



UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF ARLINGTON VIRGINIA

A Place to Connect, Grow and Serve

March 7, 2018

Share the Plate: Moving Forward

By Tamara Srader, Acting Executive and Chief Administrative Officer

Money. Budget. Committees. Mission. Leadership. Many people have questions about all of these things. It has been eight months since the congregation voted on the proposal to use the plate as funding operations at UUCA. We have a community of over 800 members and many other friends who support this community daily by their gifts of money and time. There was much time put into the three documents attached to this message. First I would like to thank the team that put it together which was **Elizabeth Fogarty, Linda Lutes, Chris Sutton, Lavona Grow, Jacomina de Regt, Steven Minson and Amy Shields**. They have been so amazing to work with and mere words are not enough to thank them. This was a very difficult task that they jumped into and gave their 100%.

As many of you know, the budget is challenging. The annual giving team does an outstanding job working each year to ask how people can financially support UUCA with their pledges. That is the main revenue stream for daily operations. We also have other fundraisers to diversify how we can support this congregation. One main source of funding outside of pledges is space usage fees and **Annie Parker** does an amazing job with finding the best way to utilize our space to not only create a sustainable revenue stream and also support the many demands on our space. Another source is our annual services auction that has been a longstanding tradition. With any church, the next source of revenue is the Sunday plate collection and last fiscal year (July-June) we brought in over 150k in revenue.

Fiscal responsibility is important and that is one of the tasks that I have been asked to handle. This budget year (17-18) we were looking at a gap of around 37k. I had two options – cut staff/programs or to ask for an endowment draw. The other option that we had was to use an existing revenue stream to help fund all of the great things happening at UUCA. The scope of administering a model of giving our Sunday plate to community partners had grown to a point that no one really knew how selections were being made to whom was given the plate. One of my failings to this community was to wait to pull this team together so I want to publicly apologize for not doing that sooner.

We are already preparing for next year – this report and plan is solid and has many hours of discussion behind it. Change is not always easy and I am sure that some people will have questions. I will ask a committee to serve to begin discussions to look at our social justice footprint. Social Justice is not about just giving money – it's also about getting people engaged and active. Moving to a partnership model is sustainable and will help to engage our members and friends in something other than just opening up their checkbooks.

I ask that you please review these three documents with the intent of understanding the background and plan to move forward.

Document 1: [Transmittal Letter from the Social Justice Partnership Team](#)

Document 2: [Share the Plate Report](#)

Document 3: [Share the Plate Recommendations](#)

We will be forming a team for ongoing Social Justice work including furthering the movement of our partnership model. If you are interested in participating, please send an email to our new Social Justice Coordinator, **Elisabeth Geschiere** (egeschiere@uucava.org) so we can begin planning for next fiscal year.

Thank you,

Tamara

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