# LOVE IS THE SPIRIT. .

## 2019 AUUF Canvass Information

"Nothing you can make that can't be made No one you can save that can't be saved Nothing you can do, but you can learn how to be you in time. It's easy; All you need is love."

– John Lennon & Paul McCartney

Dear Members and Friends,

When we say "Love is the Spirit" what do we mean? Where did that phrase come from?

"Love is the spirit of this church, and service is its law; this is our great covenant: to dwell together in peace, to seek the truth in love, and to help one another. "

-James Vila Blake, Unitarian Minister, 1894

Many UU congregations include that passage in every service.

In 1967, when The Beatles sang "All You Need is Love," it sounded to my young self at the time like a Deep Truth. *Of course*! All you need IS love! So simple. So obvious. Duh!

As I aged, with consummate grace, mind you, into a crotchety (but lovable) realist, I always carried with me, tucked into my psychological safe deposit box, perhaps buried farther and farther under the surface as time went on, the Beatles' message of love as an utterly pure, joyful, uncomplicated emotional force with the power to stand as the only real requirement in life.

Being an adult is a bit of a drag, have you noticed? You have to *think* about things – things that you'd rather were uncomplicated. Like love. So many different sorts of love! So many instances of careless use, or purposeful misuse, and certainly overuse of the word! What a mess! Love seems now anything but simple.

Part of my graceful aging process turned me into a (lovable) chemist. The word *spirit* has an added meaning for me. In alchemical lingo, a "spirit" was a liquid obtained from another substance by distillation. Hundreds of years ago ethyl alcohol was called "spirit of wine" because when you distilled wine, ethyl alcohol was what emerged. It was thought distillation chased out the essence of a substance. When I read "Love is the spirit of this Fellowship," my warped (but lovable) brain imagines all of us AUUFers in a big vat, being heated, and our essence – love – boiling out. Thus endeth this brief tour of my strange (but lovable) brain!

Are we any closer to figuring out what kind of love we're talking about? MaybePerhapsSorta. But let's try this:

#### "Love is that condition in which the happiness of another person is essential to your own."

-Robert A. Heinlein, Stranger In a Strange Land

Substitute the words "the Fellowship" for "another person," and you can see where we're heading.

Love of AUUF sounds a little weird at first, but stay with me here. It works, if by love we mean that your happiness is tied to the vibrancy, the energy, the strength of the Fellowship. In that sense, you love the Fellowship.

Still sounds a little weird. Let's try "By love we mean that your happiness is tied to the vibrancy, the energy, the strength of all the people we encounter and interact with at AUUF."

A little better. But...how about..."By love we mean that your feeling of being loved comes from people at AUUF who also feel they are loved by people at AUUF, which includes you." Translation: **We all minister to each other, sharing our love around**.

I think we're getting somewhere. And, there's more! There's the kind of love that UUA President Reverend Susan Frederick-Gray means when she writes, "**As Unitarian Universalists our faith calls us to love the hell out of the world**." Our congregation is trying to change not just us, but the world, a little at a time, through love. We love *inward*, and we love – we **must** love – *outward* too. Love.

"Once you realize everything doesn't have to make sense, things begin to make a lot more sense."

-Anonymous

Love makes no sense. It just IS.

"We love the things we love for what they are."

-Robert Frost

When you make your pledge during the Canvass, make it out of love. Simple, pure, joyful love. The all-you-need-is-love kind of love.

Your pledge doesn't have to make sense.

I could make sensible arguments for your making a whopping big pledge, like paying a full-time Minister, like bringing small group ministry and adult RE up to fever pitch, like keeping our Sanctuary, built in 1870 by previously enslaved persons, and our other two buildings in good shape. But don't just fund a person, or a program, or a building.

Fund love.

"Some people don't understand the promises they're making when they make them, "I said.

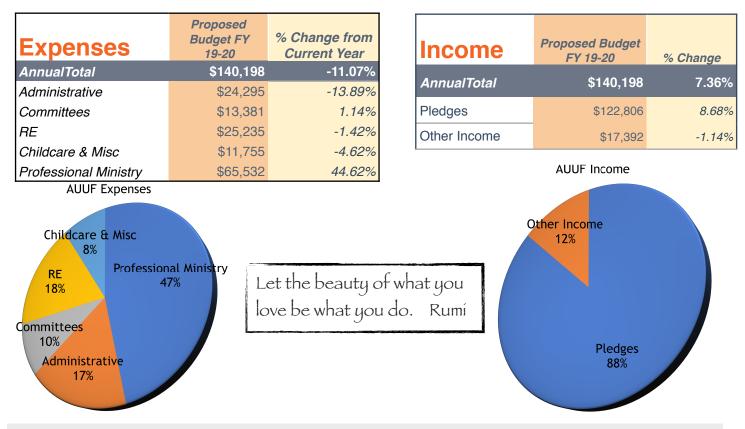
"Right, of course. But you keep the promise anyway. That's what love is. Love is keeping the promise anyway." – John Green, The Fault in Our Stars

The heat is on. We're beginning to boil. What "spirit" will emerge from this distillation? Will it be love?

