

March 30, 2023

Dear Members and Friends,

This week we will kick off our 2023-2024 UUCM Stewardship Campaign, “**Warmth of Community, Fire of Commitment.**” As you told us during recent listening sessions, our community is one of UUCM’s great strengths. It fosters a sense of welcoming and belonging, creates a space for spiritual growth, and generates the energy for shared action in the wider world. As a community we are harnessing love’s power to commit ourselves to advancing justice and creating a world where everyone can thrive.



The campaign supports the continued growth of our UUCM community and its ministry and **will run through April 30th with a goal to receive 125 pledges and raise \$385,000.**

UUCM operates as a spiritual cooperative, and our annual budget is made possible by the generous support of members and friends through **financial gifts of all sizes**. As we continue to innovate and reimagine what church can be and what the world needs from us as Unitarian Universalists, your support matters more than ever. Our mission to connect, grow, and act in a spirit of wonder and courageous love is made real through our shared ministry.

Next year’s budget reflects our goals of strengthening community by welcoming our visitors, creating opportunities for everyone to be active in church life, and driving action through the strong relationships between our ministry teams and our external partners. To help us make next year a success, we ask you to do three things:

- 1) Join us for one of the **Stewardship Information Sessions** to be held via Zoom on April 12th and 17th, and in-person at church on April 16th. Come discuss current activities at UUCM and hear more about plans for the 2023-24 church year. Watch the *Friday Update* email for details.
- 2) Make a **financial pledge of support** (bit.ly/uucmpledge) for the 2023-24 operating budget. Your participation is key, and gifts of every size will make a difference. To help you with your decision, we have enclosed campaign information and giving guidelines.
- 3) Complete the 15-minute **Congregational Survey** (bit.ly/uucmsurvey23) to provide valuable feedback to our church leadership as we plan the year ahead.

Please **make your pledge and respond to the survey by April 30th**. If we all come together to support the church, our campaign will be a success. Thank you for your investment in UUCM’s “Warmth of Community, Fire of Commitment” campaign.

Fred Hulting
Stewardship Chair

Rev. Lisa Friedman
Minster



Why is the church asking for a “pledge”?

Each Spring UUCM prepares an operating budget for the following fiscal year (July through June). Member and Friend donations represent over 95% of our income. The annual Stewardship campaign gathers pledges of financial support to forecast our income for the year and plan expenses accordingly. Your pledge is a statement of your intention; it is not a binding commitment and can be updated if your circumstances change. You do not have to be a member of the church to make a pledge. All contributions are tax-deductible, and pledges of all sizes make a difference to funding our mission and ministry in the world.

What are the Campaign Goals for this year?

Participation is our primary goal. We want all our members, and many of our friends, to make a pledge. If that happens, we expect to receive 125 pledges and raise at least \$385,000 (4% over last year). This will enable us to retain our excellent staff, to expand the offerings of our Ministry teams, and grow opportunities for meaningful connection through our multi-platform programming.

How are my gifts used by the church?

Your pledges and gifts to the Stewardship campaign are the largest source of income for UUCM, and they directly fund our operating budget. The table below outlines the main categories of spending, and how they have changed recently. This year’s 4% increase covers inflation in our operating expenses, and fair and competitive pay raises for our staff.

Your pledge directly funds these priorities and the programs of the church, including worship, social justice, and religious education.

<i>UUCM Fiscal Year Spending</i>	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24
	<i>Actual</i>	<i>Actual</i>	<i>Budget</i>	<i>Draft</i>
Income Summary	\$ 404,753	\$ 424,183	\$ 426,829	\$ 445,000
Operating Fund (Pledges, Gifts)	\$ 347,105	\$ 361,545	\$ 369,000	\$ 385,000
Other Fundraisers, Income	\$ 57,648	\$ 62,638	\$ 57,829	\$ 60,000
Expense Summary	\$ 384,782	\$ 426,815	\$ 426,829	\$ 445,000
Personnel	\$ 255,541	\$ 268,031	\$ 269,303	\$ 280,000
Admin and Operations	\$ 57,879	\$ 78,220	\$ 69,250	\$ 75,144
Mortgage Payments	\$ 49,377	\$ 49,377	\$ 49,400	\$ 49,400
Program Ministries	\$ 4,162	\$ 13,754	\$ 17,700	\$ 17,600
Leadership (incl. UUA Fair Share)	\$ 17,823	\$ 17,433	\$ 21,176	\$ 22,856

How much should I give to UUCM?

