

How do I know what is the right amount to pledge?

The right amount for each person or family is a personal decision. One way to think about this is to try to make your standard of giving reflect your standard of living.

Given your budget, what can you contribute on a weekly or monthly basis?

We ask everyone to consider making a pledge that is both responsible and significant. A pledge commitment in our faith tradition often ranges from 3% to 7% of household income. And some folks are working toward a 10% tithe. Some households already pledge at these levels. For those who do not, we ask you to consider working toward this goal over time.

Please consider pledging an amount that reflects a serious commitment to the place you have chosen as your spiritual home — not simply making a donation to yet another charity. Whatever amount you lovingly choose, we hope you will give until it feels good.

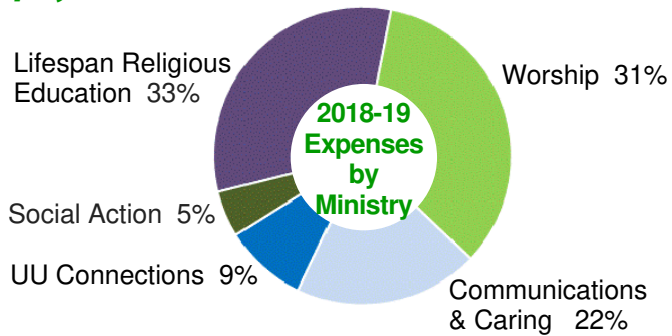
How much does it cost to operate our church?

The current year's budget is \$565,052, and we have approximately 380 formal members in 238 pledging units. We also have 115 children & youth registered in the RE program. A few benchmarks to consider, based on Dec. 2018 data:

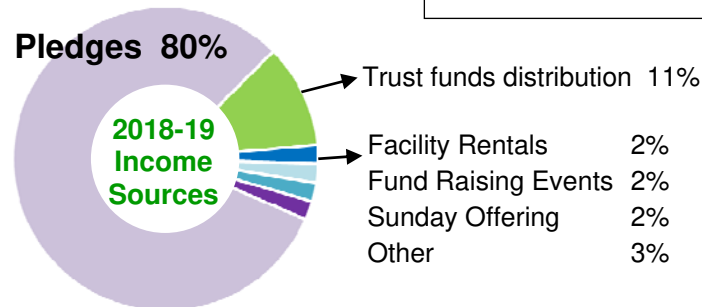
- Cost per member: \$1,487
- Cost per pledging unit: \$2,374
- Average current pledge per pledging unit: \$1,856
- Cost of Lifespan RE program per student: \$1,000
- Total pledges for current year: \$441,754

Total pledge GOAL for 2019-20: \$470,000

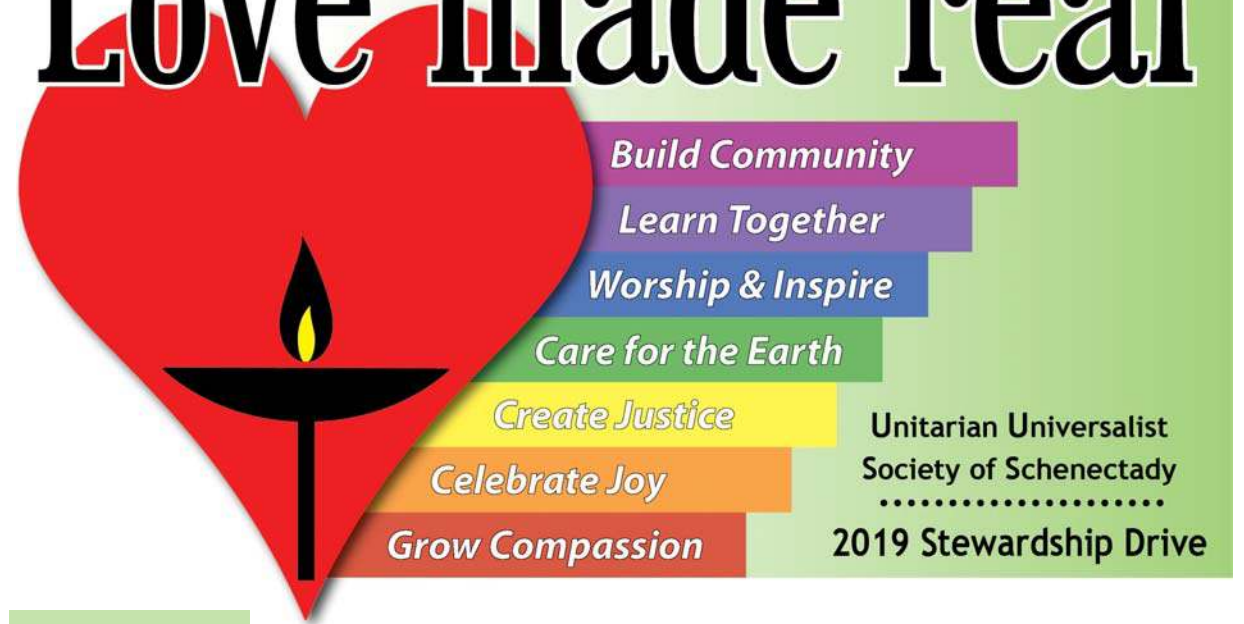
What does the annual operating budget pay for? (includes programs, staff, buildings & grounds)



