



# 2025-2026 STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN

Weaving our  
Community  
Together

(207) 797-7240

[www.a2u2.org](http://www.a2u2.org)

524 Allen Avenue Portland ME 04103

### Message from the Stewardship Team

Every Sunday at services we gather together to build our community. We connect people in a beautiful tapestry of shared meaning and vision of a world that works for all of us. This year's stewardship theme, Weaving our Community Together, reflects this reality. This is important work and creating a thriving congregation depends upon your creative and financial support.

Our pledge drive will follow last year's simplified pledging process. Each pledge unit (a single person, couple, or family) will receive a paper pledge form with three options: last year's pledge plus an inflation adjustment; the same pledge as last year's; or a different amount. Inflation has affected the church's expenses as it has in all aspects. If your finances allow it, we ask that you increase your pledge to help us keep up. We know, of course, that some people are on fixed incomes and last year's pledge is what is achievable. We appreciate this. There is also the opportunity to pledge a different amount if you wish. Perhaps you will decide that this is the year to increase your pledge to a new, higher level to reflect your commitment to our beloved community.

Your pledge covers church operations for the period July 2025 through June 2026. We have fully recovered from COVID and our congregation has begun to grow. We have hired an exceptional administrator and our developmental minister continues to delight us in the pulpit. The kitchen is now fully operational and we hope to use it for many more communal events.

While these things are important, your pledge will also support essential, but mundane, things such as heating and snowplowing.

Our Treasurer has estimated that we will need a program budget of \$266,000 to cover all expenses for the next year. Our stewardship booklet provides more information about these anticipated expenses and why they are so important in allowing us to pursue the activities important to our community. If you are new to A2U2 our stewardship booklet will also provide guidance about how much you could consider pledging.

Steve Hansen, Chair

Silvia Hansen, David Wilcock, Pam Jackson





### Message from the Minister

A2U2 Community –

Pledge Drive season is upon us! The time in our church year where we reflect on the role of this beloved congregation in our lives, consider our own role as stewards of this community for the generations to come, and make a financial commitment for the coming year so we can continue our ministry with each other and our greater-Portland-area neighbors.



As Unitarian Universalists we affirm the core values of justice, equity, pluralism, generosity, interdependence, and transformation with Love at the center. As a church we support New Mainer immigrant and trans families finding refuge in our state; offer social connection and belonging to elders, LGBTQIA+ folks, and parents; lead spiritual enrichment groups and opportunities for meditation and contemplation, singing, protesting, knitting, and letter-writing; we teach comprehensive sexuality education to our children and raise up loving leaders; we are pushing ourselves to heal, take risks, and live our values every day of the week.

This ministry is countercultural. And desperately needed. While so much around us falls apart, we are choosing to rise up. To lean in. And to invest in what is working: Love. Connection. Life.



Because of you, there is a we.

We make this possible. And we shape what comes next.

Thank you for all you have given. Thank you for all you will give.

With commitment and care,  
Rev. Tara

### Message from the Board of Directors

As 2025 begins we find ourselves in a state of uncertainty. The Trump administration is challenging or ignoring norms of government that we took for granted just last year. Unjust executive orders are disrupting programs that serve people in need, leaving many vulnerable to illness, hunger, and homelessness. Immigrants, regardless of their immigration status, live in fear that ICE agents will detain them and potentially deport them or their family members. Our trans and queer friends and family members suffer as cruel policies seek to erase them from society. Many of us are fearful of what comes next but we remain firm in our commitment to justice and to the inherent worth and dignity of all people.

Now more than ever, we must tend to what binds us together – ties of fellowship, friendship, and our common purpose to celebrate diversity, encourage spiritual growth, to promote social responsibility while caring for the Earth. I see this happening every week in our congregation as members serve each other in a variety of roles. Examples include organizing social events, greeting people on Sunday morning, caring for people experiencing a crisis, helping to maintain our building and grounds, singing in the choir, supporting worship, leading or participating in spiritual enrichment groups, serving on committees, and perhaps most importantly, by centering our care for each other's well-being in our words, actions, and interactions.

