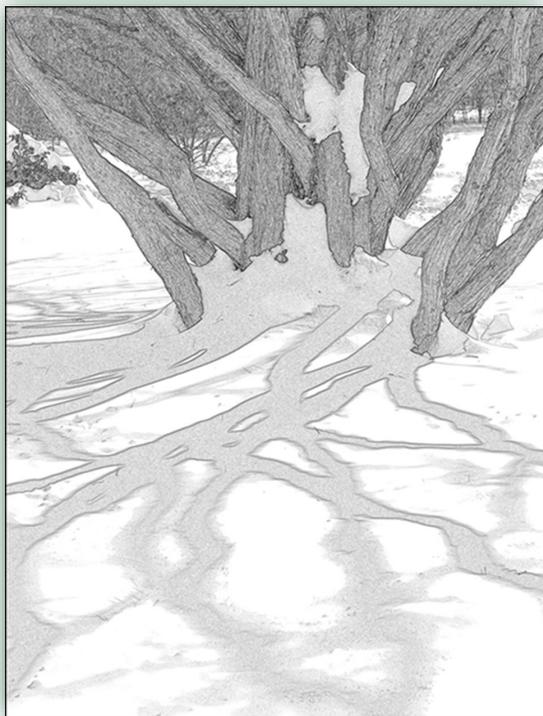




ALLEN AVENUE
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH



**Nourishing Our
Beloved Community**

Annual Pledge Drive

2021—2022

Nourishing Our Beloved Community



We Act based on our UU faith. We act in the Face of Today's Challenges.

The COVID-19 Pandemic has had a psychological and economic impact on our members and friends. We have not gathered as a congregation for over a year. Nevertheless, we have found virtual ways to remain connected. The Church at Home deliveries remind us of the value of our connections.

We ask all members to reach out by making a pledge that is appropriate for their situation. We want A2U2 to belong to *all* its members. Thus, we urge all our members and friends to pledge. Our goal is 100%!

Pledges also help the Budget Committee assemble a budget for the congregation to approve at the Annual Meeting in late May or early June. The budget encompasses many things: sustaining our physical plant, paying our staff fairly, providing for programming that feeds our spirits, passing learning from generation to generation, as well as our desire to support social justice activities.

We have established an *Angel Fund*. This fund will help us to balance our budget even though some of our

members may find that their financial situation has changed during the pandemic. *[Please see page 6 for more information](#)*

Along with our new minister, Rev. Donna Dolham, we are discovering the vision and resources to build our future together. In these trying times, we focus on our unique missions:



- ✧ *To provide a caring community to find solace and hope for the future.*
- ✧ *A fellowship for action and a location for organizing.*
- ✧ *Sustenance for justice workers.*
- ✧ *Awareness raising and education.*
- ✧ *Please keep in mind our missions as you consider your Annual Pledge.*

*—Tim Vogel, Chair
Stewardship Committee*



Message from the Minister



The Reverend Donna Dolham

The Allen Avenue Unitarian Universalist Church community is one of the places we gather to ask questions, listen, care for each other, and prepare to live our principles in the world. As we move forward, on the heels of our 200th anniversary, we recognize these challenging times. And yet...we continue living into our mission and vision together.

We continue to ask questions: Where are you finding joy? What values has this pandemic/uprising and movement building time made apparent to you? What do you want to create more of in the world?

Together, we gather our resources, and our hopes, engaging the possibilities that will take us into a time when we will be together in person again. We continue the work and commitment so that A2U2 will be a nourishing beloved community for the next generations to come.

~ Love & Light, Rev. Donna Dolham

Church in the Time of the COVID Pandemic as a Call to Stewardship

We all feel that these times of the COVID Pandemic are troubling and confusing. We hope and trust that the next church year will be closer to normal. Still, this is the year that we at A2U2 have an opportunity to clarify and focus on our unique missions.

Our Church provides:

A caring community to find solace that is grounded in our values, a broader perspective, and hope for the future—for our members and the seekers who have recently joined us. These warm human connections are difficult to find anywhere else.

