

Follow The Stewardship Road

FY2021 Stewardship Pledge Campaign

Unitarian Universalist Church of Worcester
90 Holden Street, Worcester, MA 01606
www.uucworchester.org/donate



The theme of this year's Stewardship Drive Pledge Campaign is **Paving the Way! Follow The Stewardship Road** invites us to begin this annual season of making a financial pledge to the congregation, looking toward our future. As the construction on Shore Drive reminds us, there are many ways to pave a new way. And this is an opportunity for us to consider ways to move our mission and ministries forward in exciting ways:

If we **Follow The Stewardship Road**,

- We can **reestablish ourselves on Shore Drive** with new frontage, a new sign, and a new parking lot!
- We can **continue to grow our excellent program of Sunday Morning Worship** and our Summer Worship Program.
- We can **continue to grow our outstanding Religious Exploration Program!** And continue to provide unique opportunities for learning and socializing through our middle-school, high-school and youth group programs
- We can expand our social outreach programming
- And **feed more of those in our community who face food insecurity**, advocate for more human policies for those in need, and provide more resources, like our SNAP Outreach Team, for those who need additional resources.
- **Provide resources and advocate on behalf of homeless families and others** in our community who face housing challenges through our partnership with the Central MA Interfaith Hospitality Network, Worcester's Emergency Winter Homeless Shelter—Hotel Grace and our partnership with Worcester's Outdoor Church-Worcester Fellowship.
- Serving and advocating on behalf of new arrivals in our community through our Refugee Ministry Team
- We can **continue to ally with Community Groups** that share our vision of Love, Peace and Justice in our world including Worcester Interfaith, LGBT Asylum Task Force, Greendale Ecumenical Group, 12 Step Support Groups, ONE Worcester, Greater Worcester Humanists and Jane Fund of Central MA!
- We can **expand the opportunities to gather for socializing, support and encouragement** through our Small Group Ministry, Book Groups, Lunch with the Minister, Rainbow Lunch Group, Meditation Group, Men's Group, Woman's Social Circle, Women's Run Away Weekend, Ferry Beach Weekend and a host of Community Groups that meet regularly in our building!
- We can **make more progress toward being a Fair Compensation Congregation**, paying our staff a living wage and benefits commensurate with their positions
- We can **make more progress on being a Fair Share Congregation**, by paying the Unitarian Universalist Association those funds we are assessed as a congregation of almost 200 members!
- We can **continue to progress on upgrading our facilities** and encourage more opportunities for rentals, congregational programming, and community outreach
- We can **continue to be an amazing congregation** of committed, compassionate and courageous people working together to be and become ever more a Beloved Community!

Stewardship Drive Q & A's

What is a pledge? A pledge is a promise to make a contribution to the church. The total amount pledged by everyone is used by the Church leaders to plan the programs and set a budget for the next fiscal year.

Who should pledge? Our goal is to obtain a pledge from 100% of the members and active non-members of the congregation. This goal is based on fundamental fairness. We are a community of people with a vision. We understand we cannot achieve our vision alone. We rely on each other.

How much should I pledge? We understand everyone's financial means are different. In order to successfully pursue our vision, we would like first-time pledgers to consider pledging 2% of their adjusted gross income.

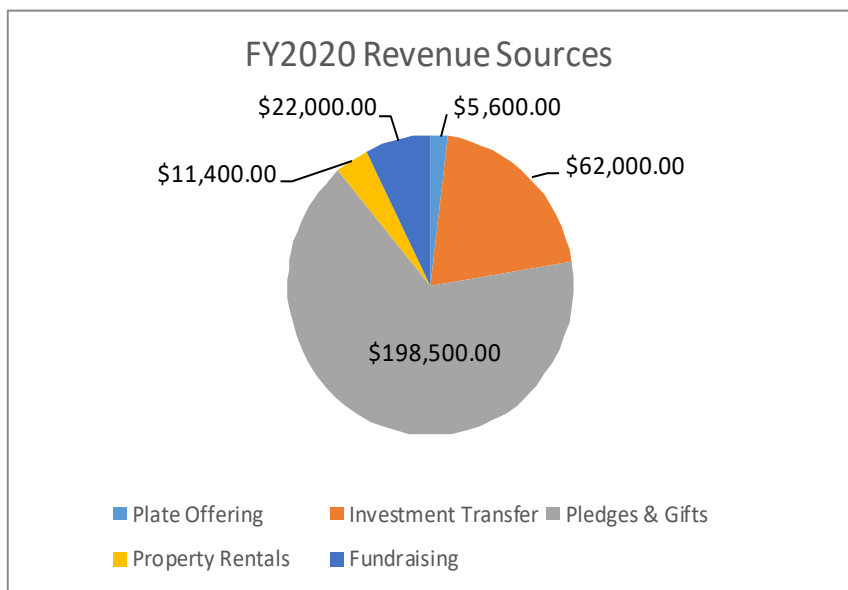
Why do we need the money? Our staff salary levels continue to be below Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) Guidelines. We did not make our fair contribution to the UUA and the District last year and it continues to be challenging to fund our basic programs. By making people aware that we need pledges from everyone we hope to make progress on all of this.

Is there a deadline? We would like to receive your pledge no later than March 15.

How do I make a pledge? Pledge forms and instructions are included in the Stewardship Drive mailing. Pledge forms are also available on the church website: (<http://www.uucworcester.org/donate>)



Our Revenue Sources



As the graph to the left shows, the most sizable portion of our annual budget is dependent on the generosity and consideration of our active members and friends. The total budgeted pledge amount represents 97% of the total amount pledged last Spring. Budgeting this way allows us to account for pledge short-falls and changing circumstances in the lives of those in our community.

We hope our Spring fundraisers will bring us close to our goal for FY20.

Thanks to the incredible stewardship of our Investment Committee, we are able to rely on \$62,000.00 of income from our portfolio toward operating expenses this year.

Our building and grounds continue to be a center of activity for the neighborhood and community at large. Because of this we were able to rely on \$11,400.00 of income from rentals and parking lot use in FY2020. There are already plans in the works for increasing regular rentals for next year. Our Sunday morning offerings are on target for the expected to exceed \$5600.00 this year.

We are a congregation of love, hope and justice, inspiring people to take on the challenges of a changing world!