



Stewardship 2018 Pledge Campaign Living our Generosity



Dear congregant,

This year, **October 1st** marks the beginning of our 2018 Stewardship Pledge Campaign at First Unitarian Congregation of Ottawa. Stewardship is ‘the responsible overseeing and protection of something considered worth caring for and preserving’. We all share the responsibility of sustaining our religious community and its belief in openness, tolerance, and compassion for others and our environment. Each year we require your financial generosity through pledges to fund the major portion (almost 70%) of our operating budget (Programs, Services, requisite infrastructure).

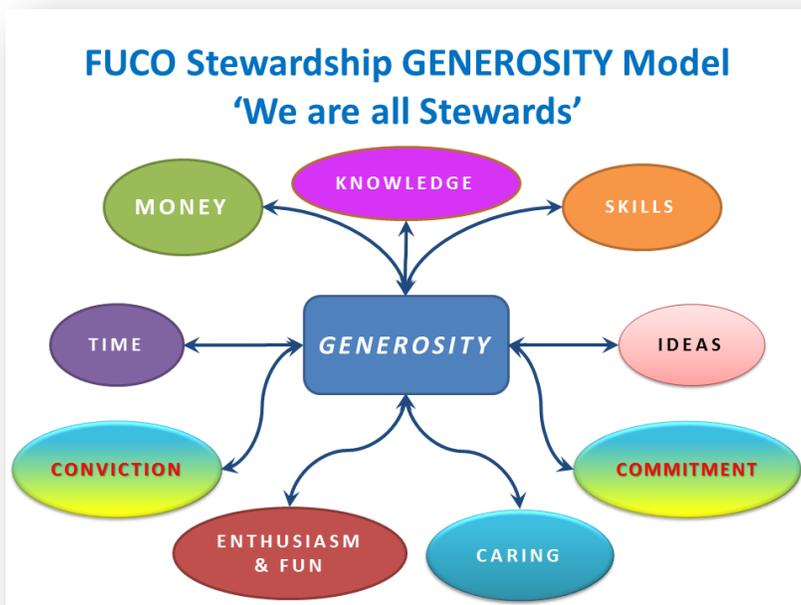
Our theme for the campaign, “Living our Generosity”, explicitly reminds us that our congregation actively demonstrates generosity in all its forms.

Stewardship links our generosity through working together in Fellowship to build our community.

We are all stewards.

The generous investment of our **time, money, knowledge and skills** gives us personal meaning and connection to each other and the community through **conviction, commitment, enthusiasm & fun** and **caring**.

The diagram is an individual and collective depiction of Generosity and its many forms, and illustrates its bi-directional (feedback) nature.



All the forms of our generosity

translate into both our actions and our ability to act towards meeting our mission and program goals. **We are enthusiastic about the possibilities.** Our many and ongoing **accomplishments** clearly show there is much optimism and energy within our congregation. Our theme-based sermons, re-invigorated religious exploration and music programs continue to engage and grow our community. The dedicated support of our Social Responsibility working groups towards those in need is a testament to empowering our covenant. We each enrich our own lives through **fully exercising all forms of our generosity** in supporting the liberal religious values and thought within our community, and living our commitment to the principle of inclusiveness.

Stewardship enables our covenant through nurturing our actions and resources towards our goals as a Congregation and the wider Community. Come to the **Stewardship Town Hall on Sept 24th** to find out more. The presentation will be published. We welcome your feed back.

Our Pledge Goals

Of course, **the financial generosity of our congregation is the primary focus of the yearly Pledge Campaign.** Your financial generosity provides an **essential tool** for the Programs and Service and their necessary infrastructure and resources (our Church) that allows us to grow our good work.

Our primary goal for the pledge campaign is 100% participation.

We urge you to make a pledge regardless of the amount. Each pledge gives meaning and value to what we do as a congregation.

Our secondary goal for the pledge campaign is not to just meet our basic financial needs but to exceed them by 10%.

Why 10% more?

VISION: Our recent 'Building our Community' workshop emphasized the desire of our congregants for increased multi-generational growth through support of our Programs, Social Responsibility activities and by building upon our Communications and Outreach.

Exceeding our base budget projection by 10% will allow us to deliver on this vision. Specifically, it will allow us to expand our **multi-generational** Music Program and **Life Span Learning program**, plus our **Communications & Outreach** program towards attracting a new demographic of congregants. Specific examples & their costs include

- \$400 allows us to buy a full set of OWL curriculum for one age group
- \$300 allows us to send one volunteer to be trained in OWL facilitation
- \$1000 buys sheet music for the year
- Approx. \$75.00 per Banner to promote awareness at open events, special occasions, etc.

Both we as congregants and the wider community readily demonstrate the value and meaning that the First Unitarian Congregation of Ottawa provides to them through the **vibrant level of involvement at the church** in its many Programs and Services, and volunteering such as

- Worship Services
- Rites of Passage
- Pastoral Services
- Life Span Learning & Event
- Counselling
- Music
- Fellowship
- Social Responsibility Council
- Many volunteer-based Committees, Teams and Working Group

We ask that you consider the importance of your involvement in our faith community and help us meet our ambitious goals by **pledging a little more and promptly.** See the enclosures – **Campaign Brochure** for guidance and mechanics of pledging and the associated **Campaign Pledge Form** for pledging options (both available at www.firstunitarianottawa.ca , click the **Pledge Campaign** link).

Remember, pledges are our only way of knowing if we can meet our Mission and Program Goals, as forecasted in the Budget, so please PLEDGE EARLY.

Come to the Stewardship & Finance sponsored **FINANCE 101 Town Hall on Oct 15th** to find out about the congregation's finances and approach to planning and budgeting.