

Worship Beyond Walls: Connection, Community, and Service



**Unitarian Universalist
Congregation
Stewardship Campaign
Spring 2021**

A Message from Your Minister and Board President

So much has changed in the way we live our lives since last year. And yet, through it all, we have been able to maintain our **connections** with each other and continue to create compassionate **community**. We have been able to provide **service** to this congregation and the wider world. While we have not been able to meet physically in our beloved meeting house for nearly a year, the Unitarian Universalist Congregation is as vital and active as ever, and in some ways, we've reached farther out into the world. Who knew it would take a pandemic to realize that what makes this religious community so important to its members and friends is not contained within the walls of our building? That we could **Worship Beyond Walls**?

This year, as we embark on our Stewardship Campaign, we know there will soon be a time when we can gather again safely as we strive to fulfill our mission to *inspire, create, and transform*. We want to remember what we have learned this past year. We want to be able to continue to Worship Beyond Our Walls, making sure as many of our services and activities as possible are available to people who cannot come to the building. That will require an investment in equipment and training to create hybrid services—accessible and enriching to everyone who attends, whether in person or virtually.

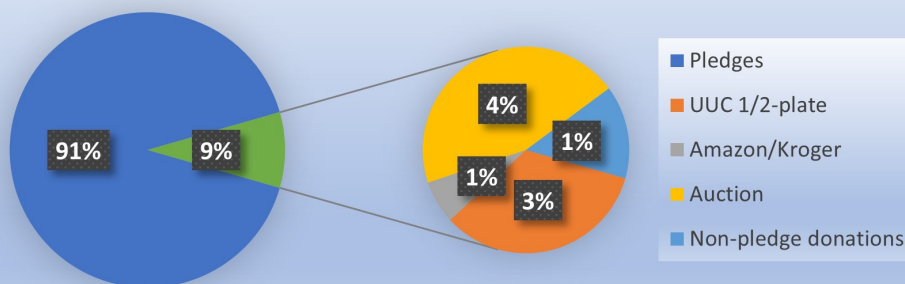
The Board is also committed to investing in the staff who have adapted and worked so hard to help us move into this brave new world. Last year's fiscal realities meant we had to eliminate raises for staff, exactly when they were called to work harder and learn more. So, this year's proposed budget will include 3.5% raises. Last year, we had to curtail our efforts to save for future expenses, including contributing to the Facilities Maintenance Fund (savings needed to replace big-ticket items like the HVAC system and the roof) and to the Minister's Sabbatical Fund. These investments will help us to live into our vision of being a beacon of liberal religion in the New River Valley.

The Board is committed to funding our future but also acknowledges financial reality. Consequently, this year's stewardship goal, while being about 8% greater than the amount pledged last year, is \$12,000 less than last year's goal. We ask that you be as generous as your circumstances allow. We ask that you commit to this congregation, as well.

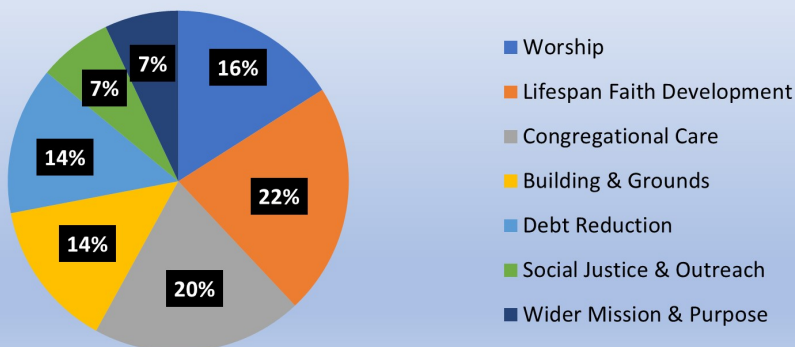
In faith and hope,
Rev. Pam Philips, Minister
Wayne Neu, President of the Board

We are recommending a budget of **\$377,425** for the 2021-22 fiscal year with pledges accounting for **\$345,000** of income.

