

River of Grass

Unitarian Universalist Congregation

ANNUAL PLEDGE DRIVE (APD) 2025-2026 LOVE AT THE CENTER: GIVE LOVE TO FEEL LOVE!

Dear Members & Friends!

Our APD provides our beloved ROG community with over 80% of our annual operating budget. Clearly, we must Give Love to Feel Love. After several COVID-driven-vagabond/virtual years, we've completed our 1st in A9, our new, temporary, full-time home! A9 accommodated a successful Auction, Thanksgiving Dinner, two money-making ROG Cafes,



healthy attendance at Sunday Services, two Celebrations-of-Life and numerous covenant group & committee meetings. We've paid the buildout, the rent,

the utilities, the salaries & benefits for our clergy & staff. **We're Back!** And a successful APD will enable us to [continue to go and grow and flow The River Way!](#)



One of our new "needs" is an attractive, healthy, pay & benefit's package, a key part of our New Minister Search. A healthy pledge drive is the sign of a healthy, vital congregation that believes in itself and its future.

A successful pledge drive will attract great minister candidates to support us as we chart the future of our life-affirming, soul-nourishing River.



This year our APD runs from March 2nd to 23rd. Our goal is to raise an estimated \$210,000 (4.5% more than last year) with pledges from 100% of our membership as well as some of our generous friends. Please fill out your pledge card on-line. You can also find an on-line information chart to help you determine the right pledge amount for your family.

<https://riverofgrassuu.org/2025-2026-pledge-card.html>

All pledges are important! Please give generously!

Many blessings,

Ken Bresnahan & Rita Cherubini

Ken Bresnahan & Rita Cherubini,
Co-Chairs 2024-2025 Annual Pledge Drive
Contact: stewardship@riverofgrassuu.org



RIVER OF GRASS LEADERS



Twenty-six years ago, a group of passionate Unitarian Universalists set out to establish a beacon of liberal religion in Western Broward County, as both a sanctuary and springboard for justice seekers and peace makers answering the call of love that

never dies and hope that cannot quit. They could not know the ways this beloved River of Grass congregation would be called to live into an even bolder mission to transform the world and this faith for generations to come. If ever our world needed the values of Unitarian Universalism, it is now. If ever there were a day to dig deep, rise up, and feed the future of our faith, it is today. If ever there was a congregation determined to live their values, it is this River of Grass on the cusp of a whole new era of ministry in the 21st century. We owe it to the generations that came before that we might be here now – and to the generations yet to come that will build on the foundations we have laid. Let us be a people who live, and give, so boldly!

Rev. Amy Carol Webb
Minister



RIVER OF GRASS LEADERS

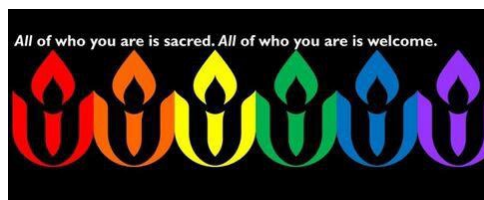


What a momentous year this year has been! A year ago, we celebrated our 25th birthday. A month later, we moved into our first 24/7 home since COVID struck in 2020. Now congregational life is resuming the

pace that was normal back then, with many of our beloved programs and groups swinging back into action. To meet today's needs and challenges, we are also creating new programs. And just in time, too, because our community and our world need UU values in action now more than ever.

Each time I walk into our lovingly decorated sanctuary, I feel deep gratitude that TOGETHER we have made it through a huge storm and that the love between us is more palpable than ever, and our connections deeper.

Now as we prepare to give our beloved Rev. Amy a beautiful farewell, we will celebrate the loving ministry we have shared. Savor the moment and know that afterward we will all be faithfully here, charting the course of this beautiful River TOGETHER. **Please give generously of your time, talent and treasure. Every one of us is precious....every one of us is needed.**



Leana Bresnahan
President

RIVER OF GRASS LEADERS

River of Grass has a long history of nurturing the spirits of our children and youth to help them engage with their faith as they grow into it. They are an integral part of our community, and we are the richer for it.



Your financial contributions help ensure that we never lose sight of giving them the support they need. And as we continue to rebuild our vibrant program, our efforts will reach out to the wider community to provide needed resources for families who are finding it harder and harder to find life-affirming information and support elsewhere.

Karen Gonzalez
Director, Religious Education



Everything we do is Faith Formation
Everything we teach is Unitarian Universalism
The Congregation is the Curriculum

- Connie Goodbread

WHAT DOES RIVER OF GRASS MEAN TO YOU?

