



October is Stewardship Month

Stewardship is being the grateful, responsible stewards of the gifts we receive from the Universe. It is the tradition of giving back with love to that which is worthy of our time and hearts. Classically known as tithing, or in our case, pledging, stewardship is giving back to sustain the community that nourishes your spirit and your soul. The Stewardship Drive begins on Sunday, October 9th and wraps up on Sunday, October 23rd.

Questions about Pledging

Why do we pledge? This church belongs to each of us. We pledge to fund the daily operations and to ensure that the church and its resources are here for us and for others now and in the future.

What is the money used for? Your pledge supports our worship and music programs, our religious exploration program, programs for members and friends, community outreach, and our connection to the CUC. Our budget reflects our mission and vision.

Should everyone pledge the same amount? We place a high value on diversity in our congregation—diverse views, backgrounds, and experiences. Included in this diversity is a diversity of economic circumstances. All of us support our church at individual financial levels.

How much should I pledge? Plan to contribute a percentage of your annual income. See the Fairshare Giving Guide at the bottom of this page for a suggestion on what you might give.

What about the money I put in the collection plate? Some people use the Sunday offering to make their pledge payments. As long as the offering can be associated with you, e.g. your personal cheque, whatever you put in the offering will be counted toward your pledge.

What if my financial circumstances change during the year, if I lose my job or have a financial emergency? Lives are not static. Contact the Minister or the Treasurer: Carol Woodworth, if you need to adjust your pledge.

What is tithing? Tithing is giving ten percent of income to support a church. Many UU churches ask their members for a “UU Tithes”: 5% to support the church, and another 5% to charitable organizations.



Definition of stewardship.
“The careful and responsible management of something entrusted to one’s care.”

Fairshare Giving Guide

| Annual Income | Sustainer : Beacon is central to my identity and I am committed to sustaining our programs. | | Visionary : Beacon is my spiritual home; I am committed to nourishing it today and providing for its future. | |
|---------------|---|-----------------|--|-----------------|
| | Suggested % of income | Monthly Payment | Suggested % of income | Monthly Payment |
| \$10,000 | 3% | \$25 | 5% | \$42 |
| \$25,000 | 3% | \$63 | 5% | \$104 |
| \$50,000 | 4% | \$197 | 6% | \$250 |
| \$75,000 | 5% | \$313 | 7% | \$438 |
| \$100,000 | 5% | \$417 | 7% | \$583 |
| \$200,000 | 6% | \$1,000 | 8% | \$1,333 |



Sue Sparlin, Chair, Stewardship Committee

The Pledge Drive is a chance for me to practice generosity, to adjust my mind set to hold the congregation as generous, resourceful and capable, to practice expressing gratitude for all things and in particular for the people at Beacon. We do amazing work with a limited number of people. Each of us touches so many others and each of us has an inspirational story to tell. Let us open our Big Beacon

Hearts and let money be our measure—just for now. I will increase my pledge to reflect the expansion in my life due to Beacon. Join me. —**Sue Sparlin**



Stewardship is about changing lives.

This year, Beacon has been able to help the Al Rbaai family, refugees from Syria, come to New Westminster and begin a new life in Canada. Because the Beacon Unitarian community is healthy, spiritually and fiscally, we were accepted as part of the Canadian Unitarian Council's sponsorship program and could harness the generosity of many donors.

—**Carol Woodworth**



For those members who have investments, I would recommend that you donate shares or other appropriate investments to Beacon. Since you don't cash them in or sell them, you don't pay capital gains taxes. That saved amount means you can give more to Beacon! If you deal with an Investment Advisor who handles your investments, giving to Beacon is very easy. Try it!

—**Anne McLeod**



Did you know the tax benefits of donating?

You get a tax credit for your donations to Beacon of approximately 20% for the first \$200 and 43% for any amount in excess of that; so a donation of \$1000 to Beacon would give a total tax savings of \$389. So, by giving to Beacon you are actually saving yourself taxes!"

—**Susan Tarras**

JOKE! God is talking to one of his angels and says, "Do you know what I have just done? I have just created a 24-hour period of alternating light and darkness on Earth. Isn't that good?" The angel says, "Yes, but what will you do now?" God says, "I think I'll call it a day."



Promising, Serving, Pledging

These three actions sustain the Beacon community. We *promise* or covenant to live the principles everyday because they have intrinsic value. They are worthy of our commitment. We *serve* because it feels good to give to something bigger than our singular selves. We *pledge* because we are moved to sustain what nourishes our lives, our spirits and the wider community.

—**Rev. Debra Thorne**



Stewardship is the growing, nurturing, promoting, and building of the gifts, call, and spiritual vocation that have been given to members of a faith community. **Stewardship is not necessarily the things people do, but the spirit that influences the things they do.**

—**Dr. Wayne Clark, Beyond Fundraising**