

Unitarian Universalist Church of Davis 2025-26 Pledge Drive: *Grounded in Love*

Dear Members and Friends,

Our UUCD liberal faith community brings us together, nurtures our souls, and provides space to feel safe and supported. Caring for each other gives us strength to reach out and bring support to the wider community.

We celebrate the arrival of Rev. Angeline C. Jackson and welcome her messages of inspiration and joy. Our new Reverend has already brought our community energy and focus community and feel confident in her leadership in this unprecedented time.

This year our stewardship theme is Grounded in Love. Every day we are seeing the unraveling of decades of work for a more fair and free nation. Our faith's grounding in love binds our community together and compels us to fight for justice for those needing protection and to fight against climate change.

We can only rely on ourselves to provide adequate financial support for our community. Eighty-seven percent of our budget comes from annual pledges. This year, the UUCD Board recommends salary increases for our wonderful staff to keep up with inflation. The Board has also worked to control other expenses, resulting in little net operational expense increases. The Stewardship Team fully supports the Board's recommendation, and to this end we both recommend a 5% pledge increase.

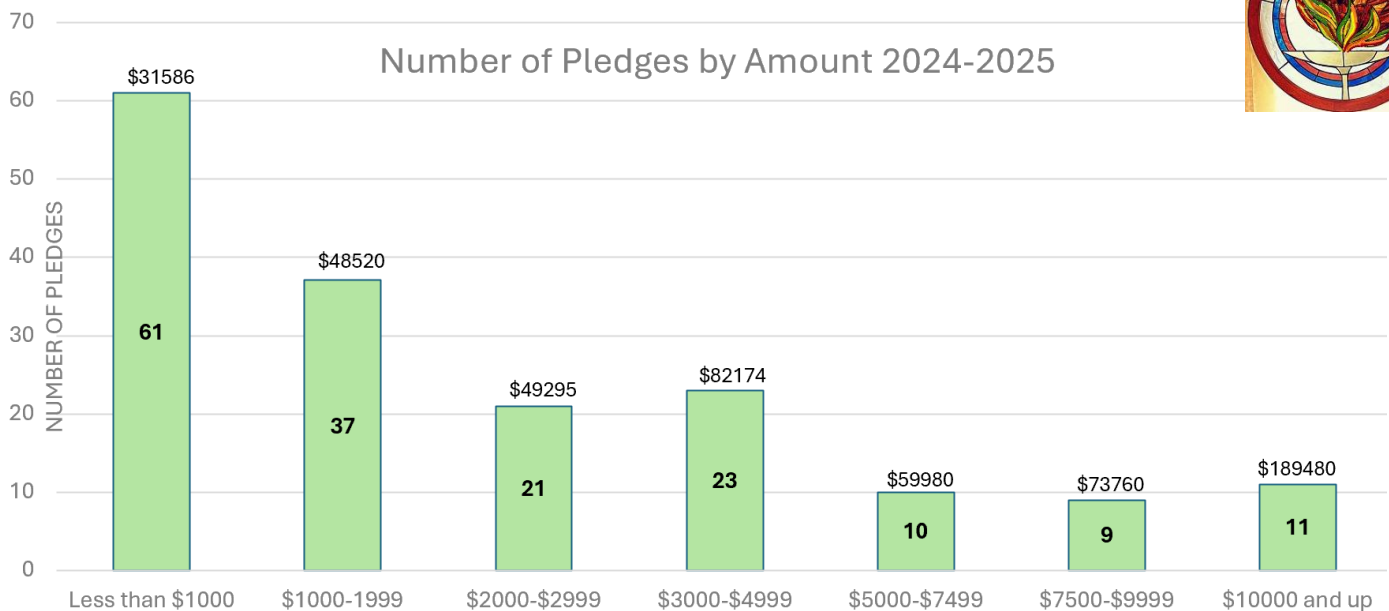
As UUs we value that generosity comes in many forms: time, wisdom, attention, and money. Many factors, such as family situations and generational wealth, impact giving. We encourage all to give according to their own circumstances. It may be helpful to know the 2024-25 average pledge was \$3,110. Please see below for more information.

We have enclosed a personalized pledge form for your use indicating your current pledge and what a 5% increase would be. Please return the form in the enclosed envelope or bring it to church in the next 4 weeks.

We need our liberal faith more than ever to support each other. We must reach out to the many new people coming through our doors seeking a community of solace, understanding, and a way to make a difference. Our UU faith calls us speak truth to power by taking action.

If you would like to discuss your pledge, please contact any Stewardship Team member (below). We will also be available after Sunday services to answer questions and accept pledge forms.

In Gratitude, *Your Stewardship Team (Emily Burstein, Karen Friis, Dolly Hamilton, Sarah Larkin, Claudia Utts-Smith, Marty West) and the UUCD Board of Directors*



Did you know 21 Pledges gave 1/2 of the total and 151 donated the other half?

172 Pledges ♦ \$3110 Average Pledge ♦ \$534,857 total of all pledges ♦ \$1404 Median Pledge



It has been a year! Oh wait, it's only been 6 months. Time really does fly when you're in the community doing good work! I'm grateful to be on this journey with you, UUCD, building beloved community, growing trust, and learning how to be impactful in our community while opening our doors even wider to welcome all those seeking spiritual refuge, shelter, and nourishment.

We've done and experienced SO MUCH in our few short months together. From our joyful Game Night & Potluck in January that brought generations together to our meaningful exploration of love through December's services to our vibrant Community Carnival in September that welcomed our neighbors - each moment has shown me the heart of this congregation.

I've watched you live out your commitment to radical welcome and social justice through supporting the Davis Winter Shelter, contributing to LA fire relief efforts, and creating spaces for deep listening and meaningful connection. Your dedication to environmental stewardship shines through our grounds work parties and climate justice initiatives. How you've embraced multigenerational community building through events like pumpkin carving, holiday decorating, and the upcoming Pi Day potluck shows me this place is truly a place for everyone.

As we look toward our 70th-anniversary celebration this April, I'm reminded of how this congregation continues to grow and evolve while staying grounded in its core values. Whether through our quilting group creating comfort for others, our youth raising funds for the animal shelter, or our caring council reaching out to those in need - your actions demonstrate what it means to be grounded in love.

Your financial gifts help us continue growing into the vision for this community's future - vibrant programs, meaningful worship, and courageous action for social justice. Every pledge supports our ability to provide spiritual nourishment, create welcoming spaces, and work toward the beloved community we dream of building together.

With gratitude and hope, *Rev. Angeline*