With hope, ~Peter

Love is all you need. Love is all you need.

# **AUUF Operating Budget**



# **Budget Details of Interest**

The usual Canvass brochure exercise of comparing the budget proposed for next year with the budget in effect now would be confusing and misleading, because this year Reverend Marti Keller is half-time, and next year, if all goes according to plan, the Minister will be fulltime. But, some aspects of the proposed budget are worth noting. A paid staff position for a Director of Music is included. A more realistic figure for moving expenses for the new Minister is included. The array of salary and benefits for the Minister and paid staff follow UUA guidelines for a congregation of our size, located in the cost-of-wage environment in our geographical area.

# **Essential Gifts Chart**

# To reach our pledge goal of \$122,806, these gifts\* are needed

- 1 Gift of more than \$6,000
- 2 Gifts of \$4,001 \$6,000
- 5 Gifts of \$3,001 \$4,000
- 8 Gifts of \$2,001 \$3,000
- 16 Gifts of \$1,001 \$2,000

20 Gifts of \$751 - \$1,000

24 Gifts of \$501 - \$750

57 Gifts of \$301 - \$500

- Several Gifts of up to \$300
- \*Amounts refer to gifts on a **per person** basis. They are annual (not monthly) amounts.



# Goals

Attract and retain a full-time, professional Minister Expand our music program Improve accessibility, signage, and lighting of our physical spaces Continue to beautify our grounds in harmony with Nature Continue to support local social justice organizations

Reach out to college students and young adults

Maintain our vibrant Children's RE program.

#### The Suggested Fair-Share Contribution Guide

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

Step 1- Resources Determine your annual gross income or resource level

ADD unusual or sporadic income (e.g. inheritance, hoped-for one-time investment income)

SUBTRACT extremely high-priority expenses (e.g. care of a parent, child care, cost of higher education). Don't subtract ordinary expenses; your pledge will be another ordinary expense, like all the rest.

These adjustments are made in private by you, and reflect your 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.

#### Step 2 - 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? Do you have hopes and dreams of how the Fellowship can become even better?

### Step 3 - Resources + Commitment = Your Fair Share Giving Level

In the Suggested Fair-Share Contribution Guide below (used by UU congregations all over the country), find where your Approximate Adjusted Gross Income level (Step 1) and your depth of commitment (Step 2) intersect. That's your Fair Share pledge 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.

(If charts are not appealing for you, here is a short sweet method: Multiply your current pledge level by 1.09. That's your new pledge level, a 9% increase).

### The Suggested Fair-Share Contribution Guide

	<b>Supporter</b> 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.		<b>Visionary</b> 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.	
Approx. Adjusted Gross Income	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]

# **Questions & Answers**

**How do I make my pledge?** For this Canvass, the Board agreed that face-to-face human-to-human contact is the best way to do a Canvass. So, there will be virtually no online component. A canvasser will contact you soon after the Canvass begins, and set up a meeting (The Canvass begins on January 13, 2019 and ends on March 3).

**How do I pay my pledge?** Traditionally, many AUUFers write a check, noting "pledge" on the subject line, place it in an envelope, and drop the envelope in the basket as it goes around during the Offertory segment of a Sunday Service. Some have set up an automatic recurring (typically monthly) payment at their bank. If you are interested in paying your pledge automatically, mention it to your canvasser.

When do I start paying my pledge? This Canvass raises funds for the period July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020. Therefore, you'll start contributing in July, 2019 at the level you will have pledged in this Canvass.

In addition to making a pledge, I want to contribute to the AUUF by volunteering my time. 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.

What happens if I can't fulfill my pledge? While we record 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.

**Usually the Canvass is in March and April. Why is it so early this year?** We are in the midst of a search for a full-time Minister. The UUA sets the search timetable. In order to be able to negotiate a compensation package with a prospective minister, we must know by the beginning of March, with a high degree of certainty, what our financial situation will be next fiscal year (July 1, 2019 – June 30, 2020). Therefore this year's Canvass is unusually early simply to be in tune with the timetable of the ministerial search.

Money can buy you a fine dog, but only love can make him wag his tail. Kinky Friedman

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