



Sustaining Our Vision

Unitarian Universalist Congregation

ANNUAL PLEDGE DRIVE 2015
"the last pledge drive"

SANTA ROSA





Dear Members & Friends

OF THE UUCSR CONGREGATION—

UUCSR finds itself in the unusual situation of growing in size, power and imagination in an age when many mainstream congregations are shrinking and struggling to survive. Yet we have seen ever-increasing numbers of children on the chancel, and a record 16 new members joining on one day. Hundreds of attentive and smiling faces greet me as we worship together on Sundays with words and silence and amazing music. You like to have fun, trust your leaders, and truly care for each other. I see community organizing, and the feeding and sheltering of people in need. You talk the talk, and walk the walk. The Spirit of Love is truly present here.

Yet there are always new demands on a growing community, and new ways to serve each other and the world. The financial vision you are holding shows how we want to strengthen our beloved community and its ministries. It is rooted in your hopes and dreams for your congregation, affirmed in surveys and house meetings, and supported by the Board and me.

It takes consistent and abundant giving on the part of all members and friends to sustain our vision and achieve our goals. That means raising our pledge whenever we can—which is why I have committed to a tithe of 10% of my income over the next three years. I hope you will join me in raising *your* pledge as well.

My hopes are well-founded. You already practice generosity as a genuine spiritual discipline that brings security, freedom from fear, and gladness. For example, since January we have doubled our giving to social agencies and non-profits by sharing the basket every week. Giving is in our nature here.

It takes every one of us to ensure that our congregation continues to serve as a crucible for growing souls of all ages, a beacon of social justice, and a life-saving station for people in times of trouble. Through our efforts, Santa Rosa will have a progressive and inclusive religious home for generations to come, open to any who would share this spiritual path of freedom, reason and love.

Thank you so much for sustaining that vision! May the blessings of life flow to you every day.

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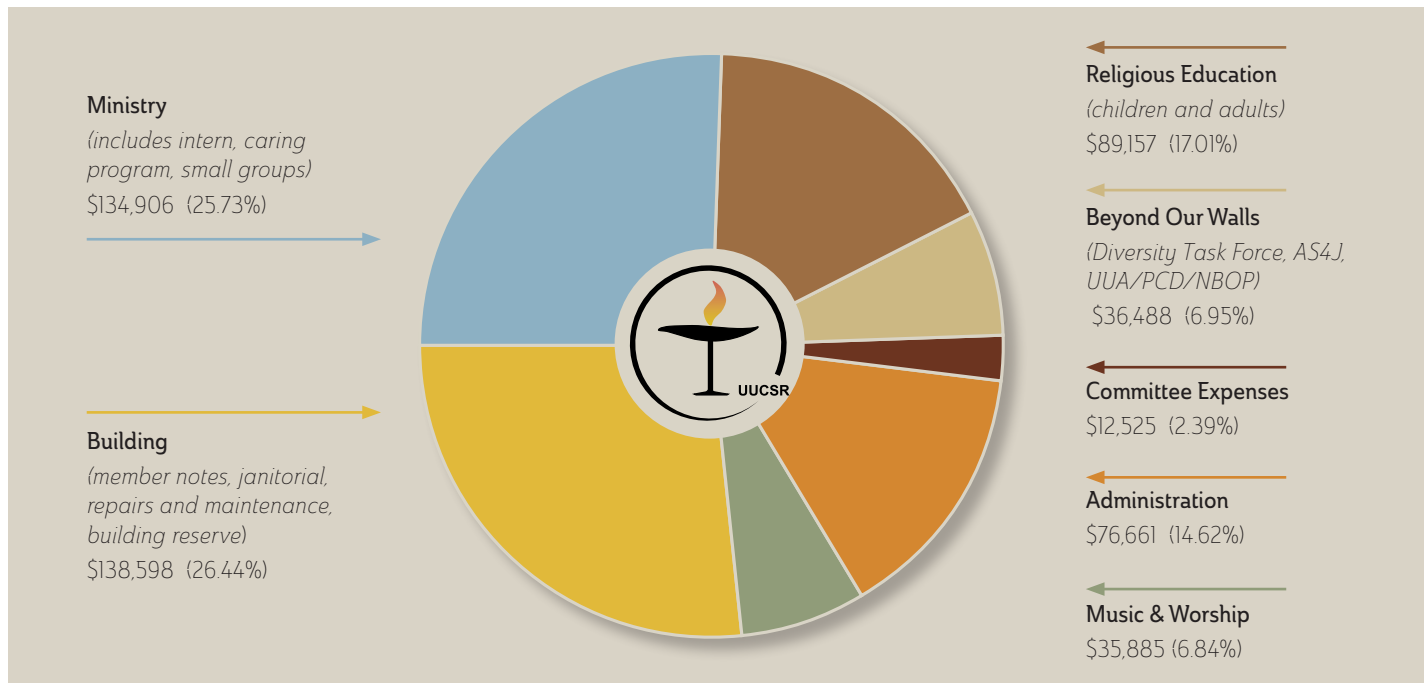
—Rev. Chris Bell

