

## UUCS MINISTER AND ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

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### TO FIND MORE INFORMATION ON OUR UUCS WEBSITE ...

you can reach links to these pages under the CHURCH tab or directly from the UUCS homepage: [uusarasota.org](http://uusarasota.org)

REPORTS & FINANCIALS | budget, monthly and annual reports  
STEWARDSHIP & GIVING | giving guide, EFT, debit/credit card enrollment  
CHURCH DOCUMENTS | UUCS and Endowment Fund by-laws  
MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY | member information (available to members only)  
CALENDAR | UUCS meetings and events

and the UUA | UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST ASSOCIATION OF CONGREGATIONS at  
[www.uua.org](http://www.uua.org)

#### UUCS OFFICERS – 2011-12

Julie Leach, *President*  
Susan Isgar, *Vice President*  
Ruth Agnew, *Secretary*  
Donna Allman, *Treasurer*

#### STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE 2012

Bill Payton, *Chair*  
Jeanie Craig  
Barbara DeMaio  
Roberta Druif  
Lynda Hill  
*Ex-officio:*  
Roger Fritts; Julie Leach

#### MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Joanne Curtis, Jeanie Craig, Mira Frederick  
*Co-chairs*

#### FINANCE COMMITTEE

Donna Allman, *Chair*

#### UUCS ENDOWMENT FUND

Jim Craig, *President*



# We Are Family

## UUCS

### Stewardship Campaign

## 2013



#### *Important Dates*

**Kickoff: Sunday February 10, 2013**

**Celebration Dinner: Saturday March 9, 2013**

**Annual Meeting: Sunday March 24, 2013**

## UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF SARASOTA

3975 Fruitville Rd. Sarasota FL 34232 • T 941 371 4974 • F 941 377 4897  
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## From Our Minister ...



I have two feelings about money and the church. The first is one of grateful appreciation. Many of you are willing to generously support this congregation. For your commitment, I am thankful.

The second is a feeling of concern. Each year I wonder: Will enough people be willing and able to pay their fair share? If we do not have enough money to maintain our buildings, what will we do? If we cannot give cost-of-living increases, what will I say to the church staff? Will some people take the church for granted?

If you are already giving your fair share, (between 1% and 5% of your income—I give 5%) I want to say thank you for your financial support. Thank you for your time and dedication. Thank you for your energy and enthusiasm. Because of you, we are the largest Unitarian Universalist Church in Florida. Today and for future generations we are providing a place for an open conversation about the nature of life, in

*“Because of you, we are the largest Unitarian Universalist Church in Florida. Today and for future generations we are providing a place for an open conversation about the nature of life, in an atmosphere of reason, respect, and love.”*

an atmosphere of reason, respect, and love.

If you are not yet sure of the depth of your commitment to the church, I offer a personal observation. As a minister, I sometimes talk with people who are in crisis. They may suffer from the pain of illness. They may feel burned out from responsibilities at home or at work. They may be worried about their children or about their marriage. I have observed repeatedly that people who cope best with these personal stresses are connected to a supportive and caring liberal religious community.

Many of us have found such a community in the Unitarian Universalist Church of Sarasota. We have made a strong commitment – emotionally and financially – to support it, and we invite all of you to join us.

– ROGER FRITTS

## From Our President ...



We are having a very exciting year! Our membership has increased about 7%, and our Religious Education Program has grown to serve more children and families. We now have two services during the whole season, our attendance is up, and we are reaching more people with our educational, cultural, and social justice programs. In addition, we have a truly wonderful team of staff members.

To accommodate this growth, we've expanded our building space without a major capital campaign by taking over the West Wing, which was previously rented by a school. With a few financial gifts from members and a lot of sweat equity from our buildings and grounds team, this facility now says “welcome” to families...and they have come! Equally important, our Religious Education Program now has the room it needs to grow.

This kind of vitality, though, is only possible through the ongoing financial commitments and volunteerism of our many generous members. We need your financial support to compensate our staff fairly, provide all the programs our members expect, and keep our buildings in good repair.

I love this faith tradition and its mission to make meaningful change in the world. When I attend service on Sunday, I feel grounded and called back to what is really important in life. When our congregation stands up for justice, I am proud; and when I'm feeling troubled, I am comforted by our community. I find joy, laughter, companionship and meaningful work here every day, and it inspires me to support this church deeply with my time and financial resources. Please think about your love for this community, too, and please give as generously as you can.

*“When I attend service on Sunday, I feel grounded and called back to what is really important in life.... I find joy, laughter, companionship and meaningful work here every day, and it inspires me to support this church deeply with my time and financial resources.”*

– JULIE LEACH

**What is the UUCS Endowment Fund?** The Endowment Fund\* is a tax-exempt corporate affiliate that holds the church's endowment. The congregation controls its bylaws\*. Our church president, treasurer, minister, and five other at-large directors elected by the congregation compose its board.

The Fund holds our parsonage (Rose's House) and additional investments worth about \$500,000, which are held mainly in the UUA Common Endowment Fund, a diversified fund of about \$130 million, professionally managed for the UUA and its congregations. Our Fund's annual earnings go to the church to support the annual budget.

Please contact the Fund's president or the UUCS office if you would like further information on giving to our Endowment Fund.

\*See the back cover for names, contact information, and website links that can provide you with more information on these topics.

