

UUC's 2021-2022 Stewardship Campaign

Worship Beyond Walls: Connection, Community, and Service



Our 2021 pledge drive kicked off on February 14 with the **Early Bird** portion of the campaign. As of now, we have **46 pledges for a total of \$120,067** which is over 33% of our goal of \$345,000. Thank you to all who participated in the Early Bird effort so far! This portion of the pledge drive will continue until **March 14** when our more formal pledge activity begins. After the 14th, congregants who have not pledged will be contacted by a steward. Remember that these stewardship contacts are not just to solicit pledges but also to provide the opportunity for congregants to talk about UUC finances and to ask questions about congregational issues. It also provides a personal touch with a warm and friendly voice, which I believe most of us can use right now. I personally know how irritating unwanted solicitous phone calls are, and I think most of us have gotten into the habit of filtering our calls. But please be gracious in these uncertain times and realize that the unfamiliar number ringing on your phone might be your personal steward – one who specifically selected you. If you don't pick up, please consider returning the call.

To address the challenges accompanying our seemingly never-ending Covid plague, we're trying something new in an effort to expand our ability to engage congregants. In addition to the usual UUC media

outlets, phone, and email, we're adding text messaging in the hope of reaching those who do not answer their phone or read email. The Stewardship Committee is well aware that texting is not the most "engaging" format, but it is good for reminders and to perhaps initiate further contact.

We have been living through a frightening and uncertain period in both our personal world at home and the greater world beyond. This time has been challenging for everyone, including for those in our beloved congregation who must navigate the continued operation of UUC. In the next month, the Finance Committee and Board will again have to make hard choices about where and how we can trim our budget. We urge you to think of the value of this congregation particularly in these difficult times – for yourself and for others. As I think back on how our congregation has responded to this unprecedented Covid challenge, I am awestruck at how our leaders have rallied to not just weather this storm but have managed to bring a new sense of warmth and inclusion and purpose to our church. From online services; a very engaged RE program; novel, safe and distanced outdoor activities; remote choir contributions; and the many other UUC activities that have been modified for remote participation, I am amazed at how they have pulled it off!

To those of you who have pledged: Thank you! For those who haven't, we invite you to go ahead and make a pledge via our [online pledge form](#), even if it is a smaller commitment than you've made in years past. No amount is too small. If the economy and your personal financial situation improves in the year ahead, you can always increase your giving. And if things turn out even worse than you expect, let us know that, too, and we'll find a way to help. All of our pledges, no matter their size, are a sign of our commitment and faith in this spiritual community and its ability to thrive, even in these most difficult times. We are grateful for them all.

Again, use this simple [online pledge form](#) to make your pledge now and also check out the [pledge brochure](#), [FAQs](#), and [Stewardship webpage](#). To request a one-on-one meeting with a steward or to join a group gathering where we discuss financial and other UUC issues, use this [link](#).

AND – we are looking for stewards! Stewarding is a great activity for many reasons, and we need many more. Please contact me directly at earoberts01@gmail.com for more info.

In fellowship,
Andy Roberts, Stewardship Committee Chair