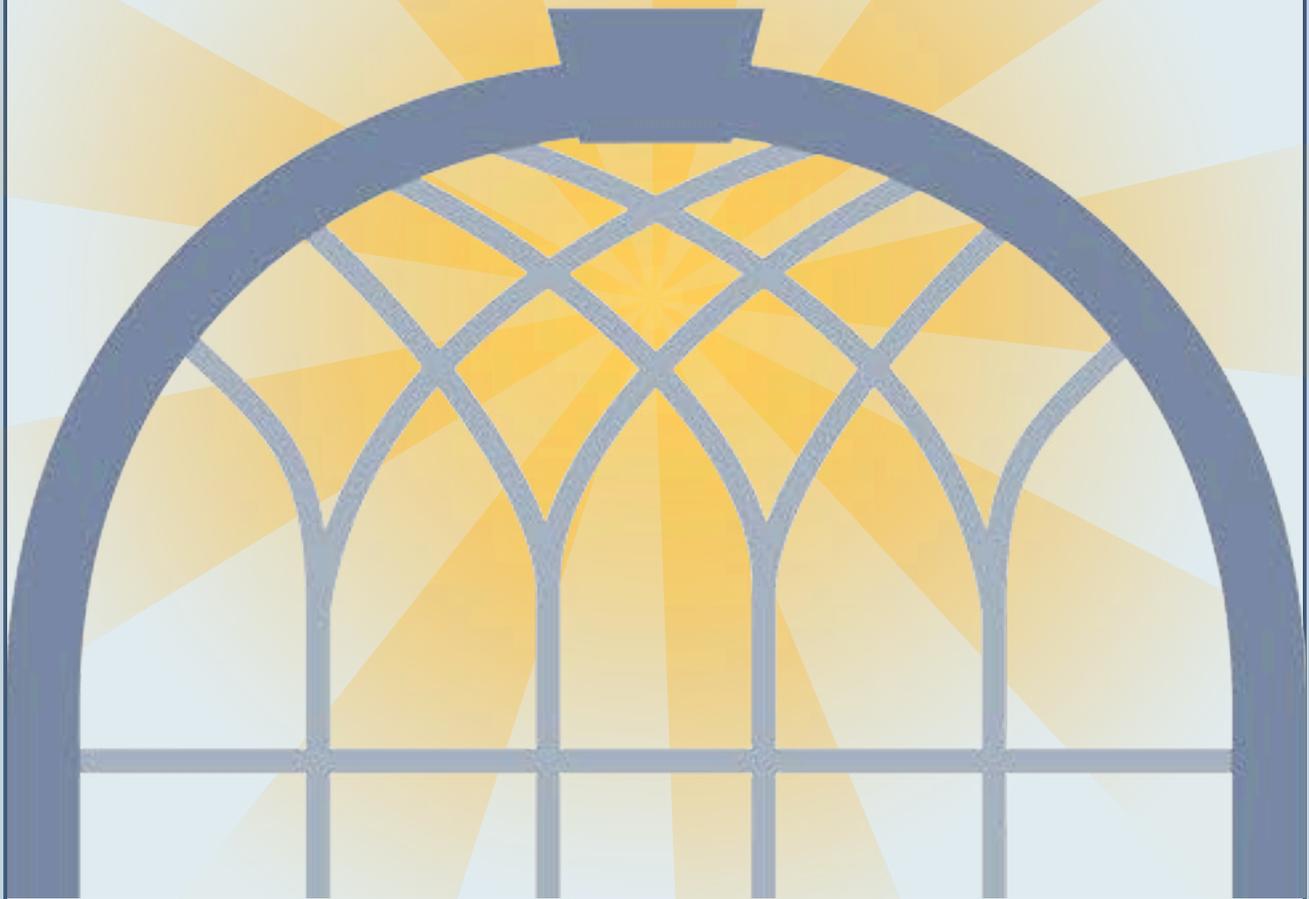


# Stewardship 2026-2027

**THE FUTURE  
BEGINS WITH US**



**Unitarian Universalist Church of Nashua**



# MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Dear Members and Friends,

Two hundred years ago our spiritual ancestors gathered together, founding our beloved congregation. Here we are, planning for the 200<sup>th</sup> year of our faith's home in Nashua and we need your help. It is time to support our church with gifts to our annual stewardship campaign. Our theme this year is **The Future Begins with Us**. As we look to the year ahead, we invite you to make a pledge to our church reflecting the value and impact of our programs and services that nurture our spiritual lives and strengthen our wider community.

