



## Stewardship 2026-2027



*Rooted in our love for this community, we commit to supporting it.*

Dear OUUC Members and Friends,

We celebrate the many hearts and hands that contribute so lovingly to our vibrant and growing community. Thank you.

**At our recent Cottage Meetings, many of you shared things you love about our OUUC community. Here are some of those thoughts:**

*The culture of inclusion, welcoming all ages and populations. ♥ Come as you are! Be yourself! ♥ The wisdom that we hear in our Sunday Services that helps us cope with these times. ♥ Thursday dinners, Buddhist Sangha, and other Thursday offerings. ♥ Amazing music. ♥ Our beautiful facility and grounds. ♥ Safety and connection in a world of turmoil. Our extraordinary staff, for all that they do to make our community vibrant, inclusive, empowering and safe. ♥ So many ways to be involved, contribute, grow, learn, connect. All the opportunities to provide service to each other and the community. Our commitment to love as the center. ♥ Our advocacy for and support of social justice.*

These comments, along with dozens of others, demonstrate that we are successfully working towards carrying out our congregation's mission to **welcome and wonder, embrace and empower, bridge and become**. And, there is more for us to do!

### **Why do we need the Stewardship Campaign each year?**

Church leadership, the staff, the congregation, and the building provide the foundation for our beloved community. Your contributions, through our annual stewardship campaign, have historically provided about 85% of the funds necessary to meet our mission. A mission rooted in love, which is especially critical at this moment of global and national peril. This year's pledge goal is \$726,479 which represents a 26% increase over last year's request. We know this is a big increase, but this amount is the true cost of what is needed to run our congregation.

The large increase is due to two important factors:

- A philosophical shift in the budget approach by asking for 100% of the funds needed to run the church instead of reducing the request by using reserves or an endowment draw.
- Focus on board priorities:
  - Increase staffing to respond to the wonderful growth in the congregational community.
  - Prioritize support for OUUC employees and address long-standing staff compensation inequities. Staff compensation is a social justice issue.

A separate document included in this packet explains in detail the many important reasons for this increase.

### **Making the Pledge Decision**

This is a very personal decision. All levels of giving are welcome and appreciated. If you can increase your pledge, it will be received with gratitude. We also hope for additional pledges from new members and friends.

We ask you to carefully consider the role of the church in your life and the value that it currently adds to you and our community.

To help you with this decision, we've included the Pledge Data Summary from 2025 with some information about current giving patterns at OUUC.

We are honored that more people are joining our community each week. Now is the time to make sure that all feel welcome and their needs are met.

Thank you in advance for your thoughtful consideration and participation in this year's pledge drive.

*May our love for this community drive our desire to support it to its fullest potential.*



Kirsten Hill, Stewardship Co-Chair



Jen Sabel, Stewardship Co-Chair



Susan Moon, Board President



Rev. Mary Gear, Minister