Where Does Our Money Come From? 2021-22 Income by Source



How We Spend Our Money Budget Expenses by Ministry



Supporting the Many Missions of UUC

Creating Meaningful Worship (\$59,156, 16%)

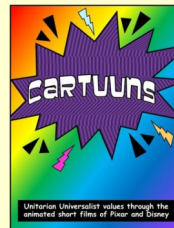
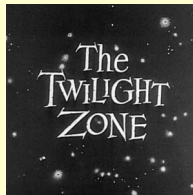
We inspire spiritual and ethical growth, deepen our connections with others, and welcome newcomers through vibrant worship led by our minister, choir director, pianist, and lay leaders. Funds also pay for choir music, audio-visual system, and honoraria for guest ministers and musicians.



Soul Matters

Educating Our Children, Youth, and Adults (\$81,135, 22%)

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.

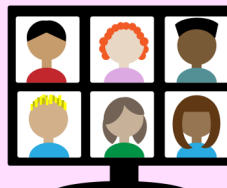


Offering Congregational Care (\$75,503, 20%)

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 works to keep us all informed, and the Minister.



UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION
NEWSLETTER
1301 Gladwood Drive
Blackberry, VA 24060
Website: www.uucny.org
E-mail: info@uucny.org
Phone: (540)552-9718



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Promoting Social Justice & Community Outreach (\$27,347, 7%)

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, by the Environmental Justice Team which provides education and advocacy, and our Anti-racism Group which provides education and works for racial justice. Our minister and many congregants engage in many local justice activities.



Supporting our Wider Mission and Purpose (\$26,116, 7%)

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 (\$52,727, 14%)

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 (\$55,066, 14%)

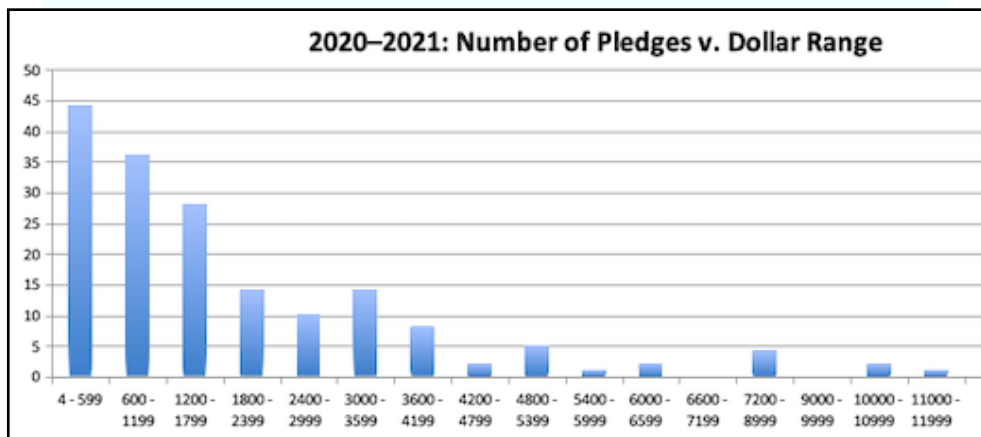
We invested in the expansion of our building and grounds in 2008, taking on a \$1.2M commitment in the form of a mortgage and personal loans from members. By the end of the 21-22 fiscal year, our debt will be down to \$760K. We look forward to paying off our debt so we can invest more into our mission and vision.



How much should I pledge, and how do I make my pledge?

UUC receives no outside funding to support our many wonderful programs and offerings and relies solely on the generosity of congregants for support. We do not require that you “tithe”, nor do we charge membership dues or a fee for children to participate in our Religious Education program. We do ask our congregants to make a monetary pledge each year to the best of their ability and circumstances to support the mission and vision of the congregation.

See the chart below for the range of pledges we received for the 2020-21 fiscal year. Pledges ranged from \$40 to \$11,500 with a pledge total of \$320,000. Our average pledge is \$1,871, and our median pledge is \$1,200.



All participants in the life of UUC are greatly valued regardless of their ability to pledge. Pledges are kept confidential.

This year, we are asking everyone to pledge via our online form using this [link](#). Your pledge may be paid in weekly, monthly, quarterly or annual installments by check, credit card, bank debit, or from your retirement account or other investments.

You can also check out the UUA (UU Association) [Fair-Share Contribution Guide](#) for further help.

If you would like to be contacted by a Steward to discuss your pledge and/or UUC in general, please fill out this [form](#).