

First Unitarian Congregation of Ottawa

Growing our Generosity

Pledge Campaign 2020

Dear Congregant,

Throughout our long history, members of FirstU have demonstrated their commitment to UU principles and to our Congregational mission. As members, we can be proud that we model our values through our work on social justice causes, our volunteerism, and our generous giving. In the diagram below, you can see some of our many social responsibility initiatives that demonstrate our commitment to social justice.



FirstU has a proud history of support for social justice causes. We have provided financial and volunteer support for refugees and for those struggling to remain in their war-torn or internally conflicted countries. We have sought justice for UN designated refugees, for Syrian families fleeing the destruction of their country, and for those struggling in Palestine, Nepal or Tibet. And we have been working with Indigenous partners to fulfill the recommendations of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

Year after year, we have donated our time, our talent, and our treasure when needed. Once again, it is time to show our commitment, and to **Grow our Generosity** – the

needs of the congregation, our communities, and the world, call us to act, and to do even more than we have before. The need is growing, and so can we.

The money we raised through the Spiritual Home campaign allowed us to improve our spectacular Spiritual Home. This included refinishing hardwood floors, re-staining the exterior, upgrading our bathrooms, and enhancing our sound system. This last improvement has already attracted community musicians. The funding and the support of many volunteers in this work is a testament to our commitment to this community.

The money we raise through our annual pledge campaign enables us to provide worship services, pastoral care, Religious Exploration and Lifespan Learning, our amazing music program, and our community building. Your contributions pay for our exceptional staff, and support the maintenance of our building, our property, and our mission. Your donations also enable us to support the Canadian Unitarian Council (CUC), through direct contribution and through activities like hosting the Eastern Regional gathering this fall.

With this campaign, we ask you to pledge your financial support for the year 2020, so that we may Grow our Generosity by:

- ✚ Supporting our music and ministries that week after week inspire us and feed our soul
- ✚ Welcoming newcomers regardless of age, faith, ethnicity, orientation or identity
- ✚ Enabling our on-going support for refugee and global initiatives
- ✚ Sustaining our commitment to Truth and Reconciliation for Indigenous Peoples
- ✚ Growing our Religious Explorations program under the leadership of our new RE Director
- ✚ Offering age appropriate faith-based sexuality curriculum - Our Whole Lives (OWL)
- ✚ Demonstrating our commitment to Embracing Diversity in all its wonderful forms
- ✚ Developing a thriving, growing community that meets the spiritual needs of existing members and newcomers

Any financial pledge for 2020 that fits your financial circumstances is gratefully received and helps our board and staff budget and plan for the upcoming year. Please consider that our costs rise yearly at least by the Cost of Living (COL 2.6%).

You can complete the pledge form in the brochure that is included 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 *Growing our Generosity* Sunday is October 6th during which 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 Growing Our Generosity together.

Guy Belleperche

Guy Belleperche, President, on behalf of the FirstU Board of Directors