We ask you to determine an amount based on your commitment to the church and your financial resources. To help you with that decision, the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) provides giving guidelines based on those considerations (see below). We encourage you to reflect on the role of UUCM in your life and to use the guide to help you decide about giving. Your annual pledge should also be an amount that you feel you can sustain, or increase slightly, from year to year. If you have pledged previously, we ask that you consider an increase to help us meet our goal.

The Suggested Fair Share Contribution Guide

Adjusted Monthly Income	Approx. Adjusted Annual Income	Supporter 2-6% of Income		Sustainer 3-7% of Income		Visionary 5-9% of Income		Transformer 10% of Income	
		Suggested % of Income	Monthly Pledge	Suggested % of Income	Monthly Pledge	Suggested % of Income	Monthly Pledge	Suggested % of Income	Monthly Pledge
\$1,000	\$12,000	2%	\$20	3%	\$30	5%	\$50	10%	\$100
\$1,500	\$18,000	2%	\$30	3%	\$45	5%	\$75	10%	\$150
\$2,000	\$25,000	2%	\$40	3%	\$60	5%	\$100	10%	\$200
\$3,000	\$36,000	2%	\$60	3%	\$90	5%	\$150	10%	\$300
\$4,000	\$50,000	3%	\$120	4%	\$160	5%	\$200	10%	\$400
\$6,500	\$80,000	3%	\$195	4%	\$260	6%	\$390	10%	\$650
\$8,500	\$100,000	3%	\$255	5%	\$425	6%	\$510	10%	\$850
\$10,000	\$120,000	3%	\$300	5%	\$500	6%	\$600	10%	\$1,000
\$12,500	\$150,000	4%	\$500	5%	\$625	6%	\$750	10%	\$1,250
\$17,000	\$200,000	4%	\$680	6%	\$1,020	7%	\$1,190	10%	\$1,700
\$25,000	\$300,000	5%	\$1,250	6%	\$1,500	8%	\$2,000	10%	\$2,500
\$40,000	\$500,000	6%	\$2,400	7%	\$2,800	9%	\$3,600	10%	\$4,000

Supporter: The congregation is a significant part of my spiritual and intellectual life that I want to support. My fair share financial commitment starts at 2% of my income and rises to 6% as my income and capacity rise.

Sustainer: The congregation is my central community; I am committed to sustaining the programs and ministries of my congregation. My fair share financial commitment starts at 3% of my income and rises to 7% as my income and capacity rise.

Visionary: My commitment is a clear demonstration of the unique importance of this congregation and of my spiritual principles. My fair share financial commitment starts at 5% of my income and rises to 9% as my income and capacity rise.

Transformer: I am deeply committed to the congregation; my contribution provides fuel for transformation and is part of my spiritual practices in living out my UU Principles. My fair share financial commitment represents 10% of my income.

I am in! What do I do now?

Thank you for your support! Please respond by **April 30th**. Consult the giving guidelines and determine the amount of your gift. And if you gave last year, consider an increase to support the growing mission of the church. Then return the attached pledge form to church, or pledge online at <http://bit.ly/uucmpledge>. Questions? Contact the giving team at give@uucmtka.org.

To learn more about giving to UUCM, consult the UUCM Giving Guide at <https://uucmtka.org/serve>

Please respond by April 30th. Thank you for your investment in UUCM's "Warmth of Community, Fire of Commitment" Campaign!



Unitarian Universalist Church of Minnetonka
2023-24 Pledge Form
To support the July 2023 to June 2024 Operating Budget

Name(s): _____

I/we pledge a total (annual) amount of \$ _____,
payable by June 30, 2024. I/we will pay the pledge as follows (check one):

- I will make my own payments via check or cash.
I will make payments with a credit card. Please send information on electronic payments.
I would like to set up an Auto Payment from my bank account or credit card. To set this up, please fill out the "Request for Automatic Withdrawal" section below.
I will make a Stock Donation. Please send information about stock transfers.

Request for Automatic Withdrawal: I authorize the use of the payment method below for monthly
withdrawals in the amount of \$ _____

Please choose your payment method below (choose one):

- I am already enrolled in auto-payment; please use my current method of payment.
I authorize new monthly auto-payments using my credit card. My card information is:
Name on CC: _____ CC Number: _____ Exp. Date: _____
Address for CC: _____
I authorize new monthly auto-payments using electronic debits from my bank checking account. I have
attached a voided check.

Signature(s): _____ Date: _____

If we do not have your contact information, or you would like to update it, please enter below.

Phone(s): _____ Email: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Please return this form to: UUCM, Attn: Stewardship Chair, 2030 Wayzata Blvd East, Wayzata, MN 55391
You may also pledge online at http://bit.ly/uucmpledge.
For more information, consult the UUCM Giving Guide at https://uucmtka.org/serve