

MVUU 2021-2022 Stewardship Campaign: Let's Grow Our Love

Our community matters to us now more than ever. Through an unprecedented global crisis, our relationships and mutual support have sustained us. We have found our new building and transformed it into our new home with careful attention. We have newfound strength and collaboration with the Baja 4. We are rebuilding our Religious Education program. And, at a time when we could have acted from fear, we acted on faith: we learned new technologies, we made space for change, and we kept showing up for each other.

We have shown up for each other in big and small ways. Here are some of our stories:

"This year has been especially tough for Desiree and me. We are here in Tucson without any immediate family and have relied on MVUU to be our 'church' family for years. This has been a challenging time for Desiree because of the isolation and her special needs, and she considers MVUU to be her family and looked forward to attending services every Sunday. We are fortunate to be included in a Caring Hearts Circle that has been supportive and enlightening. When I had a medical procedure they insisted that I let them take care of me in the form of delivered food. It was something I didn't realize I really needed, and I am so grateful. Fellowship Hour on Sunday allows us to get to know others in our congregation in a much more personal way and provides listening ears and comfort when needed. MVUU has truly been our lifeline in these trying times." -Jan Hatunen

"I feel our Zoom times with various groups have been seminal in getting us through this difficult time by cultivating a closeness and a depth of communication that is so necessary to our spirits. We are actualizing strong bonds, spiritual bonds, with one another." Cynthia Chaffee

"During this challenging year I have really felt engaged and supported by our congregation in many ways. I was privileged to be a part of the Ambiance Team where I was able to utilize my creative talents to help create a wonderful space where we will eventually be able to worship together. I participated in Beloved Conversations where I was exposed to a wide variety of resources to further my understanding and skills related to dismantling racism. I have really enjoyed getting to know my fellow congregants via Zoom each Sunday. But I have to say the most I have felt supported has been the community's positive response to my recent change in name and pronouns." Lee McMeley

"MVUU sustains me through community, especially personal contact in small groups. In coffee hour breakouts I get to know new people. In Caring Heart Circles we share our experiences and provide support. We vary in age and background, but we share values that make conversation easy, yet deep and meaningful. The Sunday Book Lover's Group provides an intellectual challenge. Finally work with church committees provides continued contact and rewarding work. These intimate small group experiences are increasing our allegiance to MVUU. Our 2021-22 pledge will reflect this." Steve Bottorff

No doubt the past year has been an extreme challenge for all of us with far too much loss of hugging, dining together and communal gathering. Travel restrictions have

curtailed bonding with our families of origin, especially affecting milestone events such as births, weddings and funerals. We miss those family gatherings!

But in life even clouds as dense as these have a silver lining. Our MVUU experience this past year has been, surprisingly, deeper than ever in many ways. Baja 4 services have broadened our exposure to talented UU Ministers and musicians, as well as created a sense of connection to the larger UU community. But more importantly, the zoom social hours have put us into cozy breakout rooms with some MVUU congregants we previously did not know well, forging new friendships. And, the anticipatory excitement surrounding preparations for the opening of our new church building fills us with joy and gratitude.

We LOVE MVUU more than ever and it nourishes us more than ever! Thank you all for touching and trusting us so powerfully and intimately! Ray Deeney and Michelle Vedus-Deeney

Now is the time for us to grow our love for each other, our community, and our world. We are on the precipice of the next phase in our congregation's life: an upcoming settled minister search, budding multi-generational programming, impactful justice programs, and life-sustaining ministries. All, of course, within a new building we adore and an online community we have grown to love. We have not only survived, in many ways, we have thrived.

Our Visions for Next Year

So, what would it mean to “grow our love”? What are the ministries, programs, activities, and offerings that make even *more* love possible in our community and world?

Budgets are moral documents: they tell us what we value and what matters most to us. **Last year's (2020-2021) budget funded our support for each other this year:** it allowed us to raise all staff pay to the recommended UUA guidelines. It allowed us to keep all of our staff employed through the pandemic. These staff led us in shared ministries of music, pastoral care, justice, and religious (and technological!) education. This budget also helped us transform our building into a desert home and oasis.

For this year's (2021-2022) budget, we asked our MVUU leaders for their aspirations in the coming year. What are the resources they would need to do their ministries in MVUU, in our community, and world? What could we be if we had what we needed?

