

by paying staff competitive wages to cover their increased cost-of-living expenses.

- *Religious Exploration:* Ensure that our RE program meets the needs of our growing congregation and supports Tracy and the RE Collaborative to the fullest extent possible.
- *In-Reach:* Taking care of each other through Caring and Sharing, Pastoral Care Associates, and social events that keep us connected throughout the year.
- *Outreach:* Continue serving the wider community through Social Justice teams, cooking for HOPE Community Kitchen, PrideWorks, and other initiatives.
- *Buildings and Grounds:* These require ongoing attention to maintain a safe and welcoming outdoor sanctuary for our members and larger community.

### What Else Do I Need to Know About Canvass?

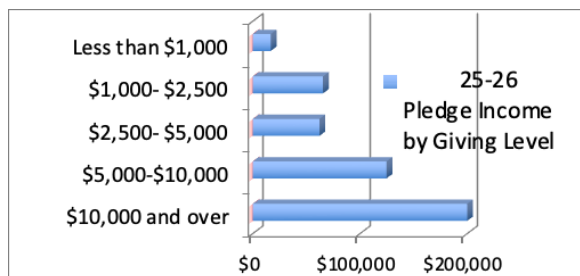
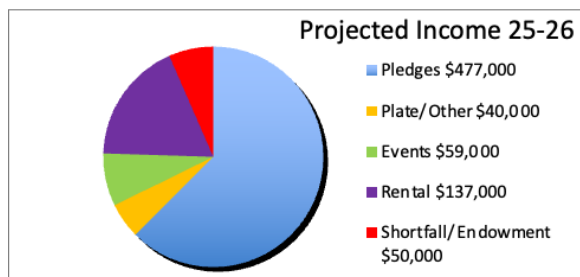
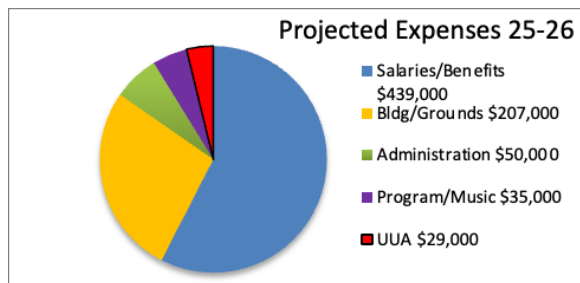
If desired, a friendly CUUC canvasser can contact you and answer any questions you may have. In addition, pledge cards will also be available in the lobby and online.

It is very important to have all pledge cards in before the congregation approves the 2026–2027 budget in May–June, and we ask for your support and consideration to make this a very smooth process.

We hope that you will join us in viewing this year’s canvass as a wonderful opportunity to move CUUC forward in so many important ways. Our plans truly hold something for everyone!

Please remember: the generous support of each and every one of us is needed to allow us to sustain the gift of community.

## Sustaining the Gift of COMMUNITY



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2026–2027

### ANNUAL CANVASS CAMPAIGN

Each year, our annual Canvass gives us a chance to reflect on what a healthy, vibrant congregation we have, and how each of us can play a vital role in sustaining the financial health of our community.

Knowing what is working well at CUUC and what challenges remain, we can identify where to devote our resources so that we can continue to grow and thrive.

This year’s Canvass theme reminds us how fortunate we are to be part of this vibrant congregation:

### *Sustaining the Gift of Community*

In our second year with our new minister, our whole community has been enthusiastically involved in keeping our services and other programs running. Rev. Danielle and the staff have done an outstanding job these past two years, and we are working to sustain these efforts in the years ahead.

Along with Rev. Danielle and our staff, CUUC remains committed to our mission of spirituality, compassion, and service. From our robust Social Justice outreach to our Caring and Sharing team's efforts on behalf of congregants, we are helping to sustain CUUC's vital mission.

**Future:** At this pivotal moment, **it is more important than ever** that we continue our commitment together to ensure a successful and sustainable future for our congregation. Even as we celebrate our resilience in the face of troubling changes and challenges, it is important to continue building our capacity to serve the greater CUUC community in the decades ahead, especially in the current political environment.

#### **Plans, Dreams, and Realities**

- *Expand our programming*
- *Strengthen and expand RE*
- *Sustain our groundskeeping activities*
- *Support our SPARC initiative*
- *Build community*
- *Expand membership*
- *Compensate our staff appropriately*
- *Retain financial independence*

Although inflation has come down somewhat, it will remain high at 3-4%. However, our costs continue to rise, including medical premiums (**increased 21%** this year), increased energy expenses (both increased utilization and cost

increases of >10%), and other cost pressures for our building. Plus, our grounds need ongoing attention, and we have a long wish list of plans for expanding our programming. Since we expect our cost levels to go up by an average of 6-8%, we are asking for everyone's commitment and involvement in the campaign.

Above all, we pride ourselves on **compensating our staff well** for the outstanding job they do.

#### **Financial strength and commitment by the congregation are key to our growth.**

Our congregation does not receive financial support from the UUA in Boston, and we strive to be self-sustaining. Aside from the Montessori rental income, **80% of the costs for our quality staff and programming** are covered by your contributions.

This year's Canvass will help us to sustain the precious gift of community we have created together. To be successful, we need everyone's support so we can fund our staff and our programming.

#### **Who Can Contribute?**

This is one of the special things about Canvass: **everyone can participate!** Newcomers and long-timers, younger and older members and friends of CUUC. In fact, Canvass — and our community as a whole — works best when everyone contributes.

#### **How Can I Contribute?**

**You can pledge online by completing the online form or return the pledge form included in the mailing. Payments can be made throughout the year or as a one-time lump sum, and will be applied toward the 2026-2027 CUUC fiscal year (July 1, 2026–June 30, 2027).**

#### **When Will This Begin?**

Canvass Kick-off for the 2026-2027 campaign is Sunday, March 29th. A special sermon will be followed by a coffee hour hosted by the Canvass Committee. Bring your questions, bring your family and bring a positive, generous attitude. The Canvass runs for only five weeks, so your timely turnaround of your pledge will be greatly appreciated. The Canvass concludes at the end of April, and in mid-April we will have an early celebratory brunch for everyone in Fellowship Hall.

**We are a strong UU community, and we need you to support our community financially as well as spiritually.**

#### **How Much Do We Need?**

This year's canvass goal is **\$500,000** (a 7% increase). This will enable us to cover our increased expenses **and** allow the congregation to **improve** our programming in areas such as:

- **Worship:** Continue quality services by including diverse musical performances and