



**Bellingham Unitarian Fellowship:**  
*An inclusive religious community encouraging  
lives of purpose, service, and joy*

February 24, 2023

Dear Members and Friends,

It is time for our annual pledge drive - a perfect time for us to contemplate all the reasons that BUF is important to us, and to decide our level of financial support for the coming year. Your pledge goes to BUF's General Fund, which covers staff salaries, lights, heat, office supplies, repairs, insurance, denominational support, our mortgage, and other expenses of serving our community.

This is a key time for our Fellowship, when every pledge, large and small, has a strong positive effect on our growth and financial stability. **How much we can give now will determine how much we are able to support each other and our world, this year and for years to come.**

This year we are returning to primarily one on one visits. However, we want everyone to be comfortable with this process. You, the pledger and your canvasser will agree as to which way you want to connect:

1. In person – in your home or another location such as at BUF or a coffeehouse/restaurant
2. By telephone
3. Virtually through a method such as Zoom or FaceTime
4. Or you may prefer to go direct to BUF as we've done the last few years:
  - a. Emailing your pledge information to [stewardship@buf.org](mailto:stewardship@buf.org) with the following info:
    - i. name, address, home phone, cell phone, email, \$ amount, how often (per month, year, etc.), if you want EFT (auto deduct from your bank account) please state so.
  - b. Filling out the online pledge form here: <https://wp.buf.org/administration-overview/donate/2023-2024-pledge-drive/>

Here's what we all need to do so that our Fellowship can continue to flourish:

- 1) Reflect with pride on everything that BUF does for your fellowship and the greater community.
- 2) Talk with your family about what BUF means to you, and the ways you depend on it.
- 3) Resolve to pledge as much as your situation permits. (Personally, we've found the updated "Fair Share" contribution guide on the back of this letter to be helpful.)
- 4) For inspiration, we have enclosed our pamphlet, "It's a New Dawn".
- 5) If you have any questions, please contact the Stewardship team at [stewardship@buf.org](mailto:stewardship@buf.org) or call Kathy at the BUF office (360) 733-3837. We can help you complete your pledge via mail or other means.

How we share our material gifts defines us as individuals and as a congregation. We rejoice in our opportunity to give as we are able. *Generosity is how we manifest our stated mission.*

What an exciting opportunity to be part of what BUF is doing to build a better world!

In fellowship,

Rick/Vlad  
For the 2023-2024 Stewardship Team

## The Suggested Fair-Share Contribution Guide

**Using the Guide is a simple, 3-step process; giving is a function of commitment and resources.**

- Most of us budget our financial commitments on a monthly basis and the guide is organized accordingly, but you may calculate on any time frame that works for you. For convenience, the guide shows monthly and corresponding annual income levels. Determine your monthly income or resource level. \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- ADD to your income level any unusual or periodic income, such as inheritances, business income, anticipated investment income, etc. SUBTRACT any unusual expenses, such as large medical expenses, care of a parent, or a large financial expense, etc.  
Result: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ **This is your Adjusted Monthly Income.**

Each of us will have our own unique circumstances to consider in making this calculation. The flexibility to include meaningful and unusual exceptions in your financial life (income and expenses) is what makes the Guide fair and useful. This is a tool for you to use in the spirit of the Congregationalist tradition; we are individually and collectively responsible for resourcing our movement and our congregations. This is an honor system; only you know your circumstances.

- From the Adjusted Monthly Income column, move to the right to find a suggested giving level that you are ready to support, between 2% and 10%, depending on adjusted income and level of commitment. Interpolate between guide levels if needed.

In making your decision, consider the four commitment levels below and how they relate to your membership. Consider your UU values in thinking about your income and your financial commitment to the congregation, as expressed in the four levels below. Note that within each commitment level, **the guide is progressive**, with giving levels rising with capacity.

- Supporter:** The congregation is a significant part of my spiritual and intellectual life that I want to support. My fair share financial commitment starts at 2% of my income and rises to 6% as my income and capacity rise.
- Sustainer:** The congregation is my central community; I am committed to sustaining the programs and ministries of my congregation. My fair share financial commitment starts at 3% of my income and rises to 7% as my income and capacity rise.
- Visionary:** My commitment is a clear demonstration of the unique importance of this congregation and of my spiritual principles. My fair share financial commitment starts at 5% of my income and rises to 9% as my income and capacity rise.
- Transformer:** I am deeply committed to the congregation; my contribution provides fuel for transformation and is part of my spiritual practices in living out my UU Principles. My fair share financial commitment represents 10% of my income.

Stewardship For Us | [www.stewardshipforus.com](http://www.stewardshipforus.com)

## The Suggested Fair Share Contribution Guide

Adjusted Monthly Income	Approx. Adjusted Annual Income	Supporter 2-6% of Income		Sustainer 3-7% of Income		Visionary 5-9% of Income		Transformer 10% of Income	
		Suggested % of Income	Monthly Pledge	Suggested % of Income	Monthly Pledge	Suggested % of Income	Monthly Pledge	Suggested % of Income	Monthly Pledge
\$1,000	\$12,000	2%	\$20	3%	\$30	5%	\$50	10%	\$100
\$1,500	\$18,000	2%	\$30	3%	\$45	5%	\$75	10%	\$150
\$2,000	\$25,000	2%	\$40	3%	\$60	5%	\$100	10%	\$200
\$3,000	\$36,000	2%	\$60	3%	\$90	5%	\$150	10%	\$300
\$4,000	\$50,000	3%	\$120	4%	\$160	5%	\$200	10%	\$400
\$6,500	\$80,000	3%	\$195	4%	\$260	6%	\$390	10%	\$650
\$8,500	\$100,000	3%	\$255	5%	\$425	6%	\$510	10%	\$850
\$10,000	\$120,000	3%	\$300	5%	\$500	6%	\$600	10%	\$1,000
\$12,500	\$150,000	4%	\$500	5%	\$625	6%	\$750	10%	\$1,250