We are fortunate for Reverend Tara's inspiring leadership that keeps the fabric of our community from fraying. In their first year as our developmental minister Rev. Tara has challenged us to live our principles, starting by helping us see that how we treat each other manifests into our relationships with the larger community. Their commitment to publicly engaging in social justice work and advocating for UU principles has raised the visibility of our congregation and serves as a beacon for those looking for a spiritual home that centers justice.

Finally, I am grateful to our church staff who each play an essential role that allows our church to function. Jo has brought a new level of professionalism to the role of church administrator. Emily's creativity sparks new ways to understand UUism. Dale's passion for music and virtuosity continues to inspire us. Last year, we made a commitment to follow UUA guidelines for compensation and to provide annual cost of living increases for each of them to fairly compensate them for their work.

As you consider your pledge please reflect on these things and consider how A2U2 supports you and those you care about. Your financial support makes it all possible. Without it, we couldn't keep the lights on.

Thanks for your support.

Troy Moon

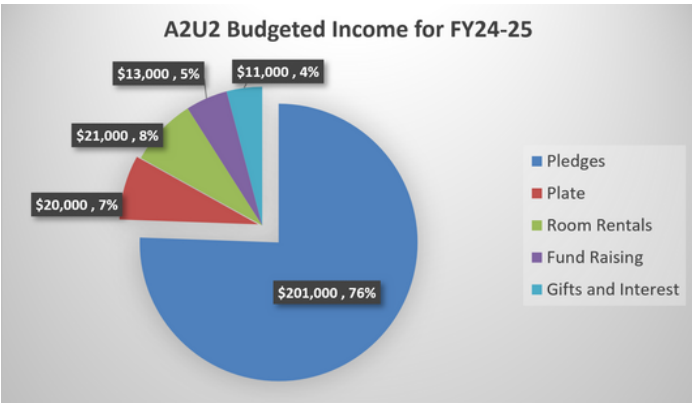
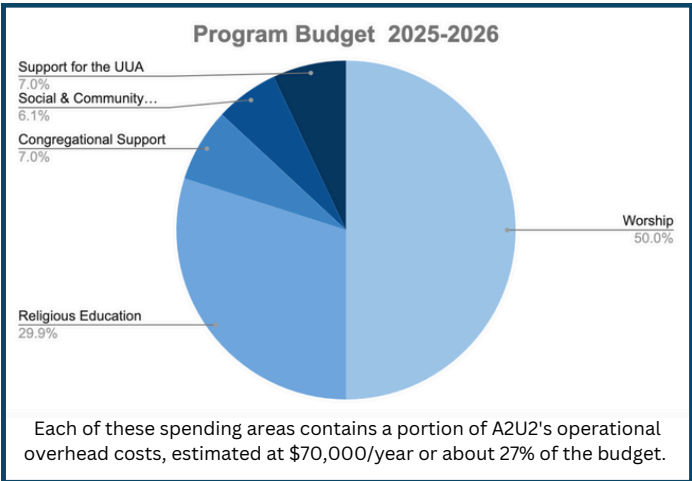
President, Board of Trustees

# How much should I give?

Your financial commitment is essential to the health of our community. 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 well.

The pie charts on this page show the anticipated amounts of spending on our programs and income from various sources for the 2025-2026 fiscal year. To give you an idea of the range of what your fellow congregational members and friends contribute, the table provides a picture of the pledge distribution for our current year (2024-2025). We have divided all pledges into four groups or quartiles 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 average value of our 114 pledges was \$1,878 per year. 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 \$4,000 or \$5,000 per year. However, increasing your pledge to join a higher group in our table below may be achievable for your household budget.



Analysis of A2U2 Support Pledges Made for FY25			
Quartile	Number of PUs	Total Pledges	Average Pledge
First	6	\$54,100	\$9,017
Second	14	\$52,900	\$3,779
Third	22	\$50,386	\$2,290
Fourth	70	\$52,958	\$755
Total	112	\$210,344	\$1,878



# 2025-2026 STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN

Weaving our Community 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 spiritual and secular beliefs and commitments?
- What motivates you to support your values and convictions at A2U2?

### How to Pay Your Pledge

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),
- By payment from your financial institution's 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 need help with this.

If you can make your pledge through a gift of appreciated stock or investments, that also can be done through a tax-free transfer to A2U2. Talk to our Treasurer, Peter Reed, for details on the steps to take for this option.

