

UUSM Sustainable Stewardship

Honoring Your Journey:
Establishing Sustainable Stewardship



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There's a movement across the country taking Unitarian Universalist congregations and other faith communities by storm. It is called **Sustainable Stewardship**.

It's about creating and sustaining a healthy congregation full of buzz, excitement and meaning—*without an annual pledge drive!*

What is sustainable stewardship?

- Sustainable stewardship, sometimes referred to as recurring giving, is among the most cost-effective, long-term fundraising methods today. The concept is simple: members commit to a donation amount that is paid regularly—most often monthly, but occasionally quarterly or annually
- Although it is most often handled electronically, any method of giving works. Checks, credit card payments, or cash are all good. Online giving is safe, secure, and reliable. UUSM has contracted with a reputable payment processing provider. The portal can be accessed from the UUSM website by clicking on the “DONATE” button

How is it different from a traditional pledge drive?

What makes this method different is that *no pledge drive is needed to renew or increase your pledge!* Your pledge will renew automatically until you change it—a seamless process that can be done online or with a phone call.

It puts you in the drivers seat

- By giving online, you have the opportunity to create an account that enables you to increase or decrease your pledge, save and change your banking information, or cancel your membership at any time
- When signing up for recurring contributions, you set an amount to either charge your debit or credit card, or for automatic withdrawal from your checking or savings account
- Alternatively, you can make your sustaining pledge using a paper form to select the ongoing amount and the method: electronic funds transfer, check, cash, or credit card



Our collective power

Beyond Sunday morning, people are touched by UUSM in simple and profound ways:

- **Last year, more than 250 adults** participated in education about mental health, Sufism, and drought-tolerant landscaping, and activities such as Aging to Saging circles, book club, Circle dinners and more
- **50+ children** participate in our Religious Education program each week, learning a foundation of values that will carry them through the rest of their lives. Over the last two years, **65 children and teens** have learned about themselves and their world through the Our Whole Lives sex education program
- **More than 300** friends and members have participated in social justice events and programs including the annual MLK Celebration, Black Lives Matter, the Philippines education partnership, Home & Hope, Homework Central, Peninsula Interfaith Action and many others

Ceremonies and rituals mark significant milestones. Think of the weddings, memorials, coming of age and child dedication ceremonies that have added meaning and purpose to the lives of our families and friends. UUSM is a place where we live our values and pass them on to our children.



Let's keep the momentum going

Sustainable giving consistently **increases annual contributions**. It is more cost-effective, greener, and simpler for staff and volunteers. It also provides a steady and reliable stream of income that will stabilize our budget. Then UUSM can make sustainable changes over time.

Currently, the **average gift at UUSM is \$265/mo.** or \$3,200 per year, from 120 pledging units. Wherever you are on the giving spectrum—whether it's above or below the average—we urge you to consider increasing your contribution 25% or more.

Together, let's boost our average giving level in 2016!

Let's breakthrough and create the change that is within our reach.

TOGETHER WE CAN!

Final thoughts

Any amount that you are able to give is deeply appreciated.

No matter what you give, the point is to discover and commit to a level of giving that honors you, your values, and that increases your joy.

Your gift is an investment in the future of this congregation and community and is deeply appreciated.

Thank you!

If you have questions about sustainable stewardship or the needs of UUSM, please contact:

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