

UU  SG

Keep
Moving
Forward



2019-2020 PLEDGE DRIVE

Keep On Moving Forward

Building a Strong and Enduring Church Community

Building a bright future for UUSG

The Unitarian Universalist Society of Geneva has embarked on the journey to call a new settled minister. During this time of transition, our church has an historic opportunity to construct something new and extraordinary on the firm foundation of our long and proud past. Your 2019-20 operating fund pledge will help build a bright future for UUSG around three critical pillars:

Building the Beloved Community

Your pledge provides essential financial support for the people, place and programs that make UUSG the beloved spiritual home for our members and friends. The many ministries of our congregation and of individual members are what hold our community together. Building and sustaining this community requires an ongoing, generous commitment from all of us — a pledge of steadfast support from each other, to each other.

Building a better, more just world

UUSG's longstanding commitment to advancing compassionate social justice depends on a strong church to supply the energy and resources to make a difference in the world beyond our walls. By enabling UUSG to thrive and grow, your pledge dollars help support and expand our efforts to bring justice and relief to those living on the margins of society.

Building a stronger Religious Education Program

One of the hallmarks of a thriving church — and a key factor in attracting a new settled minister to UUSG — is a robust religious education program for children and youth. After experimenting with an all-volunteer approach, many in the congregation have expressed support for hiring a Director of Religious Education (DRE) to manage, improve, and expand our children and youth program. Many are ready to increase their pledges to make it happen. We hope everyone will! The UUSG Board has made hiring a DRE a priority for the upcoming church year. Accomplishing this vision depends on everyone's support. The result of this pledge drive will show how the congregation wishes to fulfill this vision.

Pledging your fair share to UUSG

Many people are unsure of how much to pledge. The UUA's Fair Share Giving guidelines cover a range of incomes and levels of support. Please consult the chart on the enclosed pledge form to determine your fair share contribution level.

You can fulfill your pledge however it suits your budget: weekly, monthly, quarterly or whenever you receive income during the year. UUSG also accepts one-time and recurring contributions through PayPal — a simple, convenient option.

Some members and friends aged 70-1/2 and above have chosen to fulfill their pledge by directing all or a portion of their 401(k) or IRA required minimum distribution (RMD) to UUSG and avoid paying taxes on the RMD amount. Ask your financial advisor about this tax-smart giving option.

Increasing your pledge to support a Director of Religious Education

To hire and retain a Director of Religious Education for children and youth will require a significant, sustained increase in the UUSG operating budget — an increase that must be funded primarily with additional pledge dollars. Please see the enclosed message from the UUSG Treasurer for guidance on increasing your pledge to meet this important church goal.



From the Revs. Jennifer and Patrick

For us as religious liberals revelation is continuous, we are given freedom and resources with which to engage with our lives and each other for building our common good. As a liberal congregation, we stand on the bulwarks of love, freedom and justice built by those who have gone before us. This gives us the chance to see not only what visions they have had for Building the Beloved Community of all souls at UUSG, but for us to be able to look farther, and to see more than they may have even dreamed of. Ours is a faith based in possibility and the ongoing chance to discover new truth; to achieve new understanding, and by this, we keep moving forward to build for a better future.

As we, your interim ministers and as you, the members and friends of the Unitarian Universalist Society of Geneva prepare for the second year of Interim Ministry, we courageously live into these possibilities when:

We worship, learn, and break bread together with people of all ages. We sing and laugh and cook and build. We care for the earth and for our neighbor.

We carry on the deeper nurturing of this local Beloved Community through generous pastoral care, completing essential self-assessment of the church, and tending our financial health.

We breathe more life into our interim ministry by inviting all voices to be part of our town hall conversations and learn how to search for a new minister.

Blessings,

Patrick and Jennifer

For 2019-2020 We Will:

Refresh our commitment to faith development by adding a full-time Director of Religious Education for children and youth.

Expand how we welcome visitors and seekers into this Beloved Community.

Strengthen our mission and purpose as we bring the healing message of Unitarian Universalism far into the next century.



A Vision for Religious Education at UUSG

Dear Friends,

Nurturing faith formation is a pillar of our mission at UUSG. Through religious education programs, we share and explore our values, create opportunities for growth, and sow the seeds for future generations. This year, we are making a special appeal to all members and friends to help increase UUSG's investment in that vision.

At a recent town hall, we talked with some 80 people about the urgent need to renew support for children's and youth religious education programs. Our church has a long, proud history of giving to this need. Because of your generosity, we've seen periods of remarkable growth, vitality, and innovation. At present, however, we're relying entirely on volunteers. Budgeted support is at a 10-year low, as is enrollment. This situation is out of character for our church and our mission.

I share this out of a feeling of great confidence and optimism. As a faith community, we are strong enough to see clearly what is, what can be, and what needs to be done to bridge the difference. Based on feedback received from town hall attendees, what's needed is professional staff—a Director of Religious Education (DRE)—to provide program leadership. More so than a program coordinator, a DRE would be trained and prepared to engage in curriculum planning and community building, participate in worship activities, provide volunteer support and orientation, and much more.

As a member, I'm excited and eager to see this happen. As your treasurer, I'm also obliged to share what's needed to make this vision financially sustainable. According to Unitarian Universalist Association compensation guidelines, the annual expense to employ a full-time DRE (including salary and benefits) is about \$75,000. Divided by approximately 200 households, this means we could make a budget-neutral decision with increased pledging, on average, of \$375 per household per year.

To advance this vision, we're asking you to consider the value that strong children's and youth programs provide to our entire community, both within and beyond our walls. Then, if you believe, as I do, that the world could benefit from more young people who are passionate about practical goodness, please consider increasing your pledge by \$25, \$30, \$40/month, or more if you're able.

We understand that this is no trivial request and that ability to give will vary. Some households may be able to give more; others less. Whatever your circumstances, your time, consideration, and generosity are deeply appreciated. If you have questions or comments to share, the Board would love to hear from you.

Sincerely,

Brian Doyle
UUSG Treasurer
treasurer@uusg.org

The upcoming year will be unlike previous years at UUSG. We need to build a strong financial foundation to write our next chapter. It is a time to roll up our sleeves and tell ourselves, "Keep on moving forward!"

This year we ask that you pledge a fair share of your income to UUSG. The UUA's Fair Share Giving guidelines cover a range of incomes and levels of support. Consult the chart on the enclosed pledge form to determine your fair share contribution level:

Supporter: Starting at 2% of your adjusted gross income

Sustainer: Starting at 3% of your adjusted gross income

Visionary: Starting at 5% of your adjusted gross income

You can fulfill your pledge to UUSG however it suits your budget: weekly, monthly, quarterly or whenever you receive income during the year. UUSG also accepts one-time and recurring contributions through PayPal — a simple, convenient option.

How to make your pledge

- Visit www.uusg.org/pledge-form and submit your pledge online.
- Bring or mail your completed pledge form to UUSG between March 10 and April 14.
- Celebrate our shared commitment to each other by making your pledge at the Annual Day of Service on March 30. Details can be found at www.uusg.org/day-of-service.
- Our pledge team will contact members and friends of UUSG personally to answer any questions you may have. Need assistance? Ask your pledge team representative or contact our Congregational Administrator.

We will celebrate the successful completion of our pledge drive on Sunday, April 14 during Social Hour — and yes, there will be cake!

Thank you for your generous support of UUSG.



Unitarian Universalist Church of Geneva

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