Envisioning by the Numbers

The budget figures and projections below may appear as numbers on a page, but in truth, they are what dreams are made of. In the chart below, you will see a projected budget that represents a 6% increase over the current 2014–2015 budget.

WHAT WILL THESE EXTRA FUNDS ALLOW US TO DO? THE FOLLOWING:

- Expand the director of religious education position from three-quarter to full-time.
- Hire a part-time intern minister.
- Establish a new staff retirement plan.
- Provide modest salary increases to help employees keep pace with the cost of living.
- Pay hourly workers close or equal to a Sonoma County living wage.
- Fund Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) and Pacific Central District (PCD) dues at 100%.



IF YOUR GENEROSITY ALLOWS A MORE-THAN-6% INCREASE, THE FOLLOWING MAY ALSO BE POSSIBLE:

- Financial support for members wishing to attend District Assembly and General Assembly. **(\$5,000)**
- A full-time internship. **(\$15,000 above part-time budgeted cost)**
- A new position of contract bookkeeper to professionalize this critical function. **(\$20,000)**
- Building improvements (for which there is always a Wish List!). **(\$20,000)**
- An associate minister to help Chris manage the needs of our growing congregation. **(\$65,000)**

Nurturing the Vision



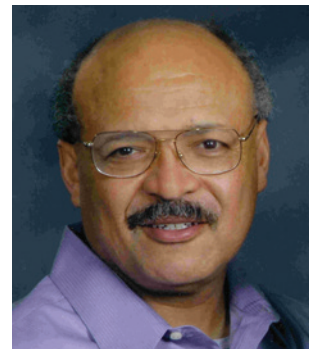
As a very happy and healthy 88-year-old with UU membership for the last 50 years, I know that my sense of well-being and spiritual growth can be attributed to my life as an active UU. I have been so fortunate to have shared this good life with people and friends of like values. I met my husband Joe at the Marin UU Fellowship, and all of our camping, backpacking, traveling, retreats, and most other social experiences have since been with our UU families. We have all grown up together. If all of us can continue to give as a means of growing our faith, the next generation will see the rewards and the congregation will continue to grow. Just think of how many lives can be enlightened and assisted—in both the givers and the receivers!

—Yvonne Hammerquist, Member since 2006



This June will mark two years that we've been in Santa Rosa, where we've been welcomed by many of you over coffee, taken the classes, and signed the pledge book. And how could we not!? Spiritually, Unitarian Universalism is the best game in town. When you walk through the doors there's no one telling you what to believe and how to believe it. Each of us has a responsibility to define, nourish, and grow our own spirituality; And to help each other along the way. Can I get an AMEN!?

—John Ray, Member since 2013



Belonging to this congregation nurtures my soul. I am grateful that UUCSR exists here in this beautiful building full of warmth and light and art and music. It is an exciting, dynamic spiritual community, home of deep thinkers, creative and talented people, people who care deeply about social justice and the environment. I feel honored to belong to this congregation. I am excited to think of the possibilities of the new ministries that will evolve in the future. This congregation will flourish beyond our dreams the more we value and invest in it. I encourage you to join my family and me and invest your time and treasure here, and to come joyfully into the circle of belonging.

—Erin Howseman, Member since 2004



Appreciation to UUCSR members: **Patrick Craig** for photos of members on cover and page 2. **Richard Fung** for cover photo of mustard field. **Andrew Hidas** for brochure production.