A fellowship for action and a location for organizing. With what is happening during the Pandemic, it is clear grassroots work is needed.

Sustenance for justice workers. We have many workers in the mental health and medical professions, social workers, justice based legal jobs, advocacy, teachers, government workers, and nonprofit professionals and volunteers. That work is now more draining and stressful than ever. We provide a place for them to rest and be fed by a supportive community.

Awareness-raising and education are key issues, in a time when many sources of information are in question.

In these times, contributions to social action organizations are desperately needed. We hope they will get as much support as they need. Yet, they cannot do what A2U2 can do in caring for our people, in ***Nourishing our Beloved Community.***

Nourishing Our Beloved Community

We at A2U2 must keep caring for our people, keep mobilizing externally, and offering sanctuary. For our congregation to do the important work we are called to do, we need vibrant and enriched mission budgets. We hope you will consider this in your own pledging this year.

—Adapted by Tim Vogel from Mark Ewert of Stewardship for Us



The A2U2 Angel Fund

A2U2 has established an **Angel Fund** to help balance our budget during the Pandemic. The COVID economy has left some members unable to make payments on their pledges. The economy may leave them uncertain about making a pledge this year.

We are grateful that other members remain financially secure in their employment income or their retirement finances. Thus, we have created this fund to accept contributions to help replace lost pledge income during the Pandemic. If you can make a gift to the Angel Fund, it would be most appreciated. You can do so by logging in to the [Breeze Giving Page](#) and choosing the Angel Fund from the first menu. If you pay by check, indicate Angel Fund on the check.

We hope our members who are under economic pressure will be relieved, knowing the Angel Fund is there to help the Church during these times.

How much should I Contribute to A2U2?

Straight talk from David Wilcock, member of the Finance Committee



Each household that helps to support our church knows best what they can afford. *You* have to decide the value of your association with this community of like-minded people and what you can afford to spend to keep our community functioning: the staff paid, the building

repaired and improved, the children given ethical education, the lights on, the snow plowed in winter, and the grass mown in summer.

The pie charts on page 9 show that we believe the church will need about \$300,000 to function “normally” in the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2021. Given the impacts of the COVID pandemic this budget will depend even more heavily than usual on your contributions.

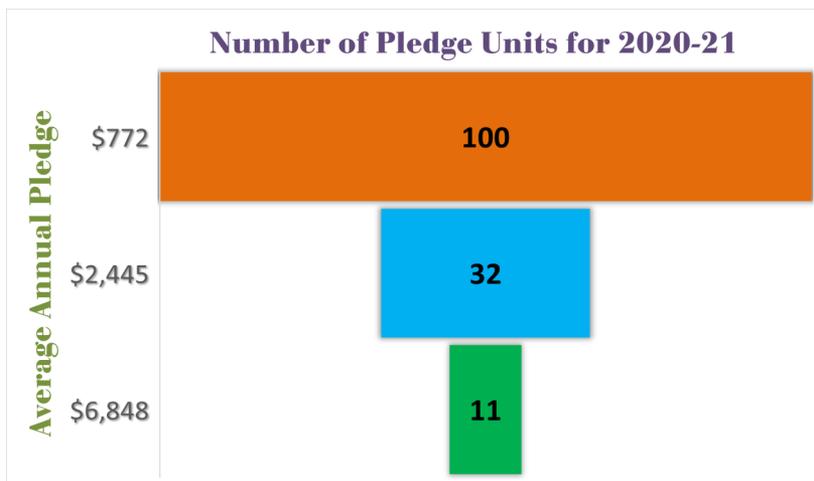
To give you an idea of the *range* of what your fellow congregational members and friends contribute, the graph on the next page provides a picture of the pledge distribution for our current year (2020-21). We have divided the range into thirds and shown the number of “pledge units” in each group as well as the average annual pledge. A pledge unit is a pledge made by a family or individual member or friend of the church.

