

# STONE SOUP

## 2018 AUUF Canvass Information



*"I would like to believe when I die that I have given myself away like a tree that sows seeds every spring and never counts the loss, it is adding to future life."*  
-May Sarton

Dear Members and Friends,

Thinking about the Canvass, I'm drawn to May Sarton's words. Every word speaks to me as I – and everyone in the Fellowship – thinks about how to support AUUF. **"To give oneself away...and never count the loss."** Every word is true for us, except one: "away." The tree surely gives its seeds "away." Here, though, what we give to the Fellowship isn't given "away." Here, what we give is given to each other. Our donations don't go "away."

Do you know the story "Stone Soup?" It's an old story, told and retold in many forms. In the one I'm familiar with, a few soldiers are traveling on foot through the countryside, and stop in a village. The war has caused food to be in short supply, and the townspeople have hidden their food out of sight. The soldiers announce that they will be cooking soup made from one stone. The townspeople are understandably curious; how can anyone make soup from a stone? In the town square the soldiers fill a large pot with water, drop in a stone, and set it to cook over a fire. One of the soldiers mentions to the curious onlookers that the stone soup will taste even better with the addition of a few carrots. One person hesitantly admits that she has some carrots hidden at her house and runs home to get them. A soldier notes that some cabbage would be a fine addition to the broth, and would guarantee a superlative stone soup. Another person volunteers to look for some cabbage that "might" be at home. The soldiers mention more ingredients, and one by one, townspeople bring out food they had squirreled away. The soup is cooked and finally townspeople and soldiers together on the town square enjoy a tasty and nutritious meal – all made from one stone!

Were the townspeople "giving away" their food? Certainly they were *giving* their hidden (and precious) food. But they weren't giving it away. **They gave it to each other.** And therefore, in a sense, each was a gift a person gave to himself/herself.

When Canvass rolls around every year at AUUF, the call goes out: "Give! Give! Give!" But this year, when you are asked to give, I encourage you to remember the story of Stone Soup and think of your gift as a gift to all, and a gift to yourself.

The townspeople in the story gave to meet a basic need: to be fed! At AUUF our *gifts to each other* will feed us, too. They'll feed our hunger for community, our hunger for spiritual depth, our hunger for beauty, for justice, for honesty. For excitement. For love.

Maybe I should stop here! What more can I say? But people would like to know in at least a vague way how their gifts of precious,

squirreled-away "food" (dollars) will "taste" when the soup is cooked and served.

The budget contains mostly dull but necessary items, of course, like insurance, utilities, toilet paper, printing, termite control. Dull, eh? But what are the sexy items? How can we express our mission, our seven principles, and our hopes and dreams for AUUF in the language of dollars and cents?

RE is a central part of AUUF. This year there will be more money in the budget for teacher development, and for Julie's professional expenses.

The proposed budget reflects a desire for AUUF to be a good employer. We intend to follow the UUA guidelines for fair compensation, including benefits. Is this sexy? You bet it is!

There is increased funding in the proposed budget for childcare. This will also allow us to be able to offer childcare at more meetings and events than we have been able to do in the past. Parents, rejoice!

We hope to be able to attract musicians, part time, to increase the impact music makes in our services. The amount budgeted is modest, but we hope it will grow in years to come.

In December, the Buildings and Grounds committee submitted to the Board a status report on our infrastructure, and a projection of future needs. Based on that, the Budget Brain Trust proposed big bucks for B&G, but decided to spread the big increase over a few years.

The budget doesn't just fund the status quo. This year's proposed budget contains a very modest amount for campus ministry and/or young adult ministry (18 – 35 years old). Here again, we'll start small and try to grow this program. We need to do more for this age group.

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And so the call goes out: "Give! Give! Give!" Remember the story of Stone Soup, and its lesson for us; when we give to the Fellowship, we don't kiss our money goodbye, we meet it again every Sunday of the year.

Remember Lao Tzu: *"The wise man does not lay up his own treasures. The more he gives to others, the more he has for his own."*

Remember Simone de Beauvoir: *"That's what I consider true generosity: You give your all, and yet you always feel as if it costs you nothing."*

