the good we'd like to see in the world. My only regret is that we didn't find UUC sooner.

With work and a baby keeping us busy, it's great to have the UUC community for support and connection. We're also grateful to have a place for our child to have a religious education that will allow him to develop his own beliefs without judgement.

I love that RE gently encourages my kids to move out of their comfort zones, in terms of social interactions and with people of all ages. I also love that there's a community that cares about me and my family.

At one service we were asked to notice the people who had been with us during important moments in our lives. As a new member, I just sought out the face of my daughter, but then I also saw the realtor who helped my family find our first home, the midwife who welcomed me at the hospital when my daughter was born, and the gardener who, by entrusting me with her plants, let me know that I was part of her community. Members of the UUC had been welcoming me home for years before I even entered the doorway of the sanctuary. So glad I crossed that threshold. So glad to be home.

What we have to say about UUC: We Love It for Ourselves & the World

The seventeenth-century Puritan Roger Williams described himself as a Seeker: one who's doomed to keep looking for the true religion but knows he'll never find it. I'm with Williams, and in the meantime the best thing I can discover is the UUCNRV, which is pretty good.

Before I found UUC, my experience of adult life was often lonely. Now I feel rooted and purposeful. Honestly, I love the routine of church. But my favorite part of being a member of this congregation is that I have found people who genuinely care for me, for whom I can care, and with whom I can strive to serve and improve the world.

UUC is my Wakanda—a protected, enlightened space where morality and right relationships can be nourished. UUC forever!

I have felt blessed to have a safe space to let my children and myself explore what we think about the spiritual and other aspects of our lives and our connections to the larger community.

UUC is the place where our actions really do live up to our words of charity and justice.

It's important to me that UUC provides a caring community where my children can see faith and service in action.

The UUC is a unique community: like-minded in its support of diversity, the pursuit of life-long learning, and the sacred communion of coffee. It has provided me with boundless opportunities to live my values, nurture our youth, and develop meaningful relationships over the past twenty years.

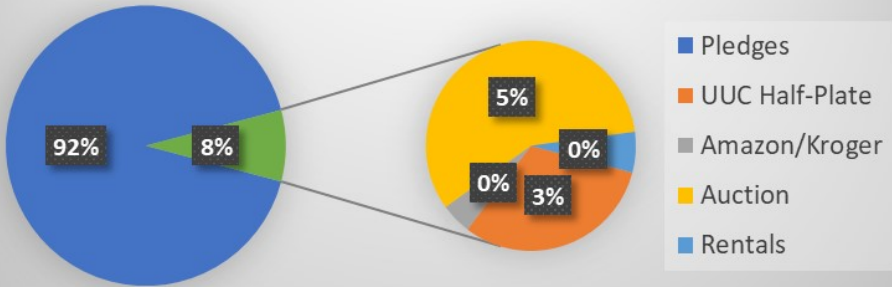
My service to the UUC is one of the great joys in my life. Here I feel connected, needed, and enjoy my responsibility of making everyone's time here more comfortable.

The UUC is a harbor where we give shape to our lives through self-reflection and sharing ideas with others, and from which our best intentions can flow through actions into the communities around us.

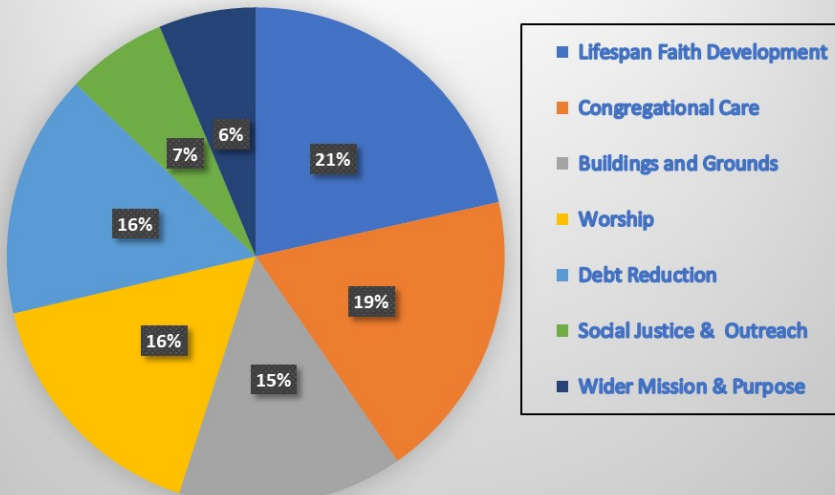
We received more wonderful words than we could print here. To see more about what we love about UUC, check out the Testimonials webpage at <https://uucnr.org/about/about-testimonials/>

We are recommending a budget of **\$389,000** for the 2020-21 fiscal year with pledges accounting for **\$357,000** of income.

