



# UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF ARLINGTON VIRGINIA

A Place to Connect, Grow and Serve

February 8, 2018

## The Importance of Your Annual Pledge

By Chad Ohlandt, Trustee

Last Sunday, we kicked off the annual pledge campaign in style: a chili cUUk off, a dance class, a music recital, and a fabulous dinner followed by the big game in Fellowship Hall, just gaming in the Board room, and a dance party in the Center. Thanks to all the volunteers who brought it together for the first celebration of UUCA's 70th anniversary and to the hundreds of folks who joined us. It kept my two-year old dancing well past her bedtime. Actual pictures, nothing staged . . .



We are fortunate that UUCA remains financially sound. Due to sound policy and planning, we have endowment funds to meet our immediate unanticipated needs. However, this is where you come in. You can help kick off another 70 years of UUCA connecting, growing, and serving by pledging.

There is always a tension between our community's great generosity and our ambitious plans for action. I was treasurer for three years and now I am on the Board for my third year, and in that time, I've watched total pledges grow along with the average pledge, year after year. UUCA members give over \$1.3 million annually, which is more than 3/4ths of our budget.

However, our ambitions tend to exceed even our growing generosity. Every year, UUCA seeks to connect, grow, and serve in new and expanded ways. We have doubled down on commitments to the Live the Pledge to End Racism initiative, to allyship training, and to supporting Dreamers, while maintaining our commitments to partners like Virginians Organized for Interfaith Community Engagement (VOICE), Partners in Arlington and Guatemala (PAG), Equality UUCA for LGBTQ rights, and Peace Camp, amongst many others. Of course, we cherish our UUCA worship services, music program, and lifespan religious education. We have brought on new staff to support these efforts and plan to hire a second minister to meet the needs of our large

congregation. Your generous pledges make more and more possible.

The first step in UUCA making the world a better place is for you to make your annual pledge. When we know the grand scope of our community's generosity, we can begin the process of planning for the realization of our goals next year. We are UUCA, let's connect, grow, and serve together.

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2/8/2018 - Connections - BOARD UPDATE