The visions of our MVUU leaders for 2021-2022 are inspiring:

- Our **Board** imagines more funding for leadership development, volunteer recognition, and funding our congregation's presence at local and national UU events, like General Assembly; we imagine a successful Settled Minister search as we celebrate the end of Rev. Samantha's ministry and we welcome a new leader to our community for our future
- Our **Justice Coordinating Committee** imagines making committed offerings to organizations we partner with like UUJAZ, while providing funding up front for new teams

like Contigo (immigration justice) and our new Flowing Wells Neighborhood Schools Initiative

- Our **Religious Exploration Program** imagines growing in staff and staff time, including programs for families who have joined us this year, as well as funding innovative Adult Education programs committed to outreach and learning about the stories of our local community
- Our **Pastoral Care Team** imagines more funding for supporting each of us in times of grief and celebration with meals, cards, flowers, and events that help us all stay connected and cared for.
- Our **Hospitality Team** is imagining a future where we begin to gather in person again, possibly starting with outside gatherings; they imagine creating a welcoming environment in any season-- imagining BBQs, movie nights with popcorn on the patio, and Open Mic nights in the community
- Our **Music and Worship Teams** imagine, for the first time in a long time, the pleasure of a space that is entirely our own: crafting monthly sacred space with art and altars in the sanctuary, welcoming guest musicians and speakers to our stage, and offering innovative Sunday services that touch our hearts and inspire our minds.

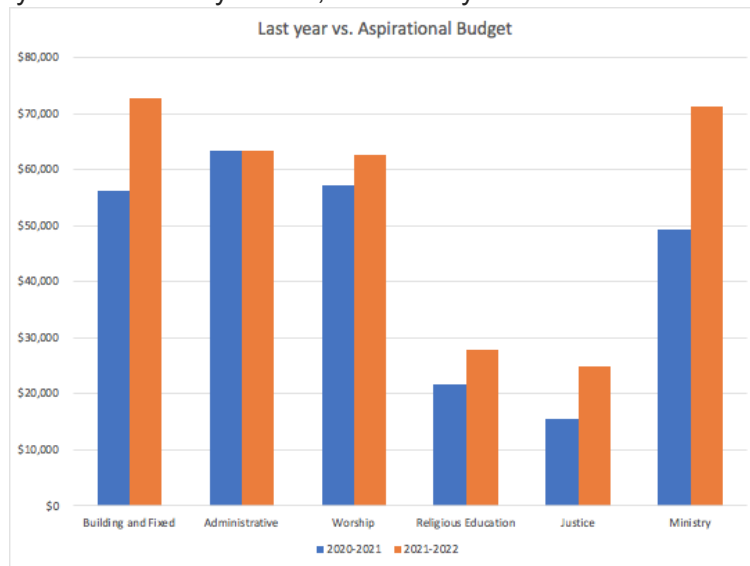
The Ask

These aspirations of our staff and our leaders invite each of us to consider our role in growing this community. This year, inspired by their aspirations, we are proposing a bold budget of \$323,000 . This is an increase of \$60,000 from our previous year's budget.

To meet this goal, we are inviting you to do two things:

1. **Consider Making a “Fair Share Giving” Pledge:** To meet this goal, we are inviting each of us to consider a “Fair Share Giving” pledge-- a pledge based on your annual adjusted income or annual spending, typically within 2%-10% of your adjusted income. A guide to what your “MVUU Fair Share Giving” pledge might be is included in this Stewardship packet. If this pledge is not possible for you, we invite you to consider an increase in your pledge giving that is meaningful to you.

2. **Consider Your Role in Growing Love at MVUU:** Please consider taking time to sit with what this community has meant in your life, and what you would like it to mean in your



life going forward.

- How has this community cared for and sustained you?
- How have you been part of caring for and sustaining others in our community?
- What love do you want to see grow among us and beyond us?
- How do you want to be part of growing that love?

We hope your meeting with your visiting Steward is a time of connection to reflect on these questions together. We hope that the financial contribution you make to this year's campaign is meaningful to you-- that it inspires you as a member or friend in this community and that you feel your investment in our shared future deepen.

We are grateful for how you have shown up for us this year. We hope you have felt cared for.

Now: let's grow this love we have found, together.

In the spirit of love and shared leadership,

Your MVUU 2021-2022 Stewardship Team:

Chuck Tatum

Steve Bottorff

Lisa Ponder-Gilby

Conrad Paul, Board Treasurer

Ann Bowling, Board Ex-Officio

Rev. Samantha Wilson, Ex-Officio