



Stewardship season is an opportunity for us at The Unitarian Universalist Church of Davis to reflect on our previous fiscal year together and look ahead to the vision of the year to come. Some things to celebrate from this last year-We have done some hard work over this past year with our Interim Minister Reverend Connie. We have gone in depth to explore who we were, who we are and who we want to be going forward in this next chapter. We also welcomed a new Religious Education staff member and a new Facilities Coordinator. One of our biggest tasks was to gather a search team to lead the charge in bringing on a new settled minister.

Looking ahead to the '24-'25 fiscal year, we have some big changes coming! We are looking forward to welcoming our new settled minister. Because of your financial support we are able to offer fair compensation, a housing allowance and can help cover moving costs. We also are striving to move all of our staff salaries to the minimum UUA salary guidelines. We have been after this goal for 20 years, and are really pushing to make it happen this year. With inflation and cost of living increases, it has been a bit of a moving target. We feel confident as a Board that we can hit this goal. Our staff is part of the backbone of our church, and we want to compensate them fairly and in line with our UU values.

On a personal note, I thought I would share with you some of my reasons for giving my time, talent and financial support to our church and community. I do not have a family history of being able to give generously. I watched my mom give financially to our church growing up and it seemed like a burden for her. It did not come from a place of generosity, but seemed like a burdensome obligation. She did also sing in the choir and the giving of her talent seemed to fill her cup. When I started attending this church over 10 years ago, I brought with me a lot of trauma and narrow views of what being involved in a church looked like.

It took me quite some time to be open to the idea of giving my time, talents and treasures. Over the last 10 years, I have tried to slowly evolve my mindset around giving. What I have found in the process is...myself. When I began my time here, I truly believed I had nothing to offer our community. It wasn't until I started challenging my beliefs about myself that I began opening myself to the possibility that I had time, financial resources and spiritual gifts to offer our community.

It has not been easy work to open myself up to a new way of thinking and operating, but I can say it has been truly rewarding. Every time I have stepped up to an opportunity to serve, I have grown as a person. UUCD has helped me develop and practice my value systems. I have learned that opening myself up to giving and receiving on a larger scale brings texture, meaning and a deeper connection to community...turns out those were things I was desperately craving.

We are grateful to those who have walked before us and have given generously, and now it is time for us to continue the mission. We all have unique gifts to contribute. I invite you to reflect on your giving mindset. In what ways can you give of yourself, time and financial support this year?

In Community,
Sarah Larkin
Board of Trustees
Stewardship Committee
Flower Committee
Past Worship Associate
Party Planner