Now, more than ever, our programs and services are essential in offering solace, building connections, and providing opportunities for growth and positive change. Each of us is a part of building and sustaining this community for the next 200 years.

The Future Begins with Us as we live our values out loud, shaping our congregation and the larger world. The Future Begins with Us as we care for and sustain our beloved community.

Our church is a vibrant community that nurtures our spirits and inspires us to make a difference in the world. Your financial support directly funds the programs that enrich our lives and empower us to live our values.

In a world facing numerous challenges, the need for community, spiritual grounding, and meaningful action is greater than ever. The funds we raise through annual pledges help us to continue offering vital programs that support the spiritual, ethical, and social growth of every member of our congregation. From uplifting worship services to our commitment to social justice and pastoral care, your pledge helps sustain the life-changing work we do together.

This booklet shares information about how money is spent at UU Nashua and the connection to our values. Each of you is an integral part of our congregation, and we want you to know how your commitments make a difference.

Yours in gratitude and generosity,  
Rev. Allison & The Stewardship Team



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# CARING FOR OUR BELOVED COMMUNITY

While **2026** presents us with significant challenges—a world marked by uncertainty, division, and struggle—it also underscores the vital importance of community, spiritual grounding, and meaningful action.

**Now more than ever, we need spaces where we can live our values, nurture our spirits, and strengthen our connections.**

We invite you to get our next 200 years off to a solid start by increasing your already generous pledge to our congregation. Each year our expenses increase by 5-10%. Pledges are the single largest source of income, so we need them to increase to keep up with the rising costs.

## OUR VALUES:



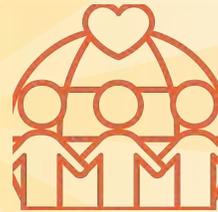
### WONDER:

Means thoughtful questioning and curiosity. There is wonder in the awe we feel in nature, our relationships, and the vastness of our universe.



### AUTHENTIC CONNECTION:

Takes us deeper than surface interaction. We seek to be real with one another, to engage with honesty and vulnerability.



### COURAGEOUS COMMUNITY:

Calls us to engage with one another and the world with courage. We are courageous in our connection, which gives us courage to do bold work in our world.



### LOVE IN ACTION:

Our community's love is not passive. It is embodied in how we live with each other and spread that love to the world.

**Our church programs embody the values living in the heart of our community.**

They inspire wonder, generosity, and courage. They offer solace, build connections, and provide opportunities for growth and positive change.

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# LIVING OUR VALUES

**Our worship services are a source of comfort, inspiration, and shared reflection. *This year we held 56 worship services in 5 separate locations!***



**Our choir and music program provide a space for beauty, joy, and spiritual connection that lifts us up. *This year we shared 48 choir anthems and 36 solo/small group pieces***



**Our programs foster connection and belonging, build community, and provide compassionate support to members when it is needed most. *This year we held 26 support group sessions and 11 multigenerational fellowship events.***

**Faith Formation offers an opportunity to explore, reflect, and learn in a nurturing spiritual community. *This year we held 38 Sunday morning programs for children and youth, 18 OWL classes, 1 all day Kids Camp and 78 Adult Programs.***



**Our social justice groups actively engage in projects, fund critical advocacy work, and stand alongside the most vulnerable in our community. *This year we hosted or participated in 9 community events, participated in 12 community organizing meetings or trainings, and gave \$40,466 to community organizations.***



