

Thank you for your generous support!

We know an increase — or even holding steady — isn't possible for everyone.

If you are able, please consider an additional amount to cover the reduced gifts of those who are experiencing hardship.

The UUA Fair Share Giving Guide enclosed invites us to reflect on our capacity and our commitment. A pledge commitment in our faith tradition ranges from 3% to 7% of household income. And some folks are working toward a 10% tithe. We invite you to make a generous commitment based on your means and the importance of Cedar Lane for you and your family.

No matter when, how, or how much you contribute, your pledge makes a difference! Your support is about putting faith in one another and staying focused on our mission to “explore the eternal, nurture community, and build a more just world.”

Thank you for your generous support!



How Do I Pledge?

The **easiest way to pledge is online** at **cedarlane.org/give**. You'll find a simple pledge form, FAQs, a link to set up automatic pledge payments, and other information. And good old paper pledge cards also work! These can be picked up at services or mailed to your home, and may be returned by mail or dropped off.

Once you have made your pledge there are various ways to fulfill your commitment.

- Online payments via credit or debit card, or bank bill pay. Automatic payment schedules available and encouraged!
- Text-to-Give: “CLUUC \$[Amount]” to 73256
- PayPal: bit.ly/cedarlanepaypal
- Arrange an IRA qualified charitable distribution or stock transfer

Learn more at cedarlane.org/give. For assistance or questions, please contact Cedar Lane Executive Director Jen Morley: jmorley@cedarlane.org, 301-493-8300 ext. 209

cedarlane.org/give



Cedar Lane Unitarian Universalist Congregation
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2023 Cedar Lane Annual Fund Campaign

What if Unitarian Universalism really is a “faith for the 21st century?” **What if** Cedar Lane can live into this promise of our faith? **What if** Cedar Lane is a religious community where love works? **What if** we have the most successful Annual Fund campaign ever?

What if...





You Make the Difference

Financial pledges from congregants — **you!** — is the primary way Cedar Lane funds the congregation's ministry and operations.

Our Ask This Year

We ask that you **consider a 15% or a \$365 increase** to your pledge this year. An additional \$1 per day from all members and friends will allow us to:

- Continue our support for inspiring worship, music & lifespan faith formation (RE) programs, pastoral ministry, and social justice initiatives
- Continue our support to build a multigenerational, multicultural, multireligious faith community
- Maintain our staffing and provide a cost of living increase for our dedicated staff
- Support new opportunities and technologies to deepen connections during this year of disruption as we renovate our building
- Continue our support to our national and regional UU offices (UUA)

Financial State of Cedar Lane

- The spirit continues to move and energy continues to build at Cedar Lane! And the financial challenges continue to be real.
- In June the Congregation approved a budget of \$1.5 million for the July 2022–June 2023 fiscal year. (bit.ly/CLBudget2023)
- Coming out of the most acute phases of the pandemic, this budget was built on three themes: living into the congregation of the future, deepening multicultural ministry, and strengthening community connections.
- In order to achieve the congregation's goals, this budget approved spending from the 2021 fiscal year surplus, as well as extraordinary disbursements of almost \$80,000 from our reserved savings.
- Last year we did not quite reach our annual campaign fund goal. We received **\$850,000** in pledge commitments from 321 households.
- Congregant pledges represent about 65% of our income. High inflation and other post-pandemic economic conditions are affecting families; we have heard from some who have had to reduce or

suspend their gifts. We are grateful to have received some extraordinary gifts to help cushion these reductions.

- The other 35% of our income is mostly rentals, fundraising, endowment, and program income. We are looking forward to a robust auction in mid-May this year.
- This year, as part of the federal government's pandemic support program, Cedar Lane secured an Employee Retention Tax Credit of \$170,000. This will reduce the amount taken from our savings.
- Costs are up significantly. We were able to hold down costs this year by trimming programming, administrative, and most all discretionary spending.
- Some benchmarks that might be helpful. The average family pledge to Cedar Lane is about \$2600 a year. Operating the congregation costs far more. For the coming year, Cedar Lane needs an **average pledge of \$3,015** to fully fund our budget.

**Thank you to everyone
who helps sustain
Cedar Lane!**