

Dear Members and Friends,

In March we marked the beginning of Spring as well as the beginning of our Annual Stewardship Campaign, also known as the Annual Canvass. UUcsw is a vibrant community which depends on all of us. To continue to flourish as a Congregation, we count on stewardship. What do we mean by stewardship? Taking care of something we value, the UUcsw, and enabling it to grow. When we become stewards, we take responsibility and contribute our time, talent and treasure.

UUcsw is self-governing and self-supporting. We are financially independent and are entirely reliant on our annual pledges, proceeds from fundraisers, rental income, and returns from our endowment fund to pay our staff and operate our buildings and programs. It takes significant financial resources to support what we cherish about this congregation.

How important is it to you and your family that UUcsw is still thriving next year, 5, 10 or 50 years from now? In order to do so, we must continue to invest in our staff and our building. We have passed deficit budgets for the last four years which drives a behavior of scarcity, not investing where we should be for fear of lack of funds and spending our limited human resources driving additional fundraisers. Let's move out of that behavior into an attitude of abundance. Together we can raise the funds to support UUcsw as it should be.

How much is that? This year, our canvass goal is \$106K. This target supports a planned expense growth of 3% to cover utility, programs, and cost of living increases. Our canvass goal represents a 3% increase over last year's pledges (\$103K). Our planning goal going into FY19-20 is to present a balanced budget offering competitive salaries to our new part-time minister and continuing staff. We have made good progress this past year in increasing our rental income and maintaining our operating expenses.

We ask you to consider what you could do to increase your pledge by 3% or more this year. Last year's average pledge was \$1700. A 3% increase would be \$51 per year, less than \$1 per week!

If you haven't pledged in the past but regularly put cash in the collection plate, please consider making a formal pledge this year and using the cash envelopes in the sanctuary to get credit for your donation.

Take time to consider what the Unitarian Universalist Congregational Society of Westborough means to you and the people and community it serves. Every bit helps to get us to our goal!

You may pledge using a standard pledge form (return in person or to Box 544 Westborough, MA 01581) or by using Realm (instructions will be posted this week via email). If you would like to receive a pledge form by mail, please contact Lisa Shumway at 508-243-9211 or LSS0907@gmail.com.

We are so grateful for your continued support of the UUcsw community. Please help us reach our 2019 stewardship goals so we can flourish together!

Thank you,

The Canvass Committee, 2019 - 2020
Lisa Shumway and Sharon Barrett

What does it cost to run UUCSW?

In 2018-2019 it will cost approximately \$170,000 to run the church - including building operations and staff salaries. This is equivalent to \$1,500 per adult member (based 113 members) or \$3300 per week.

We have 42 children, junior and senior youth enrolled in RE. We spend over \$500 annually per child offering our well regarded RE classes, activities and events.

