

First Unitarian Congregation of Ottawa
**Living our Generosity
Pledge Campaign 2019**

Dear _____,

Throughout the history of FirstU our community of congregants have demonstrated generosity in so many ways. We have never shied away from providing unselfishly to back up our personal commitment to live our Principles. We can be proud that our fundamental values are based on an incredibly strong ethic of volunteerism along with the willingness to provide financial resources to deliver on our values. In the last few years, we have proven positively that this ethic of generosity is still with us and flourishing. So in this giving campaign let us prove again that generosity remains the cornerstone of our collective commitment to 'live our generosity'.

We live our generosity when we support our own community as well as the global community. In the diagram below we show some of our many social responsibility initiatives that demonstrate our commitment to social justice.



In addition we lived our generosity in 2018 when our congregation raised enough funds for the special maintenance and improvements to our spectacular church building. An added bonus is that the sound system has been enhanced to attract community musicians.

We continue to live our generosity when our financial resources support the ministries that enable worship services, pastoral care, religious exploration for all ages, uplifting music and community building.

When the Congregation signs cards that acknowledge and support personal passages we are living our generosity.

We have a strong history of continuous support for refugees and those struggling to remain in their war-torn or internally conflicted countries. We seek justice for UN designated refugee, Syrian families fleeing the destruction of their country, and those struggling in Palestine, Nepal or Tibet.

FirstU has committed to a 5 year focus on Indigenous issues. There are many initiatives relating directly to the fulfillment of Truth and Reconciliation. With this focus we are living our generosity.

There are many, many more examples of how we as a Congregation act upon our Principles and thereby 'Live our Generosity'.

With this campaign we ask you to pledge your financial support for the year 2019 so that we can continue to live our generosity by:

- ✚ Supporting our music and ministries that week after week inspire us and feed our soul
- ✚ Supporting our on-going refugee and global initiatives
- ✚ Sustaining our commitment to work toward Truth and Reconciliation for our Indigenous Peoples
- ✚ Welcoming newcomers regardless of faith, identity or whomever they love.
- ✚ Supporting our families and children by continuing to offer faith-based sexuality curriculum - Our Whole Lives (OWL)
- ✚ Providing the necessary funds to develop a thriving, growing community that meets the spiritual needs of our congregation and newcomers.

Any financial pledge for 2019 that fits your financial circumstances is gratefully received and helps our board and staff budget and plan for the upcoming year.

You can complete the pledge form in the brochure that is with this letter and either mail it in or place it in a special glass box that will be will be at the entrance to the church on Sundays or in the office during the week. Our *Living our Generosity* Sunday is October 21 when we will celebrate our shared commitment to FirstU.

We must continue to put our wallets where our Principles lead us.

Thank you for joining us in Living Our Generosity together.

Joan Auden and Brent Nicolle
co-chairs, 2019 Annual Giving Campaign