Where Does Our Money Come From? 2020-21 Income by Source



How We Spend our Money Budget Expenses by Ministry



Creating Meaningful Worship (\$63,553, 16%)

We inspire spiritual and ethical growth, deepen our connections with others, and welcome newcomers through vibrant worship led by our minister, choir director, pianist, and lay leaders. Funds also pay for choir music, audio-visual system, and honoraria for guest ministers and musicians.

Educating Our Children, Youth, and Adults (\$83,622, 21%)

We believe faith development begins in early childhood and continues through adulthood, which is made possible by the leadership, creativity, and hard work of our Director of Lifespan Faith Development, Assistant DLFD, and many, many volunteers. Materials and supplies support Children's Religious Education, YRUU, Adult Religious Education, and Our Whole Lives.

Offering Congregational Care (\$73,377, 19%)

We create compassionate community by welcoming newcomers, communicating information, providing opportunities to gather together, and supporting each other during difficult times. The Connections Committee and Lay Pastoral Care Ministry are integral to taking care of the congregation, supported by the Administrator, who does a phenomenal job keeping us all informed, and the minister.

Promoting Social Justice & Community Outreach (\$25,416, 6%)

We strive to transform our community and world through courageous love, led by the Community Service Team which provides hands-on support for organizations working to address basic needs in our community and by the Environmental Justice Team which provides education and advocacy. Our minister and many congregants engage in many local justice activities.

Supporting our Wider Mission and Purpose (\$24,528, 6%)

We maintain our connection to the larger denomination through our dues to the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) and the Southern Region, magnifying our voice by joining it with all the other member congregations and receiving resources for religious education and congregational development. We also support our delegates to the UUA General Assembly by covering their registration, ensuring that we have a voice there.

Maintaining & Enhancing Our Building & Grounds (\$56,863, 15%)

We live into our vision of being "known as a place of beauty, welcome, joy, and celebration" by maintaining and enhancing our building and grounds and providing space for our own and community gatherings. We are grateful for the invaluable time and sweat equity of the many volunteers who steward our grounds and building.

Reducing Our Debt (\$61,667, 16%)

We invested in the expansion of our building and grounds over a decade ago, taking on a \$1.2M commitment in the form of a mortgage and personal loans from members. By the end of the 20-21 fiscal year, our debt will be down to \$760K. We are honoring our commitments but look forward to paying off our debt so we can invest more into our mission and vision.

Guide to Suggested Annual Pledge:

We know that pledging is a personal decision. To help you determine how much you might pledge, the chart below shows a range of suggested pledge amounts based on the adjusted gross income of your household and your commitment to the values and ideals we share. We hope you will reflect thoughtfully on what you can contribute to the future of our congregation.

Your pledge may be paid in weekly, monthly, quarterly or annual installments by check, automatic credit card or bank debit.

Adjusted Annual Income*	Supporter 3% of income	Sustainer 5% of income	Visionary 8% of income
\$10,000	\$300.00	\$500.00	\$800.00
\$15,000	\$450.00	\$750.00	\$1,200.00
\$20,000	\$600.00	\$1,000.00	\$1,600.00
\$30,000	\$900.00	\$1,500.00	\$2,400.00
\$40,000	\$1,200.00	\$2,000.00	\$3,200.00
\$50,000	\$1,500.00	\$2,500.00	\$4,000.00
\$75,000	\$2,250.00	\$3,750.00	\$6,000.00
\$100,000	\$3,000.00	\$5,000.00	\$8,000.00
\$125,000	\$3,750.00	\$6,250.00	\$10,000.00
\$150,000	\$4,500.00	\$7,500.00	\$12,000.00
\$175,000	\$5,250.00	\$8,750.00	\$14,000.00
\$200,000	\$6,000.00	\$10,000.00	\$16,000.00
\$250,000	\$7,500.00	\$12,500.00	\$20,000.00

*Adjusted Annual Income: To calculate, take your annual income from all sources, and subtract any unusual expense (such as large medical bills, care of a parent or other large expense).

Visit our website, www.uucnrv.org, for more information on Stewardship. See link on lower left of page.