*"This church has become our surrogate family. It provides caring support, learning, wise counsel and everyday conversation, enriched by members who come from varying geographic backgrounds with fascinatingly different experiences. Through this family we share our blessings with the wider community: Salvation Army, Bethesda House, Children First and World AIDS Day. No wonder that we cherish it.*

— CORNELIA AND BOB EINSWEILER



**We are indeed family!**

## Stewardship FAQs

**What is a "pledge"?** A pledge is a promise to donate a certain amount of money to the congregation within the congregational fiscal year, which runs from April 1 through March 31.

**Why pledge and how is my pledge used?** Pledges support the annual budget of our congregation, providing worship and music, lifespan religious education, our many social justice projects, pastoral care, community events, and much more. Pledge income also pays the salaries of our minister and staff and for the operation and maintenance of our facilities. When members and friends of the congregation pledge to give a certain amount, it allows us to project the funding for our operating budget for the coming year. Traditionally, pledges provide about 75% of the income for our budget.

**Do I need to be a member to pledge?** Anyone can make an annual pledge to UUCS, member or not.

**Do I have to pledge to be a member of the congregation?** Our bylaws require that we have a record of some financial contribution during the current fiscal year in order for you to retain status as a voting member of the congregation. However, there is not a required amount. If your financial situation precludes you from making a contribution, you may obtain a waiver from our minister.

**How much should I pledge?** Using round figures, the church budget is about \$480,000 this year. To meet this budget total pledges need to come in at around \$360,000. We ask that everyone pledge their fair share, which the UUA suggests is between 1% and 5% of their income. Keeping in mind that some people are better off financially than others who have limited resources, we ask that those who can, step up their pledge, and help those who cannot. Our Giving Guide\* might help you determine how to set your pledge.

**What if I become a member and want to pledge after the fiscal year has begun?** If you joined, say, in June with three quarters of the fiscal year remaining, we would hope for a pledge that equals three-quarters the amount you plan to pledge for a full year. That would take you through the current fiscal year, and you could make a full year pledge in February for the next fiscal year, which would begin April 1. ➔



**Some  
Frequently Asked  
Questions  
about Giving  
at UUCS**

### How do I pay my pledge?

We encourage paying by Electronic Fund Transfer (EFT) or direct deposit from your bank account, so that a regular transfer takes place automatically. We also have credit card payment available, which can add to your points and miles. To set up any of these methods, please work through the UUCS office or our website\*. Additionally, you can pay by check (write "pledge" in the memo line) or by cash. If paying by cash, identify it with your name as a payment toward your pledge, so it can be properly recorded.

*"UUCS is a place where I can learn, contribute and engage with good friends.*

*It is a place where I feel I belong – a caring community of people with values I share.*

*UUCS offers safe harbor in challenging times and challenges me to live up to my ideals and principles.*

– AVA WHALEY

### Will I receive a bill or statement?

Regardless of how you pay your pledge, you will receive a quarterly statement indicating how much you have pledged for the year and how much of that pledge has been received. And for tax purposes we send out a statement at the end of January showing your contributions for the previous calendar year.

### When do I need to pay my pledge?

For the current fiscal year, at your convenience between April 1 and March 31.

**How can I find out specifically where the money goes?** A copy of the current operating budget including line item amounts is available on the UU website\* and upon request at the church office. Or, our director of finance and operations\* will be happy to discuss this with you (it's best to set up an appointment beforehand so you will be assured of her full attention when you meet). Also, UUCS members are always welcome at the monthly finance committee meetings [see church calendar\* for details].

### How does the budgeting process work?

Each year, beginning in December, the finance committee and our director of finance and operations begin assessing income and expenses for the following year. Based on their assessments, a preliminary budget is assembled and presented to the congregation for review and discussion after services on the third or fourth Sunday in January. A pledge campaign



begins in February, and depending on the results of this campaign, critical for ensuring we cover our expenses for the year, the budget may be adjusted and revised. A final budget is presented in detail at the Annual Meeting usually held on the last Sunday in March, and members of the congregation vote to approve or disapprove this operating budget for the new fiscal year.

### Is it possible to " earmark " a pledge for a specific purpose?

No. As a democratic community, our budgets are created to serve the whole of our work together. All pledges support the work of the entire congregation.

### What about non-monetary gifts to the church?

You can donate stock directly to the church, and there may be certain tax advantages for doing so. Please contact our director of finance and operations\* for instructions on how to donate stock. Note that in-kind donations, such as items donated for the Serendipity Auction and Flea Market, do not count toward your pledge because they can't be converted to cash to be used for our operating expenses.

**How does a pledge relate to the weekly collection at Sunday services?** The money raised in the offering serves as additional income to benefit our annual budget. However, some people pay their pledge by putting a check or cash into the weekly collection plate. In this case, it should be identified as a pledge to ensure its proper allocation. Once a month our collection is directed to an organization or group that is designated by our Social Justice committee as needing our help.

### Why do we pay almost \$100 per member to the UUA\*?

We pay dues to our national and local UU associations to support among other things: ministerial settlement; building loans and grants; fundraising consultancy; growth resources; RE curricula and training; the Washington Office for Advocacy and Witness; anti-oppression programs; the UU WORLD and InterConnections; Skinner House and Beacon Books publishing; young adult and campus ministries; and a resource-rich web site. Please take this into consideration when setting the amount of your pledge or contribution. ➔

*"Because of music, theatre, film and television work, we have traveled extensively throughout the U.S. No matter where we are, the local UU congregation feels like "home," because it always satisfies our deep appetite to meet like-minded creative and free-thinking folks, many of whom have become lifelong friends.*

– FREDRIC AND MARILYN SIRASKY.