Remember Francis of Assisi:  
*"For it is in giving that we receive."*

True, that

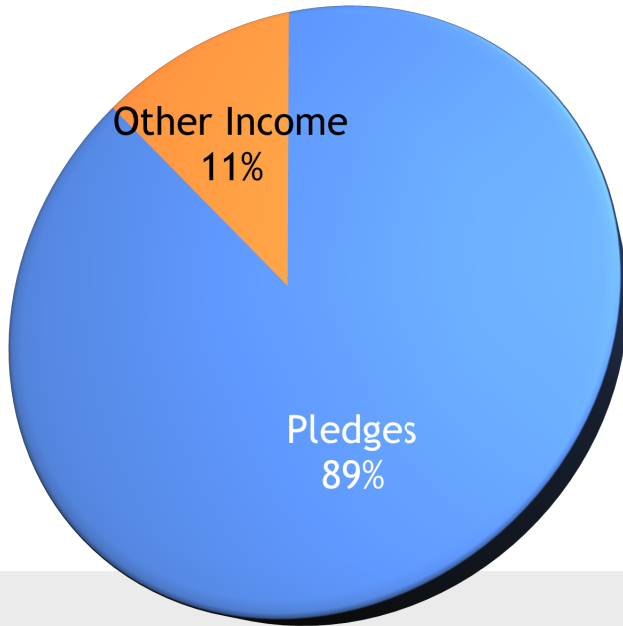
With Hope,  
Peter



# AUUF Operating Budget

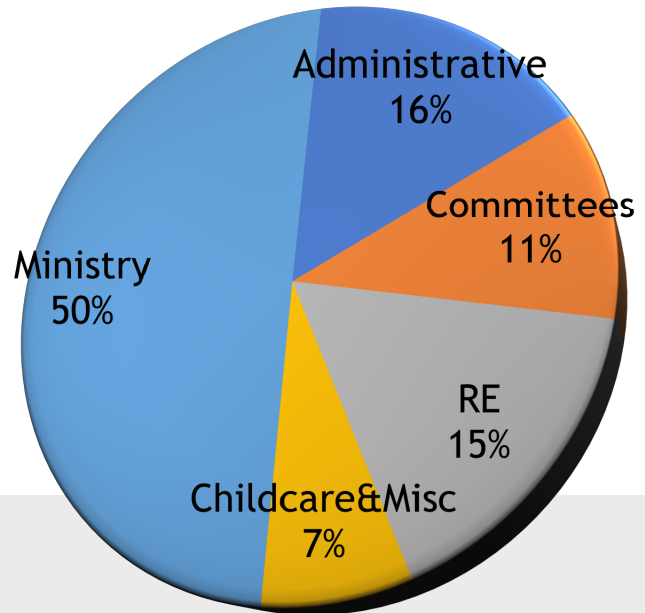
Income	FY '18-'19 Proposed	% Change from Current Year
<b>Annual Total</b>	<b>\$153,569</b>	<b>15.38%</b>
Pledges	\$135,977	18.24%
Other Income	\$17,592	-2.78%

AUUF Income



Expenses	FY '18-'19 Proposed	% Change from Current Year
<b>Annual Total</b>	<b>\$153,569</b>	<b>2.85%</b>
Administrative	\$25,137	1.84%
Committees	\$16,630	48.81%
RE	\$23,520	14.73%
Childcare & Misc	\$11,311	47.88%
Professional Ministry	\$76,971	-9.78%

Expenses



## Budget Details of Interest

In RE, the budget for teacher development more than tripled, and the total of DRE salary and professional expenses was increased by 9%. Funding for childcare was increased by 45%. Funding for most committees was changed modestly (in both directions) except for Buildings (+60%), Grounds (+48%) and music (+273%). Campus ministry and young adult outreach funding was added for the first time ever.

## Essential Gifts Chart

**To reach our pledge goal of \$136,000, these gifts\* are needed**

1 Gift of more than \$6,400

15 Gifts of \$1,201 - \$1,600

1 Gift of \$5,201 - \$6,400

20 Gifts of \$801 - \$1,200

4 Gifts of \$4,001 - \$5,200

41 Gifts of \$401 - \$800

6 Gifts of \$2,801 - \$4,000

Several Gifts of up to \$400

14 Gifts of \$1,601 - \$2,800

\*Amounts refer to gifts on a **per person** basis. They are annual (not monthly) amounts.






## The Suggested Fair-Share Contribution Guide

Using the Suggested Fair-Share Contribution Guide (see chart below) is a simple, 3-step process; giving is a function of **commitment** and **resources**.

### Resources

Determine your annual gross income or resource level.  
 ADD unusual or sporadic income (e.g. inheritance, hoped-for investment income, etc.)  
 SUBTRACT extremely high-priority expenses (e.g. care of a parent, child care, cost of higher education)  
 These adjustments are made in private by you, and reflect your own unique circumstances. It is an honor system.  
 The result is your Approximate Adjusted Gross Income, which you can use in determining your Fair Share giving level.

### Goals

-  Continue our commitment to full-time, professional ministry
-  Bring in professional musicians at fair compensation; grow our music program
-  Maintain, and improve, our physical space
-  Continue to support local social justice organizations
-  Reach out to college students and young adults
-  Maintain the standard of excellence set by our Children's RE program.

### + Commitment

The columns in the Fair Share Giving Guide are labeled Supporter, Sustainer, Visionary, and Transformer, with a description of each of these terms. Which one are you? What role does AUUF play in your (and your family's) spiritual, social, and intellectual life? Why do you keep coming back?

