



*Strengthened in spiritual growth,  
supported in community,  
energized by diversity,  
we strive to transform ourselves and our world  
through compassionate action.*

Dear Members and Friends

Who would have thought when we last met in person in March 2020 that in September 2021 we would still be meeting online yet would have achieved so much? Think about all that we have achieved:

- Quality Zoom services led by our Ministers
- Children's Programs continued online
- Attendance at Sunday services has been maintained
- Amplify UU will transform our space and accessibility
- Pledges blew past our Amplify UU target with over \$180,000
- Music rose to the occasion and "The Choir Kept on Singing"
- Our property team greatly increased our annual rental income
- We have donated 11 home starter kits for Our Place
- We've held two record breaking online auctions
- We've adapted groups such as Soul Matters, Zoom Sing, Beloved Conversations, Anxiety and Depression Support Group, Pub Night
- We funded and are ready to welcome another refugee family
- We funded the installation of solar panels on the church roof
- We have maintained a very sound financial position

We will be 'Better Together' in 2022.

- Return to in-person services and events building community
- Thanks to Amplify UU, services will be more visible and audible
- Offer "hybrid" services in our Sanctuary and online
- Continue our anti-racism education and awareness
- Blend our learning and experience online as our new normal
- Reduce our ecological footprint

To Fund our operating budget for 2022 we need pledges at about the 2021 level – \$310,000. Please keep in mind that some people have moved away, and others have changed circumstances, so we each need to examine our own situation and pledge as much as we are able. Our generosity will help ensure success in 2022.

## **Annual Budget Campaign 2022**

### **Financial Facts**

*It costs about \$1,200 and 44 volunteer hours every day to operate our congregation*

*It costs us about \$1,550 per member to operate with our present level of programs for one year*

*73% of our revenue comes from financial pledges made by our members and friends*

*68% of our expenses go to staff salaries*

*Special events fundraising from our annual Auction brought in over \$30,000 in 2021*

## **A Message from Reverend Shana - Better Together Indeed**

We never thought there'd be a year like this one. We stayed apart for safety's sake, and as we did we mourned and worried about so much—climate collapse and fires and dangerous heat, the ongoing trauma wrought by generations of colonialism and racism, and the crushing inequality that was made obvious by how Covid was experienced by those on the margins and those with relative comfort and stability.

Through it all, we were reminded (and maybe even amazed) how resilient and strong our congregation could be. We felt and experienced what religious traditions have taught throughout human history: through prayer and meditation practices—we can feel and know our connectedness even when we are physically apart. More than any and all of the things we did this year (and it is a remarkable list that the ABC Team has assembled), I am most moved by the fact that we held onto our sense of care and connection to one another. We kept showing up in all the ways we could. We cared for one another by staying apart, but also by returning again and again. While not as good as being in person, we discovered that gathering virtually could still be meaningful. There was still music and words of comfort. There was still a chance to lift up both the struggles and worries and health issues that were weighing on us, as well as the beauty that endured and held us. There were the faces. Always the faces both familiar and caring that became a touchstone through these odd, amorphous days.

Perhaps it will harder for us to forget now—that we are better together. Please see your 2022 pledge as part of the connective tissue that will continue to hold us no matter what comes next. Thank you for your generosity which has shown up again and again, this extraordinary year and every year,

Rev. Shana

## **A Message from our President, Jim Willis**

It's hard to believe that we have had COVID-19 with us for over a year now. We have done well meeting with Zoom but we can hardly wait to attend services in the Sanctuary again. We have managed well to date but please continue to give what you can to the Annual Budget Campaign 2022.

**IMPORTANT DATE**

**OCTOBER 3 — PLEDGE SUNDAY**

## ABC FAQs

**How do I pledge?** If you use Breeze, you can pledge from the pledge form on your profile near the bottom of the page. Or you can pledge through the website. You can mail your paper pledge form to the Church. See the September Newsletter to learn how to get onto Breeze.

