



# OLYMPIA UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION

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October 2020

Dear Members and Friends of OUUC,

We are living in extraordinary times and they require extraordinary action: We need an unprecedented commitment to the values, principles and mission of our faith community.

Going forward, we know that things will be different, and in many ways these differences are positive changes. Circumstances have invited us to change more quickly; a time of great challenge and great opportunity.

- Live streaming allows more people to join us for Sunday services to hear our important messages for the world.
- Our *Pathways to Engagement* creates a framework for multi-generational engagement and connection.

Amidst this time of unprecedented change, we remain *Together in Spirit*. During the month of October, you will hear from congregation members and friends whose lives have been touched and transformed by this community.

- Our hope for a 9% increase in stewardship pledges this year that will support our commitment to stay spiritually grounded and strong
- If you are new to OUUC, please consider making a pledge in support of the growth of this congregation.
- If you are a member or friend, please consider increasing your pledge to support OUUC's future.

The OUUC Board and minister have all pledged their financial support to this community by either meeting or exceeding the increased pledge request. We ask that you join us by making your pledge on-line or returning the enclosed pledge form. Please join us in financially supporting OUUC in 2021.

If you have any questions regarding the stewardship drive, please contact Sally Brennand at [sallysbrennand@gmail.com](mailto:sallysbrennand@gmail.com). If you have questions for the board of trustees, please contact James Trujillo at [james.s.trujillo@gmail.com](mailto:james.s.trujillo@gmail.com). If you are unsure or have questions about the budget or expenditures, please contact Rev. Mary Gear at [minister@ouuc.org](mailto:minister@ouuc.org).

Together in spirit,

James Trujillo, OUUC Board President

Rev, Mary Gear, OUUC Minister

Here is more information about the proposed budget. We believe this will support a vibrant congregation and faith and help us live our mission in the world. We know that this is a big ask, and one that the Board and Minister are confident this congregation can rise to.

## JUSTICE

- Expand the Faith in Action budget to include speaker fees for BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, People of Color) leaders who journey with us in our anti-racism and anti-oppression work.
- Maintain the long-standing OUUC support of Interfaith Works, Olympia PRIDE, Quixote Village, JUUstice WA, and the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC).

## HONOR CONGREGATION

- Moves OUUC further toward being an Honor Congregation with the Unitarian Universalist Association; it increases our UUA dues from \$6,000 to \$10,000. The full amount of our “fair share” contribution is \$26,691.

## STAFF FOR THE FUTURE

- **Community and Faith Development.** Allow Sara Lewis to broaden her responsibilities including Pathways to Engagement. We’ve also expanded the Religious Education Teacher to a RE Assistant with more responsibility and hours. Anissa Bentlemsani will grow in the RE Assistant role.
- **Media Specialist** position to help us refine our online offerings, build our social media presence, and develop vibrant and user-friendly ways to stay connected. We are delighted to have Jo Sahlin join us.
- **1% cost of living** increase for salaried staff and maintains health care and other benefits for staff working half-time or more. Our staff, in many ways, are busier than ever and constantly learning new ways to adapt to new technologies while taking on new duties previously unforeseen
- **OUUC Resource Ministry** is tended by Darlene Sarkela, administrator and Marie Arensmeyer, caretaker. Troy Fisher leads our music ministry, supporting transformative worship and offering ways for us to sing and connect, even now.
- **An inclusive and integrated accounting system** meant contracting with a professional bookkeeping service that knows the Realm system, has deep accounting expertise and knows OUUC. This transition is completed, and we are thriving with good accounting support that includes accurate, accessible, usable financial information.