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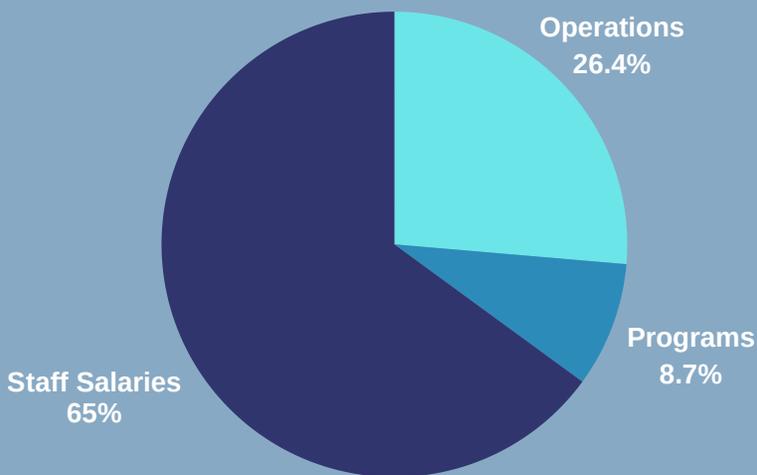
# CONSIDERING OUR EXPENSES

## ONE WAY TO CONSIDER OUR EXPENSES:

Look at how the money is used in specific budget categories. *We see that, like many other nonprofits, most of our budget goes to staff costs. We are grateful to have a dedicated staff team at UU Nashua!*

- **Staff Salaries** includes compensation and benefits for staff members.
- **Operations** includes administration, communications, stewardship, UUA annual program fund, and property. Property is the largest portion of operations.
- **Programs** encompasses Worship, Music, Faith Formation, Membership, Social Justice, and Leadership.

## BUDGET CATEGORIES



## ANOTHER WAY TO CONSIDER OUR EXPENSES:

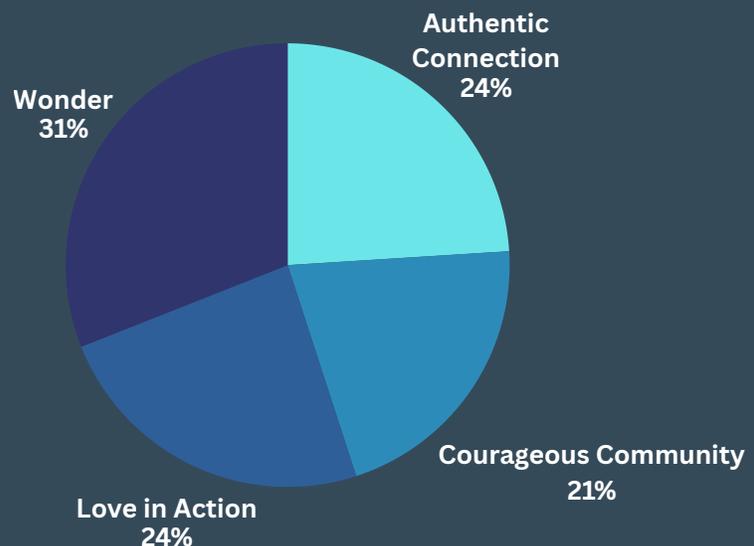
Look at how the money is used in support of our values. Our programs and services directly reflect our mission and values.

**Mission:** We are a welcoming community of faith, inspiring lives of wonder, generosity, and courage, serving the world through love in action.

Values:

- **Wonder** includes Worship, Music, and half of the Faith Formation program.
- **Authentic Connection** includes half of the Faith Formation program, Welcoming, Fellowship, and Pastoral Care.
- **Courageous Community** includes Leadership, Stewardship, Communications, and our Intern program.
- **Love in Action** includes our Social Justice and Service work.

## PROGRAM CATEGORIES



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# THE FUTURE BEGINS WITH US

We are grateful for our successful \$3M+ Capital Campaign that renovated, and renewed our beautiful 200-year-old campus. Now that most of the Capital Campaign Commitments have been paid, we are setting an ambitious \$450,000 goal for this year's Stewardship Campaign. We hope you will be a part of helping us meet that goal!