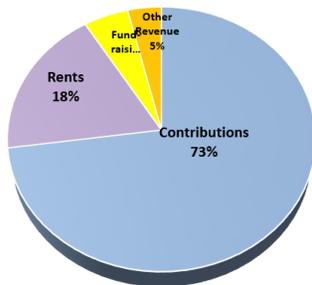
**When do I pledge?** This year, to minimize work for our volunteers, we are asking everyone to pledge – either online or by mail – on **Sunday October 3**. Watch the special ABC service then complete your pledge form.

**Why is it important for me to pledge?** Your pledge allows our church to budget for the year. We need to know how much you and others will be donating, so we can contract with our employees (including our ministers), be certain of making our mortgage payments, and maintain our property. Your pledge allows us to anticipate our cash flow so that we are confident that our employees and creditors will be paid on time. The most important thing is to make your pledge in a timely manner so Finance and the Board can develop a budget for 2022.

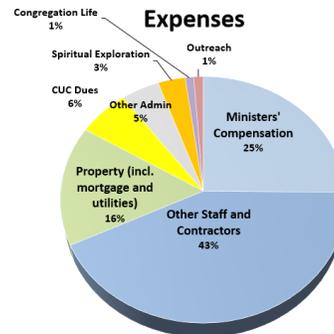
**How much should I give?** Some of us are experiencing financial difficulties because of COVID while others will want to be more generous. You know what you can manage. A pledge of any amount large or small is appreciated including \$1 pledges (for a contribution of record). Just so you know: It costs us about \$1550 per member to operate with our present level of programs for one year. Pledges for 2021 totalled \$310,000 from around 200 pledges. Our future will be shaped by what you find in our church community that is valuable.

**Where can I get answers to other Questions?** Contact Nancy Dobbs at [nandobbs@telus.net](mailto:nandobbs@telus.net) or (250) 652-5438.

### Where does the Money Come From?



### How is the Money Spent?



For those who are fortunate enough to pay income tax, the following table gives an idea of your approximate savings. Your actual tax credit is based on your taxable income and may vary from below.

When you Pledge:	Estimated Tax Credit	Actual Cost
\$ 600 (\$50/mo)	\$ 216	\$ 384
\$1,200 (\$100/mo)	\$ 478	\$ 722
\$1,800 (\$150/mo)	\$ 740	\$1,060
\$2,400 (\$200/mo)	\$1,003	\$1,397
\$3,600 (\$300/mo)	\$1,527	\$2,073
\$4,800 (\$400/mo)	\$2,036	\$2,764

FIRST UNITARIAN CHURCH OF VICTORIA  
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## 2022 PLEDGE FORM



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

### Pledge Information

My pledge for 2022  
is \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

### Prepayment (if any)

I plan to pre-pay \$ \_\_\_\_\_ of my pledge by December 31, 2021 (to be included in my 2021 tax receipt).

### Method of Payment

- a. Automatic Withdrawal from my chequing account. Please provide the information in the following box and sign on the signature line. (Note: If you paid your pledge last year by Automatic Withdrawal, and there has been no change in your chequing account information, a voided cheque is not required, but we still need your authorization in the box below).

#### AUTHORIZATION FOR AUTOMATIC WITHDRAWAL

I hereby authorize the withdrawal of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ from my bank account on the 1st  or the 15th   
of each month to meet my 2022 pledge. You have my chequing account information  or my  
voided cheque is attached.  The maximum amount that may be withdrawn in 2022 is \$ \_\_\_\_\_.  
Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

- b. Post-dated cheques. My post-dated cheques are enclosed  or will follow.
- c. Cheque(s) or cash as the year progresses. (I will ensure my pledge payments are identified so the Treasurer will know they apply to my pledge).
- d. PayPal from the Church Website. (Note: PayPal payments incur a cost...)

This space is for any comments you may have about the Annual Budget Campaign or the church (continue on back).

- I have provided for a bequest to the church in my will.
- I would like to speak to a member of the Planned Giving Team about leaving a bequest to the church.

(for office use only)

#### Attachments

Voided cheque (✓) \_\_\_\_\_

Payment cheque(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Number attached \_\_\_\_\_

\$ Amount(s) \_\_\_\_\_

(Initial)