### = Your Fair Share Giving Level

In the guide, find where your Approximate Adjusted Gross Income level and your depth of commitment intersect. That's your Fair Share giving level. If you can swing that amount, that's great! If not, consider a plan to move toward a Fair Share pledge over the next few years.

## The Suggested Fair-Share Contribution Guide

Approx. Adjusted Gross Income	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 of 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.	
	Suggested Pledge Rate	Monthly Amount [Annual]	Suggested Pledge Rate	Monthly Amount [Annual]	Suggested Pledge Rate	Monthly Amount [Annual]	Suggested Pledge Rate	Monthly Amount [Annual]
\$12,000	2%	\$20 [\$240]	3%	\$30 [\$360]	5%	\$50 [\$600]	10%	\$100 [\$1,200]
\$18,000	2%	\$30 [\$360]	3%	\$45 [\$540]	5%	\$75 [\$900]	10%	\$150 [\$1,800]
\$25,000	2%	\$42 [\$500]	3%	\$63 [\$750]	5%	\$104 [\$1,250]	10%	\$208 [\$2,500]
\$36,000	2%	\$60 [\$720]	3%	\$90 [\$1,080]	5%	\$150 [\$1,800]	10%	\$300 [\$3,600]
\$50,000	3%	\$125 [\$1,500]	4%	\$167 [\$2,000]	5%	\$208 [\$2,500]	10%	\$417 [\$5,000]
\$80,000	3%	\$200 [\$2,400]	4%	\$267 [\$3,200]	6%	\$400 [\$4,800]	10%	\$667 [\$8,000]
\$100,000	3%	\$250 [\$3,000]	5%	\$417 [\$5,000]	6%	\$500 [\$6,000]	10%	\$833 [\$10,000]
\$120,000	3%	\$300 [\$3,600]	5%	\$500 [\$6,000]	6%	\$600 [\$7,200]	10%	\$1,000 [\$12,000]
\$150,000	4%	\$500 [\$6,000]	5%	\$625 [\$7,500]	6%	\$750 [\$9,000]	10%	\$1,250 [\$15,000]
\$200,000	4%	\$667 [\$8,000]	6%	\$1,000 [\$12,000]	7%	\$1,167 [\$14,000]	10%	\$1,667 [\$20,000]
\$300,000	5%	\$1,250 [\$15,000]	6%	\$1,500 [\$18,000]	8%	\$2,000 [\$24,000]	10%	\$2,500 [\$30,000]
\$500,000	6%	\$2,500 [\$30,000]	7%	\$2,917 [\$35,000]	9%	\$3,750 [\$45,000]	10%	\$4,167 [\$50,000]



**There are many ways to pledge your Financial Support to the AUUF:**

- ♦ Drop your Pledge card in the Stone Soup Pot on March 25.
- ♦ Pledge online at <http://auuf.org/canvass>
- ♦ Text your Name and Annual Pledge amount to the AUUF Treasurer at 334-521-8130.
- ♦ Meet with your assigned canvasser or attend a scheduled Group Discussion

**Frequently Asked Questions**

**I want to contribute to the AUUF by volunteering my time in addition to making a pledge. How do I do that?**

If there is a particular job or position that you are interested in, you should contact the Nominating Committee. Or you can volunteer to be a committee member or just take on one of the many individual tasks that need doing. You can let a committee chair or the Minister or President know which committees or tasks best fit your time and talents or about other ways to get involved. And **THANKS.**



**I am not ready to become a member of this church, so why am I getting information about pledging?**

We have many non-members of the Fellowship who pledge financial support. We call them “friends” of the church. We invite everyone who is regularly participating in AUUF activities to make a pledge.

**I give money when the offering basket is passed each Sunday. Why do I need to make a pledge?**  
We are very grateful for the generosity our members and non-member friends demonstrate by giving during the offering each Sunday. However, such contributions are unpredictable and to be fiscally responsible, we need the commitment of the congregation to provide a balanced budget. Without your commitment in the form of a pledge, we may be forced to reduce or eliminate some very much needed and worthy programs.

**What happens if I can't fulfill my pledge?**  
While we keep track of pledge payments, and send statements for reminders and tax purposes, we understand that some people's circumstances change during the year, which prevents them from fulfilling their pledges. If this occurs, we ask that you let us know so that we can note our records and plan accordingly.

“It is the heart that does the giving; the fingers only let go.”  
—Nigerian proverb

Dates	
March 25	Canvass Kickoff
Weekly	“Our Fellowship Experiences” Group Discussion
April 13	Game Night — “Our Fellowship Experiences” over a friendly game of cards
April 29	End of Canvass
May 20th	Annual Business Meeting following the service

