



2025 Pledge Drive **“Staying Strong Together”**

Dear Members and Friends of UUCR,

We are excited and hopeful about our future! There is a renewed sense of energy here at UUCR. We are resilient and we are strong! We have overcome many challenges in the past few years including the pandemic, challenging economic times, staff turnover, and issues with our buildings. And through it all **we have learned that by working together we can handle whatever comes our way.** That’s the power of community!

It is once again time for the Pledge Drive and we have chosen **“Staying Strong Together”** as our theme this year.

Pledges are by far our largest source of income. So we ask for your support to help sustain our beloved congregation. Our mission – “to create a welcoming place to explore individual spirituality, build a committed and loving community and help heal the world” - depends on the generosity of individuals like you.

Your contributions are essential to paying our staff a living wage, keeping our programs running, and our community thriving.

We have been blessed to have Rev. Laura as our minister for the past 3 years. The congregation has flourished during her time with us! Her sermons are thought provoking and inspiring. She has introduced creative new forms of worship and is passionate about social justice. She has increased our involvement in the wider community by collaborating with other clergy members and town leaders. **Her wisdom, insight, and inspiring messages of hope have been a gift to us all.**

Rev. Laura’s time with us is now coming to an end, and over the last few months, dozens of you have worked tirelessly to prepare for our Ministerial Search. The thoughtful and wise insights you shared during our conversational sessions have provided helpful guidance. **We are actively working to attract a Developmental Minister who can help us achieve our goals and we will begin reviewing applications soon!**

One of the goals identified during the ministerial search process is a strong desire for the church to achieve financial stability. **Your pledge will help make that happen!**

We are on track to being able to cover our operating costs this year thanks to the long-term rental of Loring to the Rosebud Day Care Center. We also received a major boost from the record-breaking Kris Kringle Fair. And a new fund has been set up to receive capital donations to address issues with our property and aging infrastructure.

Pledge Drive Goal

Our goal this year is to raise \$350,000. To do that we need ALL our members and friends to make a pledge.

Reaching our Pledge Drive goal is essential to getting our finances back on a solid footing.

Here's What We Ask

We know that our FY26 expenses are going to increase based on the costs of recruiting and hiring our new minister, increased maintenance costs, and inflation.

- So if you are already pledging, **please thoughtfully consider increasing your pledge by 10%-20% percent or more to help keep us moving forward.** If that is not possible for you, please consider an incremental 3-5% increase. For a \$2,400 pledge, that would be an increase of \$70 - \$120 per year, or just \$5 to \$10 per month.
- **If you haven't started pledging yet, now would be a great time to begin!** Knowing how much you plan to contribute during the coming year helps us plan responsibly for the future. So please - pick an amount that works for your budget and make a pledge! For more information about pledging please see our Pledge Drive FAQ.

Make Your Pledge Online

We ask that you make your pledge by Commitment Sunday, March 23. You can submit your pledge online anytime by visiting UUCR's website. Why not do it right now?

Every pledge, large and small, will be gratefully received.

Thank You!

UUCR brings together people of all ages, all backgrounds, and many beliefs.

Caring for one another and the wider community is at the heart of everything we do. Together, we create a space where we can grow spiritually and build a loving community as we work for more justice and more love in our own lives and in the world.

Your pledge will help make our vision a reality!

We are grateful for your generosity.

Thank You!

A.J. Heidkamp (Chair), Ryan Sillers, and Tracy Sopchak

2025 Pledge Drive Team