

Deepening Connections

Stewardship of the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Central Michigan
2023-2024

March 20, 2023

Dear UUFCM Members and Friends~

As winter begins to loosen its grip on us and spring attempts to insert its warming presence, I am thinking about how well our UUFCM community has survived the threat of the pandemic and the challenges of coming together as one congregation. We ARE one congregation, often in two different spaces, yet I am thankful for the vision that we share of caring for each other, caring for our Fellowship, and caring for the world.

That vision translates into so many ways that we connect. We worship together, whether in person or on Zoom. We engage in committee work, in grounds clean-ups in the spring and fall, in potlucks or game or movie nights or Sangha meditation, in social justice activities such as donating our shoes or participating in anti-racist workshops, and we just connected with the celebration of our 20-year anniversary!

Today we are writing to ask you to take time to reflect upon yourself and your role as a member or friend within this important, meaningful, and nurturing community. In what ways do you connect? In what ways might you deepen those connections? In what ways can we all help deepen those connections?

As you read this letter, please review the proposed budget, listen to testimonials and a sermon about giving and stewardship, and consider your role in our fellowship. How do you share your resources of time, talent, and treasure with the UUFCM? Are you ready to challenge yourself in a new direction in the fellowship? Take on a leadership role? Serve on a team? Assist with Sunday services? Attend membership classes? Join UUFCM? Consider increasing your pledge this year? Make your first official pledge?

The following documents are included with this letter, and they will also be available online at UUFCM.org or via a link from our e-News.

- 2023-2024 proposed UUFCM budget (July 1, 2023-June 30, 2024)
- Pledge Form 2023-2024 Fiscal Year
- Individual Volunteer Form
- Giving guidance
- Incentives for pledging

Please return your Pledge Form and Volunteer Form by **Sunday, April 23**. You can do so by

- making your pledge and indicating your volunteering preferences online at uufcm.org (at the “donate” tab)
- mailing your Pledge Form and Volunteer Form to Treasurer Terrie Robbie at P. O. Box 41, Mt. Pleasant, MI 48804 or emailing it to her at tlrobbie@gmail.com
- giving your Pledge Form and Volunteer Form in an envelope to any member of our Stewardship Committee: Mary Alsager, Norma Bailey, Drew Frantz, Gisela Moffit, Darlene Ritchie, and Amy Voege

No matter how you make your pledge, be assured that the treasurer and the minister hold this information very discreetly, and there is never information shared about who is pledging what.

Be sure to read the weekly e-News and Order of Service inserts to stay up to date with our stewardship campaign.

In love and peace,

Norma Bailey, Stewardship Committee Chair

P.S. Be sure to check out the great incentives waiting for you (yellow sheet)!!

Proposed Budget for Fiscal Year 2023-24

| Expense Category | Budget 2022 -23 | Proposed Budget 2023-24 |
|--|--------------------|-------------------------|
| Accounting and Bank Fees | \$900 | \$2150 |
| Building Costs | \$14,500 | \$17,000 |
| Child Care | \$1700 | \$2100 |
| Communications | \$515 | \$550 |
| Copies and Postage | \$1500 | \$1700 |
| Fair Share Payments | \$5357 | \$5500 |
| Insurance | \$3000 | \$3000 |
| Minister Base Salary | \$62,278.95 | \$63,525 |
| In Lieu of FICA | \$4764.34 | \$4860 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health Care Plan (In Lieu of Medical)** • Retirement • Disability/Group Term Life Insurance • Professional Expenses Allowance | \$10,788.77 | \$6000 |
| | \$6227.90 | \$6352 |
| | \$1332.77 | \$1360 |
| | 6227.90 | \$6352 |
| Music | \$300 | \$300 |
| Religious Education Expenses | \$900 | \$900 |
| Religious Education Director | \$6300 | \$6300 |
| Secretarial | \$7500 | \$7500 |
| Technical Assistant | \$0 | \$2500 |
| Supplies and Miscellaneous | \$3000 | \$3000 |
| Leadership Development | \$200 | \$200 |
| Minister's Discretionary Expense | \$500 | \$500 |
| Endowment Contribution | \$1000 | \$1000 |
| Total | \$138,793 | \$142,649 |

Key to Each of the Categories

Accounting and Bank Fees: Pays for checks, bank fees, Vanco fees (on-line), and accountant services.

Building Costs: Pays for utilities, repairs, maintenance, improvements, cleaning, snow removal, lawn mowing, etc.

Child Care: Pays for weekly services and special events

Communications: Cost of new Website, Zoom Services, Vimeo, MailChimp, and Web Domain

Copies and Postage: Pays for stamps, post office box rental, copying orders of service, directories, annual reports, music, and other documents.

Fair Share Payments: Payments to the UUA and MidAmerica Region

Insurance: Pays for building, liability, and workman's compensation

Minister: Pays for salary, benefits, and ministerial expenses **(2023-24 In Lieu of Medical = \$500 per month)

Music: Pays for substitute pianists, hymnals, music purchases, and piano tuning

Religious Education Expenses: Pays for fees and expenses for OWL Training, education materials, snacks for special occasions, decorations, and craft items

Religious Education Director: Pays for a ¼ time RE Director

Secretarial: Pays for contracted administrative assistant

Supplies & Miscellaneous: Pays for food & drink items; kitchen, building, and bathroom supplies; worship supplies; office supplies; etc.