Where does the budget money come from?



Love made real



"Here we take a journey of the heart together. Each day is another opportunity to become more loving."

Rev. Wendy Bartel & Rev. Lynn Gardner

Whatever you value the most about being part of the Unitarian Universalist Society of Schenectady, it is probably included in one or more of the seven rainbow stripes in the logo above.

This is a place where Love is Made Real every week, where we choose to minister to one another and to the world in all of these ways. Our congregation is a place where people's skills, talents, values, money and hopes all come together with great intentionality.

Since 1901, generations of individuals just like us have made it possible for this congregation to be here. Their hopes and hard work made today's UU Society of Schenectady possible. Their legacy of generosity is now in our hands and in our hearts, a legacy that we will celebrate at the worship service at 10:30 AM on March 17 on **Celebration Sunday**.



Connecting in spiritual community, we celebrate life with joy, grow in compassion, create justice.

Thanks to your generosity, Love Made Real at UU Schenectady includes all the ways that we:

Grow Compassion

Celebrate Joy

Create Justice

Care for the Earth

Worship & Inspire

Learn Together

Build Community

Bring your pledge card with you & prepare to be energized on March 17 at

Celebration Sunday!

Everyone is invited to a very special worship service on March 17. In addition to being inspired by a sermon from Rev. Dr. Rebecca Parker, retired president of the Starr King School for the Ministry, we will be honoring our elders and exploring the amazing variety of ways that Love is Made Real within our circle and beyond.

The Celebration will also include Celtic music, quiet spaces for our elders to connect, and a party with delicious food following worship.

Expressions of love take place every week at UUSS, often in ways you may not have thought of. For instance:

We Grow Compassion when we express genuine care & concern in response to shared sorrows.

We Celebrate Joy at Child Dedication, Coming of Age & youth Bridging services.

We Create Justice when we address people by the name & gender they choose for themselves.

We Care for the Earth when we ride bikes, walk, carpool or take the bus to UUSS.

We Worship & Inspire when we risk a new way of blessing one another or of singing together on Sundays.

We Learn Together when we intentionally live our UU values with one another.

We Build Community at multi-generational game nights, pot-lucks & public witness events.

How will our pledges impact 2019-20 goals?

The Board of Trustees and Finance Advisory Committee have begun work to create a 2019-20 budget that reflects the congregation's values. The Board's goals for this budget include:

- Continuing support for Lifespan RE, the music program, worship, & social justice initiatives.
- Continuing to pay our wonderful staff at Fair Compensation rates.
- Continuing to be "Fair Share" contributors to our UU national and regional offices
- Providing money for leadership development & sending members to General Assembly.
- Funding so that UUSS can host the Schenectady Clergy Against Hate Interfaith Thanksgiving service and dinner in November, and
- Supporting ongoing proactive maintenance of our buildings & grounds.

To achieve these and other goals, the pledge drive needs to generate roughly \$470,000, or about \$28,000 more than it did last spring — which, when shared among us, is possible. (See data chart over.)

Your generous pledge can help our congregation sustain and grow its legacy of Love Made Real into 2019-20. (Please contact the Co-Ministers if you need to request a pledge waiver due to your financial situation.)

Questions? Stewardship Team chair Mark Hyland can answer questions about this year's pledge campaign at mark.e.hyland@gmail.com.

None of us alone can save the world.

Together — that is another possibility, waiting.

From the poem "Benediction" by Rev. Dr. Rebecca Parker

