



# WE ARE THE CHURCH!

## The Unitarian Universalist Church of Birmingham

During our sixty-four years in Birmingham, we have played a vital role at UUCB in proclaiming our principles, and striving to build a more just society. As we continue our work in this second decade of the 21st Century, we have much to offer the wider community.

- Virginia Volker, President of the Congregation



You are a progressive, liberal congregation seated like an island in a sea of illiberality. This congregation has stood for causes and principles that are rejected, misunderstood, belittled, and demeaned by the culture around you. The presence of this congregation "deep in the heart of Dixie" is a remarkable achievement.



Consider for a moment all the love, labor, generosity of energy and resources, that have been poured into the making of this church. What a wild mixture of effort, sacrifice, giving, caring, loving, being committed to something greater than oneself has made possible the miracle of this congregation!

- Rev. Ed Brock, Interim Minister

As you plan to share your resources through a pledge, please remember this: **We do not pledge to an institution, a denomination, the minister, the board, or even the ideals of this church.**

**WE ARE THE CHURCH, and we pledge to each other.**  
We promise to share our resources because we yearn for peace, because we long for love. We pledge because we wish to power all the mechanisms that create peace and nurture love both in our marvelous, outrageous church home and in the community and the world around us.

- Ruth Vann Lillian, Stewardship Chairperson



## Why do we pledge?

We pledge so that we can plan for the future, both immediate and further out. The funds we promise to each other help us make concrete plans, and allow us to dream of new, exciting ministries for the days to come.

## Where does our money go?

Look at the chart on the right. Our money goes toward the expenses of each of those ministries. That includes the costs of supplies, equipment, repairs, staff support, cleaning, furnishing, utilities, maintenance, administrating and everything else that is necessary to create our wonderful church home and the programs we enjoy.

## What is the next exciting development for our church family?

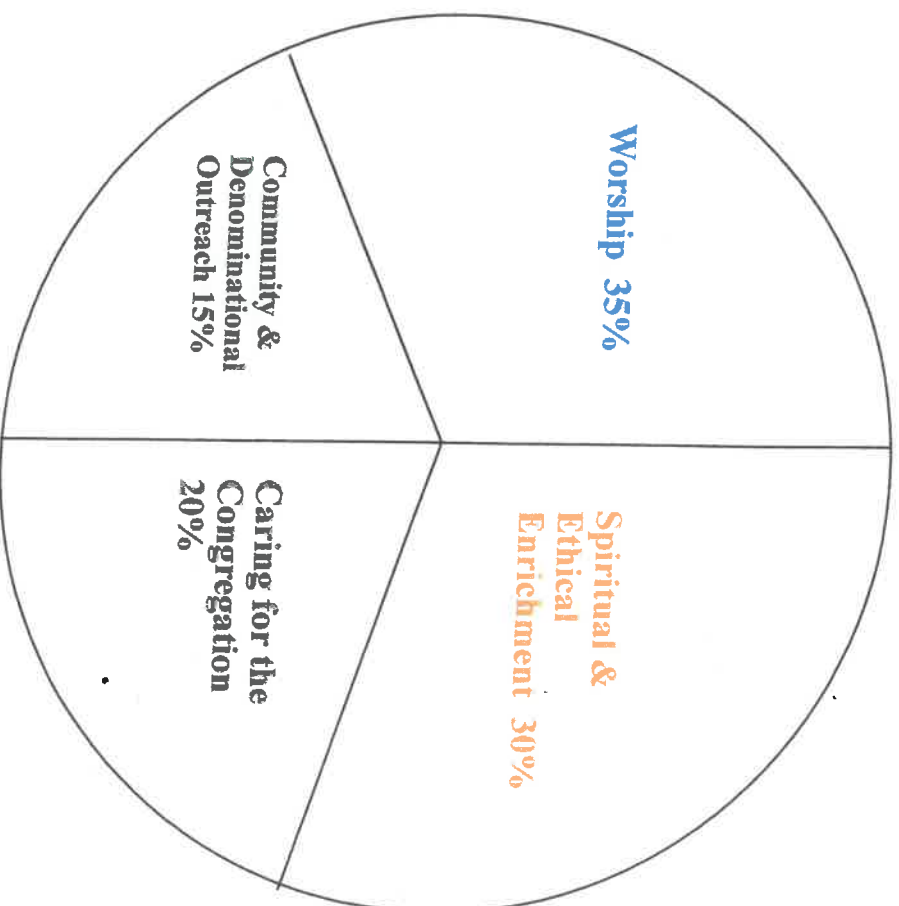
Our Board of Trustees has begun the process of seeking a long-term Settled Minister to begin serving in fall of 2018. Our Interim Minister, Rev. Ed Brock, is leading the congregation through a process of transition, search, and preparation for the exciting years ahead..