The median or “middle” value of our 143 pledges was \$1200. As a member or friend who pledges to support our

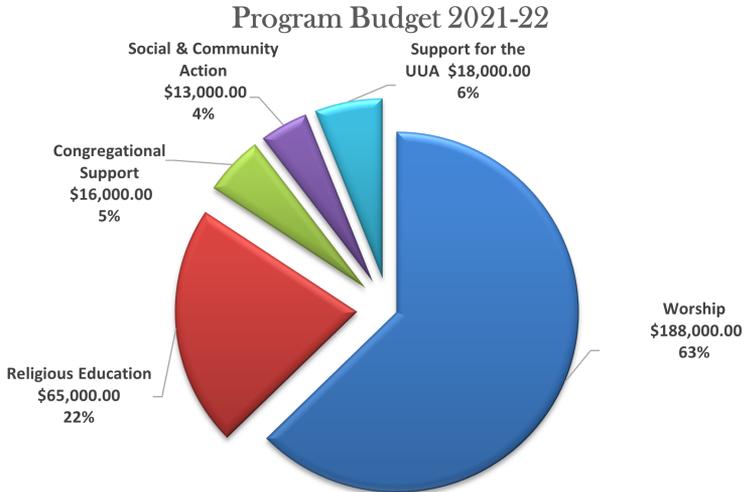
Nourishing Our Beloved Community

A2U2 community, you know where you are in this array and what you can reasonably afford. We know that making decisions to raise or lower your pledge are not easy. Of course, not everyone can be among those who contribute over \$6800 per year. However, increasing your pledge to join the middle third of our picture amounts to something above \$142 per month, for example, which may be achievable for your household budget.

**So this year, we will ask:
can you stretch a bit and
help us to make the chart
below look like a more
stable structure?**

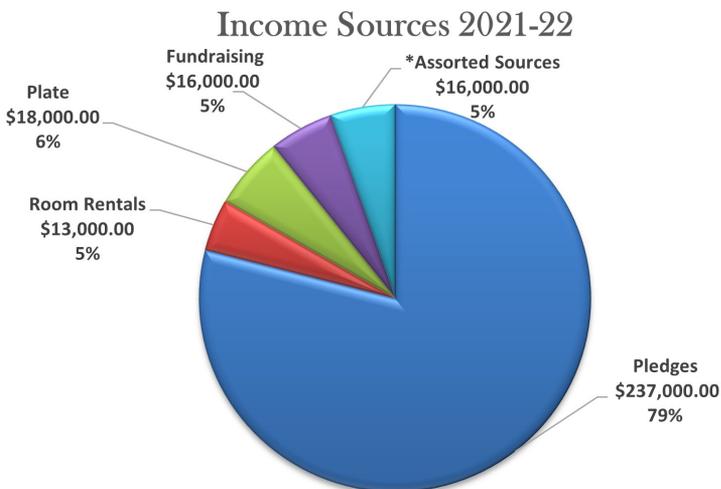


Program Spending Plan FY 21-22



Each of these spending areas contains a portion of A2U2's operational overhead costs, estimated at about \$70,000/year or about 23% of the budget

Income Sources FY 19-20



*Gifts, PPP, Angel Fund

Giving Thoughts

Please remember that *whatever you contribute, it is, and will always be, a much appreciated gift to your community.* Give what you can as our community moves beyond the pandemic! Please consider these questions:

- ❖ *Where is A2U2 in your giving priorities based on your values and commitments?*
- ❖ *What motivates you to support your values and convictions at A2U2?*

Giving Tips

There are *three ways to pay your pledge: by check; [in Breeze](#) (which can accept credit cards or bank transfers, one-time or recurring payments), or by payment from your financial institution Bill Pay to A2U2.* You can choose the number of payments that works for your budget. Our Treasurer, Peter Reed, is happy to help you if needed.

If you have an IRA or other retirement funds, and are over age 72, you can also make a tax-free transfer directly from your retirement fund administrator to A2U2. This is an easy way to satisfy your Annual Required Minimum Distribution. Talk to your retirement planner or financial consultant.

If you can make your pledge through a gift of appreciated stocks or investments, that also can be done through a tax-free transfer to A2U2. Talk to our Church Administrative Assistant for the steps to take.





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