



SAILING INTO 2021

THANK YOU

We all come to UCC because we're looking for something in our lives: Community, connections, support, spiritual growth, education, change, social justice work. We hope you are finding it here.

We know our Congregation to be thoughtful and caring, generous, giving, and passionate. We are glad that you are part of UCC.

The Covid 19 pandemic has impacted UCC, but we have been able to keep our ship afloat as we are Sailing into 2021.

While 2021 will present UCC with new challenges, with your support and involvement we are sure that our voyage will be successful.

OUR STEWARDSHIP ASK

If things are tight due to the pandemic, we understand. Give if you can, what you can, when you can. We are grateful for you regardless.

If you are doing okay, give what you gave last year. Holding steady is a blessing.

If your finances have not been impacted, please help us cover the reduced pledges of those who are experiencing challenges.

Consider giving a 20% increase. It will take five families doing that to cover one family that cannot give this year.

See the chart on the opposite side for some guidance on how much to pledge.

YOUR PLEDGE = YOUR GIFT

When you pledge a gift to Sailing into 2021, you are helping to support our Sunday Services, Social Justice Work, Religious Education, Small Group Ministries, Community Building Activities, Building and Operations and our Staff.

We hope you are able to make a commitment now and fulfill it in the coming year--how and when it is convenient for you.

For some pledgers, this means giving monthly. Some give once a year. Others give when they can.

Our Stewardship Campaign makes possible this caring, inclusive and justice seeking community that is UCC.

The Financial State of the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Cleveland

As we sail into 2021 and start our 2021-22 stewardship campaign, it's a good time to take a moment to assess where we are financially. Given the ongoing COVID pandemic, being in calm waters would be too much to ask for. But how rough are the waters?

First, a bit of context. While we're not using our building to convene, UUCC is anything but closed down. Almost all of our activities are continuing, albeit in a virtual format, and we've established new ways to convene, including UUCC Zoom-In...Live! and virtual Game Nights.

Last May, in the midst of an uncertain pandemic, our congregation approved a budget for the current fiscal year (7/1/20 - 6/30/21) with expenditures of \$635,000, pledge income of \$420,000, rental income of \$76,000, and about \$120,000 of our reserves planned for use. Pledge income was budgeted to decrease by five percent compared to the prior year, in no small part due to those who decreased their pledges or could not make a pledge due to the financial uncertainty caused by the pandemic.

We've maintained our staffing at its pre-COVID levels with NO decreases in compensation to our staff during this time of crisis. We received a Payroll Protection Plan ("PPP") loan through the federal COVID support programs that has been forgiven, and we're applying for the second round of PPP.

Through the first seven months of this fiscal year (i.e., through January of 2021), our bottom line from operations is running over \$30,000 ahead of budget. Pledge income is running roughly 7% behind budget, and while our Shaker Heights building IS open for renters' use, actual usage and rent is down significantly. Expenses are also down significantly, due to the lack of congregational activity in the Shaker Heights building.

On the other hand, we DO have money in our reserves. It's the reason why our annual budget has been able to maintain our current levels of expenditures, despite combined pledge and rental income that is only 80-85% of our expenses. But we can't sustain this rate of drawdown of our reserves over the long term. Hence, the need is there for all of us to assess our financial commitment to UUCC.

As in any healthy community, we need those who are doing better to consider increasing their financial commitment to compensate for those who either can't make a commitment now or who have to significantly decrease their commitment. The grid on this page may be helpful in guiding your commitment for the upcoming year. A couple of other numbers may be helpful:

Average pledge for 2020-21: Single Person: \$1,486; Couples/Families: \$2,663

Average pledge needed to fully fund our anticipated budget: \$2,261

Thank you for your support! All are valued at UUCC, regardless of their level of stewardship giving. We hope that you can increase your pledge for the 2021-22 year, as we continue Sailing into 2021.

Annual	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3
Income	2%-4%	5%-7%	8%-10%
\$20,000	\$400	\$1,000	\$1,600
\$40,000	\$900	\$2,200	\$3,400
\$70,000	\$2,100	\$4,200	\$6,300
\$100,000	\$3,500	\$6,500	\$9,500
\$200,000	\$8,000	\$14,000	\$20,000