I have these dreams of the future where we can take our ministry, our music, and our love for each other, and bring it out into the greater community and share it with other people, bring other people in. I have dreams that we could do song circles while we work together with our hands, having a common space where we can just dance and honor Mother Earth, so those are my personal dreams for River of Grass.

Theo Lucas

This River runs deep. You River folks are the most generous, kind, caring, socially active and welcoming religious and spiritual community I have ever had the good fortune to encounter.

Peter Fox

To be part of this welcoming community that cares about raising the next generation of adults, that enriches my life with learning opportunities, music and joy, and that sustains and inspires and educates me in the fight for justice for all people and for the earth. This is why I pledge. Please pledge generously.

Geri Mikulski

What I love most about the River of Grass is the opportunity it provides for service. It's not just a community that gathers. It's a community that actively engages in making a positive impact. River of Grass empowers us to be agents of change. Through service we embody the values that unite us and contribute to the betterment of the world around us.

Ahysa Boutron

FAIR-SHARE GIVING GUIDE

Adjusted Monthly Income	Approx. Adjusted Annual Income	SUPPORTER 2-6% of Income		SUSTAINER 3-7% of income		VISIONARY 5-9% of income		TRANSFORMER 10% of income	
		Suggested % of income	Monthly Pledge	Suggested % of income	Monthly Pledge	Suggested % of income	Monthly Pledge	Suggested % of income	Monthly Pledge
\$1,000	\$12,000	2%	\$20	3%	\$30	5%	\$50	10%	\$100
\$1,500	\$18,000	2%	\$30	3%	\$45	5%	\$75	10%	\$150
\$2,000	\$25,000	2%	\$40	3%	\$60	5%	\$100	10%	\$200
\$3,000	\$36,000	2%	\$60	3%	\$90	5%	\$150	10%	\$300
\$4,000	\$50,000	3%	\$120	4%	\$160	5%	\$200	10%	\$400
\$6,500	\$80,000	3%	\$195	4%	\$260	6%	\$390	10%	\$650
\$8,500	\$100,000	3%	\$255	5%	\$425	6%	\$510	10%	\$850
\$10,000	\$120,000	3%	\$300	5%	\$500	6%	\$600	10%	\$1,000
\$12,500	\$150,000	4%	\$500	5%	\$625	6%	\$750	10%	\$1,250
\$17,000	\$200,000	4%	\$680	6%	\$1,020	7%	\$1,190	10%	\$1,700
\$25,000	\$300,000	5%	\$1,250	6%	\$1,500	8%	\$2,000	10%	\$2,500
\$40,000	\$500,000	6%	\$2,400	6%	\$2,800	9%	\$3,600	10%	\$4,000

Here is the giving guideline, based upon involvement and income, proposed by the Unitarian Universalist Association.

Supporter: The Congregation is a significant part of my spiritual and intellectual life that I want to support.

Sustainer: The Congregation is my central community; I am committed to sustaining the programs and ministries of my congregation.

Visionary: My commitment is a clear demonstration of the unique importance of this congregation and my spiritual principles.

Transformer: I am deeply committed to the Congregation; my contribution provides fuel for transformation and is part of my spiritual practices in living out my UU principles.

FAIR-SHARE GIVING GUIDE

This guide was created in alignment with the stewardship values of our faith tradition: *Each of us is individually and collectively responsible for resourcing our movement and our congregation.*

1. Calculate your Adjusted Monthly Income and find it on the chart.

To calculate your Adjusted Monthly Income, add all your sources of monthly income, and then subtract any unusual expenses, such as large medical expenses, care of a parent, or a large financial expense).