## Pledging to UUCB is not like other charitable giving.

Other charities will NOT visit you in the hospital, or present you with a weekly experience of music, fellowship, intellectual and spiritual nourishment, or bring you food in a crisis, or provide the many other comforts and opportunities that you can only find here in an environment of religious, spiritual, and intellectual freedom.

**WE ARE THE CHURCH, and we are promising each other to share our resources to maintain and grow a community which enriches our lives, and enables us to make a difference in the world!**

Current Budget: \$263,892



Dream Budget for 2017-18:

\$ 330,316

## How much should I pledge? Use the *Fair Share* method!

When we pledge, we **make a promise to each other** to share our resources to maintain our community, and to support the many important ministries of our church. *Fair Share* is a formula that **helps each of us to calculate a pledge amount** which, regardless of income, **fairly** reflects each individual's commitment to our church.

It's about percentage rather than amount.

Using an example income of \$50,000, let's look at the four "Fair Share" giving levels:

- **Supporter:** You are committed to supporting the ministries of your church because you feel at home here. Your fair share pledge is \$125 per month, \$1,500 per year. (3% of the example income above)
- **Sustainer:** The congregation has become a central part of your life, and your commitment to sustaining the programs and ministries of your church has become deeply personal. Your fair share pledge is \$167 per month, \$2,000 per year. (4% of the example income)
- **Visionary:** You are excited about supporting both the present programming, and future ministries of the congregation. Your fair share pledge is \$208 per month, \$2,500 per year. (5% of ex. income)
- **Traditional Tither:** Generous giving is your guiding spiritual principle, and you have joyfully adopted a lifestyle commitment to all the ministries of UUCB. Your fair-share pledge is \$417 per month, or \$5,000 /year. (10% of ex.)

### Suggested Fair Share Giving Guide

Adjusted Annual Income	Supporter			Sustainer			Visionary			Traditional Tither		
	% of Income	monthly	annually	% of Income	monthly	annually	% of Income	monthly	annually	% of Income	monthly	annually
\$10,000	2%	\$16	\$200	3%	\$25	\$300	5%	\$42	\$500	10%	\$83	\$1,000
\$25,000	2%	\$42	\$500	3%	\$63	\$750	5%	\$104	\$1,250	10%	\$208	\$2,500
\$50,000	3%	\$125	\$1,500	4%	\$167	\$2,000	5%	\$208	\$2,500	10%	\$417	\$5,000
\$75,000	3%	\$188	\$2,250	4.5%	\$281	\$3,375	6%	\$375	\$4,500	10%	\$625	\$7,500
\$100,000	3.5%	\$292	\$3,500	5%	\$417	\$5,000	6.5%	\$542	\$6,500	10%	\$833	\$10,000
\$150,000	3.5%	\$438	\$5,250	5%	\$625	\$7,500	6.5%	\$813	\$9,750	10%	\$1,250	\$15,000
\$200,000	4%	\$667	\$8,000	5.5%	\$917	\$11,000	7%	\$1,167	\$14,000	10%	\$1,667	\$20,000
\$300,000	5%	\$1,250	\$15,000	6%	\$1,500	\$18,000	8%	\$2,000	\$24,000	10%	\$2,500	\$30,000

#### Determine Your Adjusted Annual Income:

(1) Start with Adjusted Gross Income (See IRS form 1040)

(2) Add any sources of tax-free income such as:

Tax-exempt pension, annuity, or retirement distributions

+ \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_

(3) Deduct: Non-reimbursed major medical expenses  
Care expenses of disabled family member(s)  
Costs of higher education  
Childcare expenses

Subtract total deductions

- \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_  
*Adj. Annual Income*

(4) Multiply your Adj. Annual Income by the correct percentage % for the level of giving you choose.

\_\_\_\_\_ x \_\_\_\_\_ % = \_\_\_\_\_ = **Your Annual Pledge**