

Imagine...

UUCD Stewardship 2023



We have spent this church year remembering where we've come from and re-imagining the future, so the Stewardship team decided that *Imagine...* would be an apt theme for this year's Annual Giving Drive. (Which turns my mind to the song, "[Imagine](#)," and from there it shifts to "[If I Had \\$1,000,000](#)," and imagine if we had that in our budget!)

The stewardship campaign is our annual opportunity to align our money with our values as we practice generosity. In a more practical vein, we make a pledge, a commitment of our giving, and our Board of Trustees uses that information to build a budget that enables us to live our mission, vision, and values together in our church community.

This year the Board of Trustees has asked the Stewardship team to collect an additional \$30,000 in pledges over last year's total which is about a 6% increase across the board. That's about \$180 per current pledge - only \$15 more per month if each of us were able to increase our giving. I know that not all of us are able to increase our pledge, but it's also probably true that some of us could increase a bit more, so it might average out.

Much of this increase is to ensure just and equitable wages, and annual cost of living increases, for our staff. Our compensation policies and practices are a way of living our values and an opportunity to promote equity, transparency, and economic justice. Our staff works hard to support our church community and its programs, and they should be paid fairly for their labor.

[Some staff](#) we see regularly, on Sunday mornings, and others perform jobs that are more behind the scenes and not necessarily on Sundays. All together, these are the folks who bring us [worship](#) and [music](#) and [lifespan learning](#), who take care of our littlest ones and guide our children, support our [programs](#) such as Deep Listening groups and the [Justice teams](#). They help us help ourselves by providing support for the [grounds work parties](#) and the [Caring Council](#). Your pledge will sustain our efforts to fulfill our mission and vision.

In faith,
Sharon Hale, Stewardship Chair

If you aren't sure what a fair pledge might be, you might take a look at the [Suggested Fair Share Contribution Guide](#).

Make your pledge here: <http://uudavis.org/pledge-form/>

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A Message from Leonie Pickett, Board Trustee:

Imagine, by John Lennon, had always been one of my favorite songs, so I love hearing that it is the theme of this year's stewardship campaign. When my kids were babies, they had a room decorated with little animals drawn by John Lennon and a mobile over their crib that played the melody of *Imagine*. I've been a UU my whole life, and both of my kids have been coming to this church since the Sunday after they were born. As much as that song provided inspiration for me as I tried to raise them to be people who would make this world a better place, this church actually gave them the tools to do it and a community that modeled compassion and the power of doing collective work for justice. My kids are now 22 and 18, and I will never stop being grateful for the way this congregation and denomination shaped them.

As I enter an empty nest phase over the next few years, I know it will continue to shape me for the better, too. I imagine being part of our work in the near future to live deeply into our new 8th principle and also into helping our church have net zero carbon emissions by 2030. Such bold visions make me feel like part of the future solutions for our hurting world; I couldn't be more thrilled to continue giving my time, talent, and money to that. Please join me in giving generously so this church can have the resources to turn our imaginings to reality.

A Message from Karen Friis, Stewardship Team:

I grew up with the family practice of tithing. Even though my folks grew up in the Depression, they always felt compelled and driven to give back. As a young adult living in a communal household for 15 years, we shared one bank account. Imagine our House Meetings: the six members brought info on our favorite non-profits; we would debate the merits of each. We were committed to creating a more loving and equitable world, and knew that our small offerings might be part of that imagining. Always we gave at least 10% of our monthly income. Always, there was consensus. To this day, I offer 10% of my income to my community. Imagine the impact UUCD could have in our world if we moved toward a tithe of 10%.

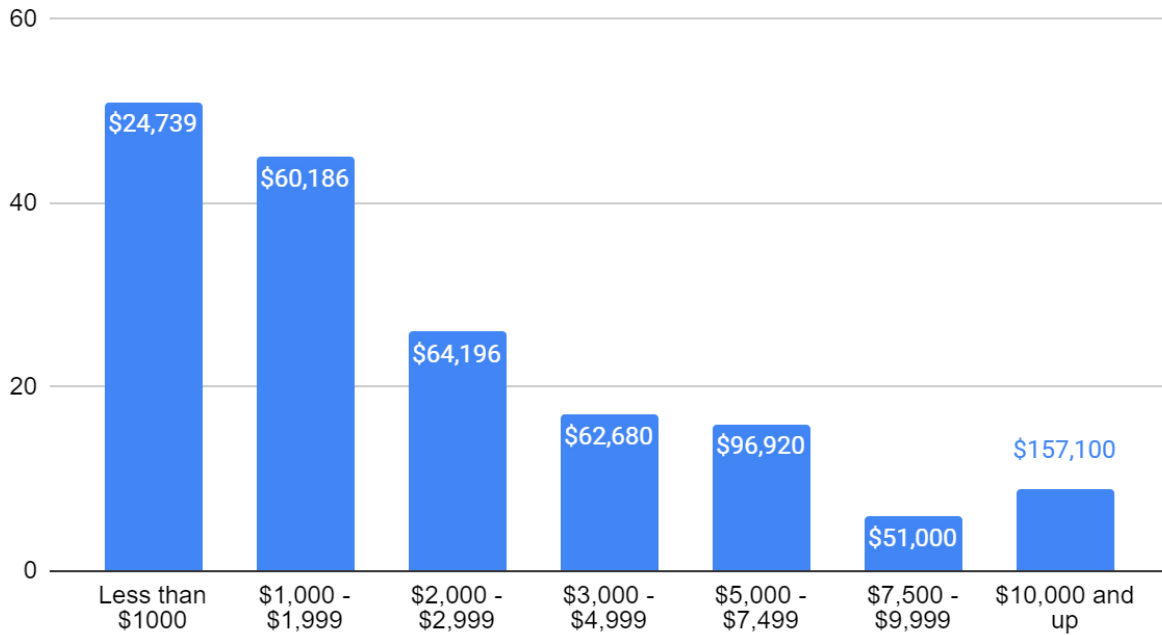


Remember to grab your opportunity to participate in a small group discussion with a Board member and a Stewardship Host; discussions will take place in the month of March, both in person and on Zoom. [Sign up for the small group gathering](#) that fits your schedule or look for the sign ups in the Social Hall after church. Either way, join in to ensure your chance to ask your questions and let your voice be heard.

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Number of Pledges by Pledge Amount (2022)



2022 Annual Giving Drive by the numbers

170 pledges

\$3,040 average pledge

\$516,821 total of all pledges

\$1,500 median pledge

Did you know? 23 pledges gave 1/2 of the total and 147 donated the other half

For answers to stewardship questions, please visit the [UUCD FAQs page](#).

Note: The Annual Giving Drive will run through the month of March. The deadline is April 1st - no foolin'! Although we are delighted to take pledges and gifts all year long, to be counted as part of this pledge drive they must be submitted by April 1st.

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