



Beacon Unitarian Pledge Drive 2020

Dear Members and Friends,

Carolyn McDade's song *Spirit of Life* includes these inspiring words:

"Roots hold me close, wings set me free"

What are the roots that hold people to this congregation? When we asked, many of you replied, "The community." In a world that can be overwhelming and stressful, Beaconites are actively putting their principles and values into action, as individuals and as a congregation.

Beacon is a place to belong *just as you are*, a community that creates connections between generations. Where you receive support during life's challenges and have a place to celebrate life's milestones and joys. Sunday services both challenge and inspire, offering practical ideas on how to deal with our common human dilemmas and give us hope. Small groups and programs deepen our connection with others. One person said, "It's my spiritual home – these are my people."

How can we support one another in the coming year and share what we have beyond our community with others so in need of these kinds of gifts? We can pool our time, skills, and financial resources in a way that fits with each of our unique life circumstances. We want to be able to take Beacon's vision - *Connect * Inspire * Transform* - and give it wings.

Beacon has experienced seven wonderful years with a minister at 2/3 to 3/4-time, thanks to your generosity. Now that we are beginning a new shared ministry with Rev. Meg Roberts at 1/2-time, what happens to the money that was used for more hours of professional ministry? We are able to support staffing in other areas significant to our health and growth:

- Continuing this year as your hard-working staff: Ashley Cole, Religious Exploration Director, working with our children, Alex Dragan working with our youth, and Sunday services sound technician Tyler Ewasiuk.
- New to us this fall, leading our choir, is the very experienced Sylvia McDonald, supported by skilled musician, Ming-Xuan Chung.

Recognizing the challenges of supporting leadership (when more people are working and there are fewer people able to contribute hours), we have created the new position of Administrative Support. This liberates leaders and staff to focus on reaching out to you and others through

Sunday services, spiritual and philosophical exploration programs, pastoral support, justice work in the larger community, and developing our Metro Vancouver Unitarian relationships.

Our future is bright because of the strong financial support that you have provided. We are so grateful for your commitment to this congregation, a “community of communities” serving Unitarians and friends from Burnaby to Maple Ridge.

There is additional information on the Missional Budget document about how your money is invested and where it yields results and on the 2020 Pledge Card document, which offers ideas we hope can support you in finding an amount that fits your budget. **Join with us in strengthening the roots within this community and freeing its wings to lift our vision of Unitarian Universalism high so others can find us.**

Our pledge drive Sundays are October 27, November 3 and 10 this year. We would be grateful if you could make your pledge during this time to give our treasurer and Board time to complete the 2020 budget before our December 8th Budget Meeting.

We invite you to give as generously as you are able to support this spiritual community to connect, inspire and transform us and newcomers of all ages, and put our values into action to help heal our world.

On behalf of the Beacon’s Board of Trustees, Minister and Pledge Team, **we offer our heartfelt thanks for your support.**



Nancy Rupert
(Pledge Drive Chair)



Rev. Meg Roberts
(Contract Minister)

Pledge Team members: Heather Brown (Treasurer), Karen Hamilton, David Kristjanson and Carol Woodworth