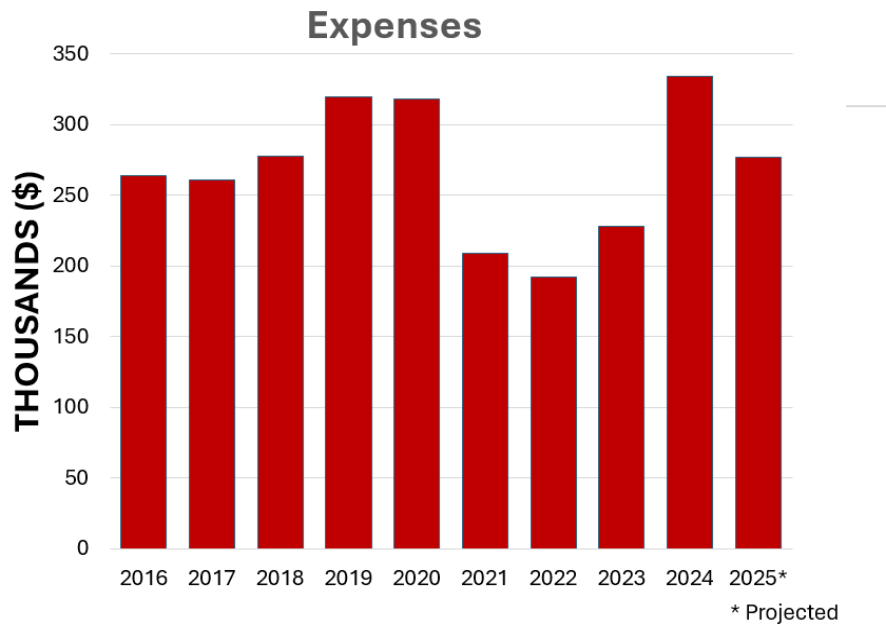
The flexibility to include meaningful and unusual exceptions in your financial life (income and expenses) is what makes the Guide fair and useful. This is an honor system; only you know your circumstances.

2. Choose your commitment level.

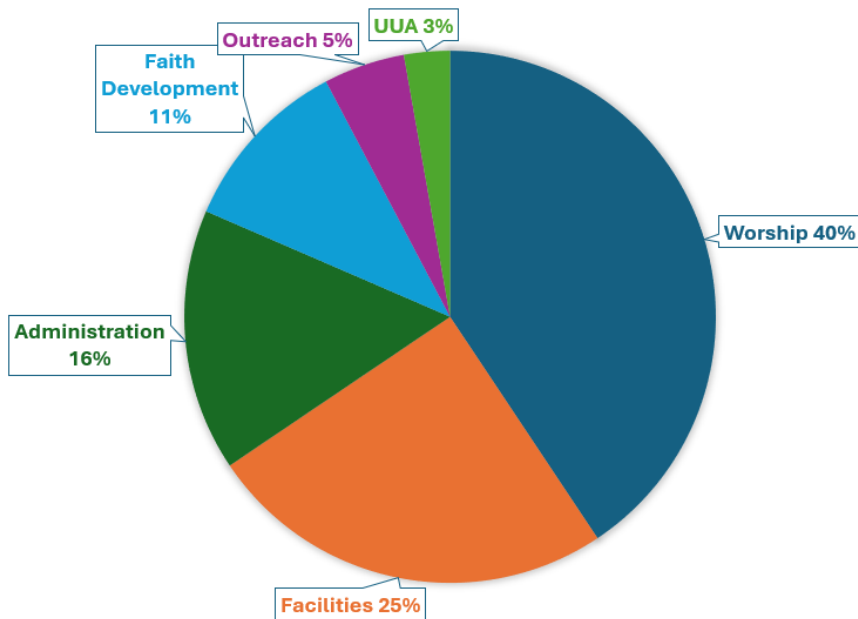
From the Adjusted Monthly Income column, look to the right to find the giving level that represents your commitment ability at this time. Consider your UU values in thinking about your income and your financial commitment to the congregation, as expressed in the four commitment levels.

Note that within each commitment level, the guide is progressive, with giving levels rising with capacity to give.

EXPENSES



COSTS



WHAT WE NEED

To reach our \$210,000 pledge goal, we need:

# of Pledges	Range	Total
2	\$15,000 to \$30,000+	\$45,000
4	\$10,000 to \$14,999	\$40,000
7	\$5,000 to \$9,999	\$40,000
10	\$3,000 to \$4,999	\$40,000
11	\$1,500 to \$2,999	\$18,000
12	\$1,000 to \$1,499	\$15,000
15	\$500 to \$999	\$9,000
34	\$1 to \$499	\$3,000

Finances are important during this Annual Pledge Drive (APD) season, but our real goal is to give everyone an opportunity to reflect on:

- what brings you here,
- what keeps you coming back,
- the commitments both personal and spiritual we are all held to here,
- and the spiritual practice that is giving joyfully.

What Is a Pledge?

A pledge is a promise to donate a certain amount of money to the church operating budget during the fiscal year (July 1 to June 30). It is a statement of intent; it is *not* a legally binding obligation. Please pledge generously and responsibly, as our budget is based on what we promise to pay. Pledges can be adjusted if your financial situation changes. Please advise our Assistant Treasurer if you have cause to increase or decrease your pledge. 10