## Stewardship Goal: \$450,000

- 5-10% annual growth in pledges is the minimum needed to maintain our ministries each year
- This allows for the impact of inflation, including this year a 20% increase of UUA Health Insurance premiums for our staff



## What is a pledge?

Each year, our budget is built off the pledges we receive from our members and friends during our annual Stewardship Campaign. Your pledge is a promise to support our ministries and programs throughout the congregational year with a financial gift. When you make your annual pledge, you tell us how much you will be contributing during our church fiscal year, July 1 through June 30. We ask that you make your pledge annually because we make a new budget every year, and we need to know the amount of funds that will be available to support our programs and ministries.

## How to pledge?

You can make a pledge using the enclosed pledge form or our online form for the upcoming 2026-2027 church year by March 8, 2026. **Making your pledge on or before March 8, 2026 will enable us to prepare a balanced budget for 2026-2027. Thank you for all that you give to our church community!**



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# CONSIDERING YOUR PLEDGE

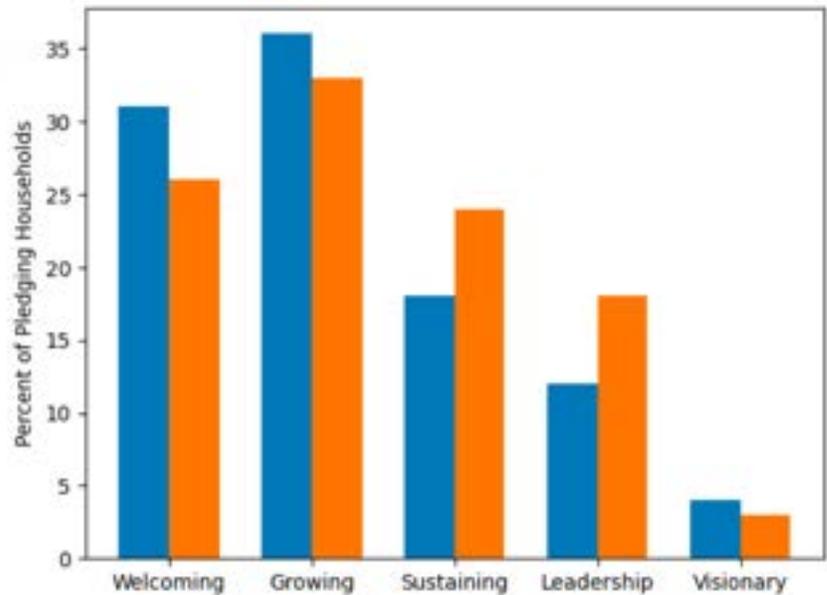
## How much should I pledge?

How much to pledge is an individual decision based on your ability to give and passion for supporting the work of the congregation. This chart gives you a sense of the different giving levels in the congregation.

Giving Level	Annual Amount	Monthly Amount	Description
Welcoming	up to \$500	up to \$40	Participation and early belonging, giving generously with limited means
Growing	\$600-\$1500	\$50-\$120	Growing Commitment
Sustaining	\$1600-\$3500	\$130-\$290	Core sustaining support; backbone of our church
Leadership	\$3600-\$10,000	\$300-\$850	Shared responsibility for congregational stability
Visionary	over \$10,000	\$1000 +	Enables breadth, flexibility, and long-term resilience

**Every pledge matters. We share our time, talents, and treasure in different ways.**

As this graph shows, at the moment we are over reliant on a few generous donors at the Visionary level. Currently 25% of pledges account for 75% of total dollars raised. We invite you—if life circumstances allow—to consider stepping up to the next pledge level. This helps ensure stability as we move into our next 200 years.



Blue Bar (left) shows current percentage of pledges at each pledge level.  
Orange Bar (right) shows desirable long term financially stable percentage



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For more information, go to the Stewardship page on our website at <https://uunashua.org/give/stewardship/>

# THE FUTURE BEGINS WITH US

If you have questions, please contact the stewardship team at [stew@uunashua.org](mailto:stew@uunashua.org)

## UUCN Stewardship Team

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**Unitarian Universalist Church of Nashua**

