



Message from the Board

Do you remember that high school science class when you learned how flowering plants grow? The role of soil holding the plant and water transporting essential minerals through the root system was amazing enough. And there is that remarkable process called photosynthesis, where photons of light combine with water and carbon dioxide in plants leaves to create glucose necessary for the growth of plants, not to mention creating fresh oxygen that we breathe. These ingredients and processes are essential for the growth and evolution of life on this beautiful blue-green planet.

Our beautiful Nanaimo Unitarian Fellowship has also grown and evolved over many decades due to a number of key elements and processes. These include the vision of our founding members, sustained volunteer effort, the purchase of our building, moving from a lay-led to a mostly minister-led fellowship and addressing current social justice issues including sexual orientation and gender identity and homelessness.

Annual pledges are critically important to the growth and evolution of our ever-evolving fellowship, beyond maintaining our Townsite Road home. Like photosynthesis in plants, your pledge dollars are transformed into meaningful and innovative services, often with original music pieces. Your pledge helps address social and environmental issues in keeping with our UU principles, attracting new families, hiring a new Director of Religious Education and eventually a new settled minister and much, much more.

I encourage each member to pledge generously. Every dollar raised helps our beloved Fellowship grow, thrive and evolve and always be relevant to these different and sometimes difficult times.

In fellowship.

Tony Turner, Board Chair

First Unitarian Fellowship of Nanaimo



Message from Reilly Yeo

Talking about money is tough. It's awkward or even scary. Money talks, but we don't usually talk about it!

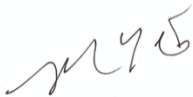
What I encourage you to do is take pledge season as an opportunity to reflect on how our UU values shape your relationship to money. In this culture where we are almost always taught to believe we don't have enough – that we can never have enough – we don't often sit down and think about how many choices we actually make with money, about all the ways that spending money is a chance to express our values.

A chance to commit to thriving, not just surviving, wherever possible. Thriving means moving out of a place of scarcity, into a place where we know we have what we need to live lives full of integrity. Full of commitment to justice, compassion and equity. To acceptance of each other and encouragement to spiritual growth. To the free and responsible search for truth and meaning.

I know that the Unitarian Fellowship is a place that provides those core elements of our faith. Where we help each other move from scarcity, survival mentality, to abundance, thriving mentality. Then we live our values together, in community, and create more love in the world.

Whatever you give, whether it's money, time, or your loving presence, I truly treasure it. Thank you to all who make our thriving together possible, and who will continue to do so.

Faithfully yours,



Reilly



Message from Your Canvass Team

Dear Members and Friends,

I am filled with gratitude for the unwavering support and dedication each of you has shown to our beloved fellowship during this church year. Today, I am writing to you with a heartfelt request: to “Join the Drive to Thrive” and pledge a donation to the fellowship. In these times of boundless potential and growth, your support is more critical than ever.

The Canvass will kick off on Sunday March 2nd and will conclude with a celebration on Sunday, March 30th. For those of you who are new to this Canvass process, this is the time when all members and supporting friends are asked to make a financial commitment or pledge to support the Fellowship during the coming year, July 1, 2025, to June 30, 2026. In order to make plans and develop a realistic budget, it is key to have everyone complete the online pledge form or reply to the email that accompanied this brochure to indicate your level of financial commitment for the coming fiscal year.

The Board has advised our goal for Canvass this year is \$85,000.

Here are a few reasons why your pledge can make a profound difference:

Strengthening Our Community

Our Unitarian Fellowship is more than just a place of worship. It is a sanctuary where friendships are forged, support is extended, and love is shared.

Enhancing Worship and Education

With your support, we can enhance our worship services and educational programs, enriching the spiritual lives of our congregants. Offering diverse learning opportunities are just a few ways your pledge can help us grow and thrive.

Ensuring Financial Stability

Finally, your pledge provides the financial stability needed to sustain our Fellowship’s operations and initiatives. It allows us to plan for the future with confidence, knowing that we have the resources to support our mission and vision. I invite you to “Join the Drive to Thrive”.

Every contribution, no matter the size, is a testament to our collective strength and shared purpose. Together, we can build a thriving community where love, faith, and service flourish.

Thank you for your continued generosity and support.

With heartfelt blessings,

Larry Boldt

and your Canvass team: Don Gayton, Taylore Sinclair, John Soer, Lois Peterson



Financial Summary

FIRST UNITARIAN FELLOWSHIP OF NANAIMO				
BUDGET SUMMARY				
FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2025				
Pledging is critical to our success.				
Pledges represent 79% of our annual Revenue (2024 - 85%)				
Program costs represent 71% of Expenses (2024 - 80%)				
REVENUE				
	Pledges		\$82,000	79.2%
	Hall Rentals		10,000	9.7%
	Fundraising and donations		8,500	8.2%
	Other		3,100	2.9%
			<u>\$103,600</u>	<u>100.0%</u>
EXPENSES				
	Minister		\$12,500	12.1%
	Spiritual Explore - child + youth		10,200	9.9%
	Choir		12,200	11.8%
	Office Administrator		18,300	17.7%
	Sunday Services		8,700	8.5%
	Other programs		7,450	10.7%
	- Outreach, Communications, Lay Chaplain and others			
	- Sub-total - Programs		69,350	67.2%
	Other Administrative costs		26,350	25.6%
	- CUC dues, Mtce, Technology			
AMORTIZATION OF ASSETS - non-cash			7,400	7.2%
	- allowance for asset replacement			
			<u>\$103,100</u>	<u>100.0%</u>

