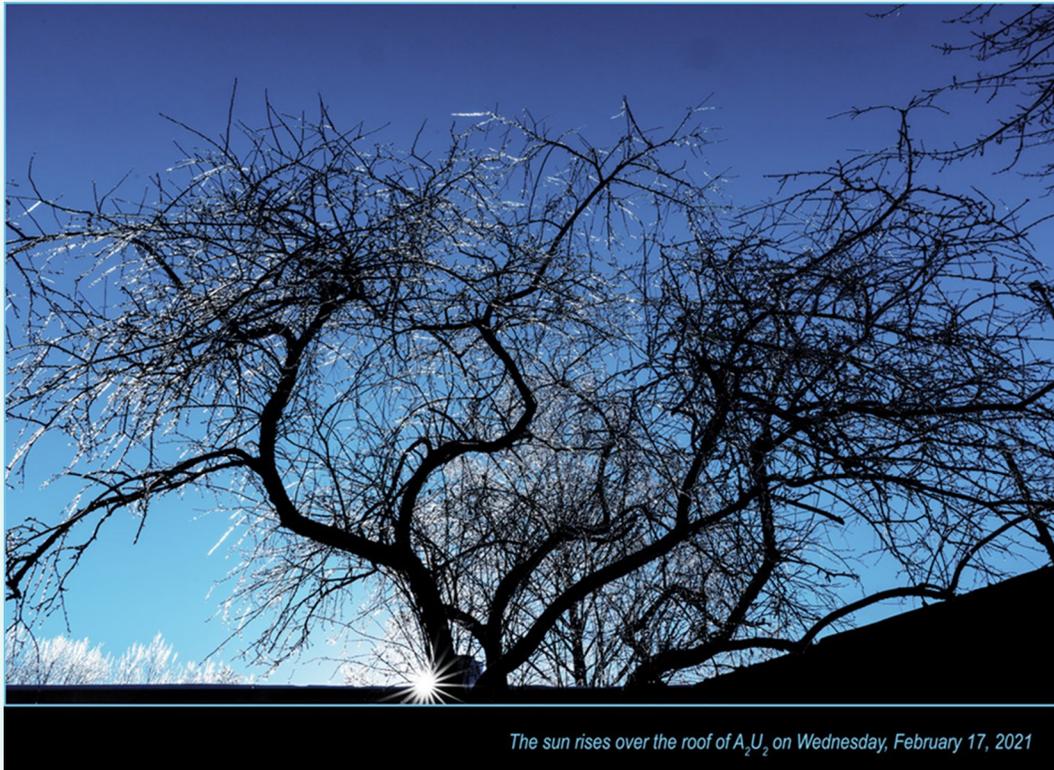




ALLEN AVENUE
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH



The sun rises over the roof of A₂U₂ on Wednesday, February 17, 2021

Moving Forward Together

Annual Pledge Drive

2022—2023

Moving Forward Together

We Are Moving Forward Together

The theme of this Annual Pledge Drive is “**Moving Forward Together.**” For the Stewardship Sunday service on March 13, 2022, Mark Ewert presented a video Reflection to our Congregation, “Resilience and Stewardship”. Here are some of his thoughts that apply to our *Moving Forward Together* after two years of the COVID Pandemic and the resignation of Rev. Donna.



The resilience that Allen Avenue UU has drawn upon is a collective one, it is our interdependence, yet it relied on each of you practicing . . .

- “♦ Working individually and as a congregation to find resources and solve these problems.*
- “♦ Both seeking help and offering help during this historic disruption.*
- “♦ Believing that you can do something to cope, as you have, and to deal with the difficult emotions these times have brought up.*
- “♦ And connecting to and supporting each other through the congregation.*

“I think of all of the people in the Portland area who weathered the pandemic without a congregation, away from their workplace, apart from family and friends. I hope they will seek out and find Allen Ave UU. It would help them revive their spirits and take the edge off of their loneliness. It could reconnect them. It could help them be more resilient, which we will all need for whatever challenges come next. I hope those things for you as well. The more you contribute here, the more you will gain from your involvement, so please join with others lighting a way out of these dark times.”

We thank Mark Ewert for his thoughts and ask you to review the materials for the Annual Pledge Drive. We ask you to make a pledge appropriate for your situation and the needs of this Church. We want our Church to belong to all its members. Pledges help the Budget Committee assemble a budget to be approved by the Congregation at the Annual Meeting.

Thank you for your consideration and generosity.