Technical Assistant: In-Service Technical Assistant expenses for OWL and Zoom

Leadership Development: Pays for expenses at UUA and MidAmerica Regional Conferences

Minister's Discretionary Expense: Provides seed money for the minister to provide monetary aid for those who ask for help

Endowment Contribution: Our yearly contribution to our Endowment Fund

Giving Guidance

Recognizing that all contributions – time, energy and treasure – are needed and valued, if you are new to pledging, it might be useful to have a sense of what others contribute to make this community work.

Individual pledges are confidential information. For last year's pledges (2022-2023 fiscal year), the general picture is:

3 households pledged \$10,000 or more

16 households pledged at least \$2000 but less than \$10,000

14 households pledged at least \$1000 but less than \$2000

28 households pledged up to \$1000

Every single penny of the contributions of these 61 households contributed to what we have been able to accomplish this year. Please know that whatever your pledge is, it is welcomed and valued!

People fulfill their pledges in a variety of ways—by donating monthly, or weekly, or all at once—between July 1 and June 30 of the fiscal year.

Pledge Form

2023-2024 Fiscal Year (July 1-June 30)

In support of the mission of the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Central Michigan and in recognition of giving as a spiritual practice, I/we make this pledge of financial support for the fiscal year July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024.

My/our annual pledge for 2023-2024 is: _____

Name(s): _____

Signature(s): _____

Date: _____

I'm joining the "Moving Up Club"

- I increased my previous year's pledge by 5%.
- I am giving 5% of my adjusted gross income (AGI) on my IRS Form 1040 (UUA guidelines).
- I am pledging for the first time.

A statement of your donations is provided annually for tax purposes.

Thank for your generosity and dedication to our fellowship.

May we continue to grow and thrive!

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Central Michigan

Volunteer Opportunities

One of the missions of our congregation is service to our congregation and the community at large. We realize that life can get extremely busy, and it is often challenging for individuals to find time and energy to volunteer. But we know it is in giving that we are receiving new energy and joy.

Name(s): _____

Phone(s): _____ Email(s): _____

**Please pick your top 3 choices and specify which ones in a category (a or b or c, etc.).
If partners sign up together, initial which one is interested in what service opportunity.**

- _____ Hospitality: a. greeter, b. pre-service set-up, c. cleanup after the coffee hour.
- _____ Worship Support: a. participate in Sunday services. b. serve as social host on Zoom.
- _____ Caring for others: a. make phone calls (text). b. send cards. c. provide transportation. d. make meals.
- _____ Picking up a member from St. Louis once a month for church service
- _____ Membership: a. communicate with members and friends.
- _____ Social fun: a. help organize social events. b. help with fundraising.
- _____ Religious Education: a. help teaching older children. b. assist with children in the nursery. c. help with Adult RE.
- _____ Building/Grounds/Safety: a. participate in spring/fall cleaning. b. plant flowers. c. maintenance (i.e. check fire alarms, replace furnace filters, etc.). d. construction
- _____ Communication: a. website. b. Facebook. c. design brochures or flyers. d. design graphics. e. public relations.
- _____ Justice: a. environment. b. women's rights. c. voting rights. d. LGBTQ rights. e. racial justice.

Turn in no later than **April 23, 2023**

to our Treasurer, Terrie Robbie,

UUFCM, P.O. Box 41, Mt. Pleasant, MI 48804-0041

Or online at uufcm.org/volunteer-form

Thank you for sharing your gifts of time and talent!

Incentives

Turn your pledge in early – win raffle tickets!

By March 26 – 5 raffle tickets

By April 2 – 4 raffle tickets

By April 9 – 3 raffle tickets

By April 16 – 2 raffle tickets

By April 23 – 1 raffle ticket

*Turn in your pledge online, one extra raffle ticket!

*Turn it in to Norma Bailey on a Sunday, one extra raffle ticket!

If your name is drawn, these are the prizes to choose from:

Choose a sermon topic for Drew to preach about

Choose a piano piece for Beth to play

Choose a cello piece for Beth to play

Choose a choir piece to be sung

Get a batch of homemade cookies from Drew

Hike Bundy Hill with Norma

Go birding with Jim Dealing

Choose a violin piece for Cynthia Damer to play

Visit the baby lambs at Terrie Robbie's and Leslie Hildebrandt's farm

Homecooked dinner for your family delivered to your home

Deepen your financial commitment – join the Moving Up Club!

- Increasing your previous year's pledge by 5%
(ex. $\$1000 \times 1.05 = \1050 , which is an increase of \$50)
- Giving 5% of your adjusted gross income (AGI)
on your IRS Form 1040 (UUA guidelines)
(ex. $\$40,000 \times .05 = \2000 pledge for the year)
- Pledging for the first time

If you join the "Moving Up Club," you will be invited to a special event celebrating your pledge!