



Better Together in 2023

*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 knew that when COVID restrictions started, two and a half years ago, we would evolve to meet both in person and online ... and still feel connected! Think about all that we have continued to achieve:

- Quality Zoom and in person services led by our Ministers
- Children's Programs continued – also in person and online
- Attendance at Sunday services has been maintained, and we have reached many outside of the Greater Victoria area
- Amplify UU has transformed our space and accessibility
- OWL (Our While Lives), an award-winning program on human sexuality for children, has returned this fall
- Music rose to the occasion and "The Choir Kept on Singing"
- Our property team dealt with several major repairs, and maintained our annual rental income
- We have updated the FUCV website for greater accessibility
- We've held three record breaking online auctions
- We've adapted groups such as Soul Matters, Zoom Sing, Beloved Conversations, Anxiety and Depression Support Group, Pub Night
- We sponsored and welcomed additional members of the previously sponsored refugee family, and they have set down roots
- We funded the installation of solar panels on the church roof that are actively generating electricity
- We have adopted the 8th Principle and continued our anti-racism education and awareness
- We have maintained a sound financial position.

To help fund our operating budget for 2023 we need pledges of at least \$325,000. 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 2023.

Annual Budget Campaign 2023

Financial Facts

It costs about \$1,400 and at least 44 volunteer hours every day to operate our congregation

It costs us about \$1,800 per member to operate with our present level of programs for one year

67% of our revenue comes from financial pledges made by our members and friends

64% of our expenses go to staff and contractor salaries

Special events fundraising from our annual Auction brought in about \$22,000 in 2022

A Message from Reverend Shana

Dear Congregation,

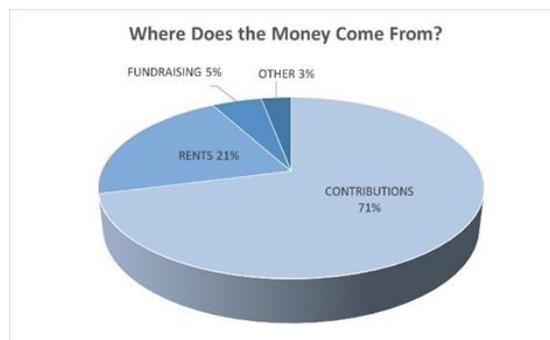
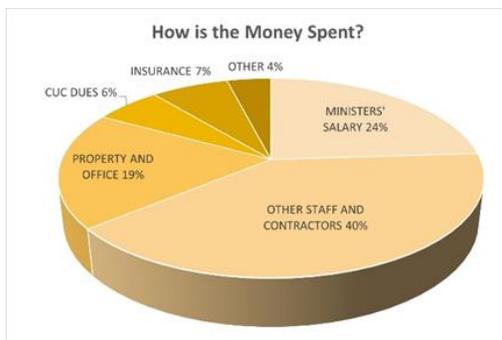
What a time it has been! We have weathered so much change and uncertainty, and it is not yet past. Much in the life of our congregation remains in flux. We don't yet know what will be next—what will come back to some semblance of what it once was, and what will never be the same. We only know that we will need to continue to adapt and change. We know that in order to continue to exist into the future we will need foresight and planning, openness to change and steadfast commitment to our principles. We know that we will need resources for the journey ahead. Resources of all kinds—time and efforts of volunteers, music and worship and ritual to mark the moments of our lives, and a place to gather where we can celebrate and mourn. One of those resources is the financial generosity of this community. Each year we ask you to reflect on what this place and these people mean to you. We ask you to think about the ways the church is a touchstone, a grounding element in your life amidst all of the tumult and chaos, injustice and collapsing climate. We then invite you to give—to pledge as generously as you can to sustain our congregation.

Throughout the pandemic we have discovered just how resilient we are. Attendance has remained constant, steady and in high numbers. We have also seen how fragile life can be and how much our congregation is under stress in order to continue. Our insurance costs have nearly doubled, and fall flooding led to unexpected maintenance costs. We are a vibrant congress and we are vulnerable. We need your pledges to strengthen the fabric that holds us together.

In the back of the grey hymnal there is a poem from Denise Levertov that concludes with these lines, “We have only begun to know the power that is in us if we would join our solitudes in the communion of struggle. So much is unfolding that must complete its gesture, so much is in bud.” May our pledges for 2023 help to grow what is in bud among us. May the unfolding continue, and may it enliven and enrich our lives.

Thank you, thank you, thank you,

Rev. Shana



IMPORTANT DATE OCTOBER 2 – PLEDGE SUNDAY

ABC FAQs

How do I pledge? On Breeze, through the website, or by mailing your paper pledge form to the Church. See the October Newsletter to learn how to get onto Breeze and find the pledge form.

When do I pledge? To minimize work for our volunteers and provide timely input for the budget to the Finance Committee, we ask everyone to pledge – either online, at church, or by mail – on **Sunday October 2**. Come to or watch online 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 anticipate our cash flow and can be 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 2023.

How much should I give? Stewardship is about time, talent, and treasure – we know you contribute in many ways. In 2022 we saw significant increases in our costs due to inflation, insurance premium surges and the costs of property damage and repair. **Based on your personal situation, the ABC Team suggest you consider one of these alternatives:**

- **A minimum pledge increase of 10% to help balance the 2023 budget; OR**
- **If you are able to pledge more, this will assist those who cannot.**
- **Some of us are experiencing financial difficulties. You know what you can manage. A pledge of any amount is appreciated, including \$1 pledges (for a contribution of record) that lets us know you still want to be connected to the congregation.**

Just so you know: It costs us about \$1800 per member to operate with our present level of programs for one year. 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 ABC: Nancy Dobbs nandobbs@telus.net (250) 652-5438; Kathleen Zimmerman AgResults@shaw.ca 1 778 833-0158; Lynne Bonner lbonner@shaw.ca 250 208 3663; Bruce Nicol brucenicol@inbox.com 250 857 1860.

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

If you have any comments about the Annual Budget Campaign or the church, please attach them to your pledge form.

FIRST UNITARIAN CHURCH OF VICTORIA
5575 West Saanich Road, Victoria BC V9E 2G1
250-744-2665

2023 PLEDGE FORM



Name: _____

Address: _____

Pledge Information

My pledge for 2023
is \$ _____

Signature _____ Date _____

Prepayment (if any)

I plan to pre-pay \$ _____ of my pledge by December 31, 2022 (to be included in my 2022 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 2023 pledge. You have my chequing account information or my voided cheque is attached. The maximum amount that may be withdrawn in 2023 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...)

e. **Donation of Publicly Traded Securities.** The First Unitarian Church of Victoria can now accept your donation pledge in publicly traded securities. We have established brokerage and bank accounts to facilitate these transfers. You may benefit tremendously from this added incentive to reduce the after-tax cost of your charitable giving or increase the amount of your gifts without increasing the after-tax cost. For further information please send an email to treasurer@victoriaunitarian.ca

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)