*—Tim Vogel
member of the Annual Pledge Drive Team*

Moving Forward Together

Message from the President



**Tina Veilleux, President
Board of Trustees**

This year is the 200th anniversary of our Unitarian Universalist church in Portland. Since our beginning, we have been a small but resilient group that has formed and re-formed many times. What was true in our past is true now: we continue because of our shared commitment to each other and to working together for a just world. Whether we find our strength from small group ministries, Sunday services, Religious Education, Social Justice work, caring for our church gardens and building or so many other ways of being part of this community, our home at A2U2 continues to be a place of welcoming, fellowship and nourishment for the soul. Our church continues on because, simply put, our church is us. Each and every one of us, in our immeasurable power of love and transformation, make A2U2 the Beloved Community that inspires us to live our values every day.

It takes money to keep “us” going each year. Our pledges pay for our staff, programming and building operations. A2U2 members and friends have been amazingly faithful and generous throughout the pandemic. Even so, we face financial challenges as we make our way to fuller in-person opening. Your support, at any level, will help ensure that A2U2 will continue to be here for all of us, as we move forward to next year, and the next 200 years, together.

Moving Forward Together

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.



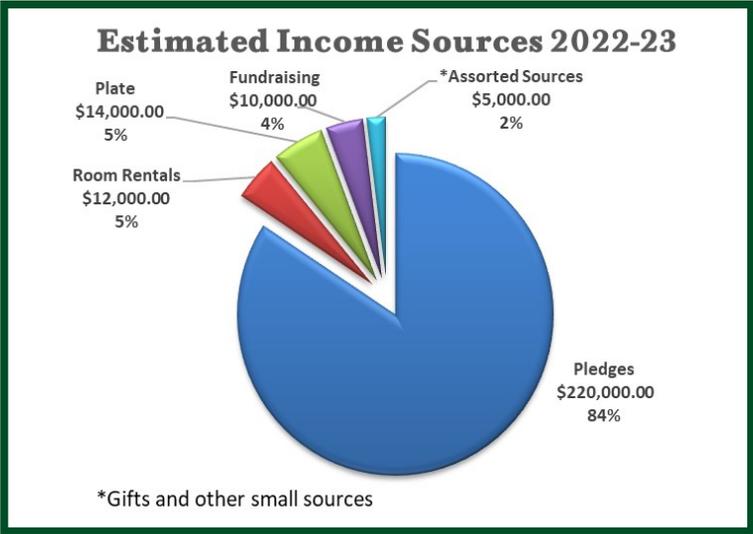
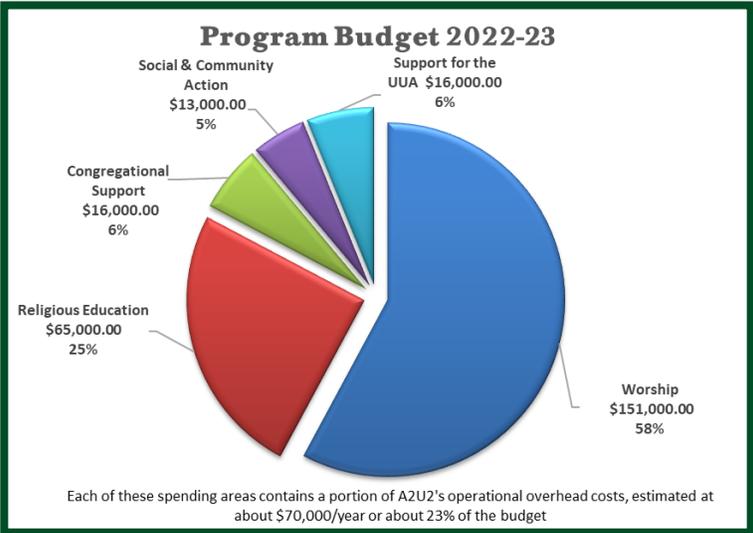
The pie charts on page 5 show that we believe the church will need about \$260,000 to function “normally” in the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2022. Given the impacts of the COVID pandemic this budget will depend even more heavily than usual on your contributions. To give you an idea of the range of what your fellow congregational members and friends contribute, the table on the next page provides a picture of the pledge distribution for our current year (2021-2022). We have divided all pledges into three groups and shown the number of “pledge units” in each group. 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 124 pledges was \$1200. As a member or friend who pledges to support our 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 group group of our table below amounts to something above \$100 per month, for example, which may be achievable for your household budget.

So this year, we will ask: can you stretch a bit and increase your pledge by 10 percent to help us do more of the things the congregation would like to do as we recover from COVID?

[Link to the Pledge Form Here!](#)

Moving Forward Together

Analysis of Pledges Made in A2U2's Current Fiscal Year (FY21-22)				
Annual Average Pledge	Number Pledge Units	Av. Yearly Pledge	Av. Monthly Pledge	Amount Pledged
up to \$1000	53	\$556	\$46	\$29,468
\$1000 - \$4000	59	\$1,925	\$160	\$113,575
over \$4000	12	\$6,791	\$565	\$81,492
Totals	124	\$1,784	\$149	\$224,535



Moving Forward Together

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.



[Link to the Pledge Form Here!](#)