



## OLYMPIA UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION

### Stewardship 2025 - 2026

Rooted in our love for this community, we commit to nurturing it.

Dear OUUC Members and Friends,

We celebrate and thank you, the many hearts and hands that contribute to our vibrant and growing community. You may be involved in one way or many depending on your interests and life circumstances. Each person contributes. All are welcome.

**At our recent gatherings, here are a few things you've told us about how OUUC nurtures you:**

"Wise and inspiring ministers, staff and programs to help me connect and grow."

"I get nurtured by the social activities, the focus on spiritual growth, and the justice activities."

"Fellowship. Shelter from the storm."

"A space for my family to explore religion together."

"Being together with others that have shared values makes me feel like I belong, makes me feel safe and cared for."

"Singing makes me happy and gives me energy."

"Challenges me spiritually, provides community, gives me the opportunity to use my skills for the benefit of the community and church."

#### **How does this happen?**

Church leadership, the staff, the congregation, the building and your financial support provide the foundation for our community. The annual stewardship campaign addresses the financial part of our engagement. Each year the Board sets goals based on an evaluation of current and anticipated financial needs. This year's pledge goal is \$593,440, which represents a 7.9% increase over last year's request.

Beyond sustaining the current level of quality programing, this amount will enable us to address the following identified needs:

- Add administrative support for digital communications, the Board, Committees and Teams, taking pressure off those staff and community members trying to do too much.

- Create a part-time staff position to support new and existing member and visitor engagement.
- Ensure that staff health insurance benefits are just and equitable for all eligible staff.
- Add funds to the reserve fund to maintain the beauty of OUUC's buildings and grounds.
- Continue to offer two Sunday morning worship services beyond June, so there is room in the sanctuary to welcome all who wish to attend on-site.

### **Making the Pledge Decision**

This is a very personal decision based on many factors. All levels of giving are welcome and appreciated!

We ask you to carefully consider the role of the church in your life and the value that it currently adds, along with the knowledge that increased investment will strengthen our ability to serve our current level of programming and address growing community needs.

To help you with this decision, we've included the Pledge Data Summary from 2024-2025 with some information about current giving patterns at OUUC.

External events coupled with typical life challenges are already leading more people to our doors. We hope that some will choose to pledge at a greater level to more fully meet current and anticipated needs.

Thank you in advance for your thoughtful consideration and participation in this year's pledge drive.

*May our love for this community drive our desire to nurture it to its fullest potential.*

  
Sharon Love, Stewardship Co-Chair

  
Jen Sabel, Stewardship Co-Chair

  
Susan Moon, Board President

  
Rev. Mary Gear/Minister

P.S. Are you drawing Required Minimum Distributions from your IRA? Talk to your plan administrator about making a tax-free Qualified Charitable Donation directly from your IRA to fulfill your pledge to OUUC. For more information check out: [www.ouuc.org/give/ways-to-give/](http://www.ouuc.org/give/ways-to-give/)

