

**First Unitarian Fellowship of Nanaimo
2025 - 2026 Canvass**

Making Room for More



Welcome to the First Unitarian Fellowship of Nanaimo
Annual Canvass/Pledge Drive

Presented by your Canvass Team:
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Message from the Board Chair

The First Unitarian Fellowship of Nanaimo has been my anchor for the last ten years, and several years before that. I have seen it grow from a small lay-led discussion group in rented accommodation to its present form of owning its own property now led by our new, vibrant minister, Rev Ashley.

Many members, friends and visitors have talked about finding a home here. A home needs to be attractive from the outside and warm and bright and welcoming to all who walk in the door - from babes in arms (now where did I get that expression!!) to our elders (some of whom are in wheelchairs or use walkers), from nth generation Canadians to the newest arrivals in our country - in essence, to the rainbow of people who exist.

How can we do this?

One way is to offer our suggestions and our physical help (snacks after the service, help in the kitchen, greeting, serving on the board, on a committee or a one-off task that needs completing).

Another way is to help by pledging as much as you are able to in order to provide the funds to make our Fellowship a place that is renowned for its inviting ambience, its supportive, nurturing and stimulating atmosphere. A place where social and environmental issues are addressed in line with our UU principles.

This is where your pledge comes in. Your contribution enables the Fellowship board to plan ongoing expenditures and fund improvements over the year taking advantage of the weekly, monthly and yearly support that you all, as members of our "family", so thoughtfully pledged for the next year.

If you would like to see our Fellowship grow in numbers, offering a vibrant children's program and a warm and hospitable environment to meet in please pledge generously. Every dollar you give helps us to be more connected to this changing and sometimes upsetting world.

Thank you to everyone,

Brenda Stewart
Board Chair,
First Unitarian Fellowship of Nanaimo

Message from the Minister

Dear Fellowship,

This is the time of year that our community begins the process of planning our budget for the next fiscal year.

This might sound dry and boring, but it truly can be the most exciting time for us. How will we live our values this year? What good will we accomplish together? How will we work together to live our mission of bringing compassion, discovery, and social justice to life?

The lines in our budget represent real actions that we can take together to create opportunities to express and develop these values, whether for our personal transformation, the strengthening of our community, or in connection with the wider world.

Having a clear view of our budget and what it can enable us to accomplish allows us to plan our adult and children's programs, Sunday services, improvements on our space, and outreach to the community. This is why we work to have a budget plan at the beginning of the year, not for lines in a spreadsheet.

I invite you to consider your pledge this year in the spirit of imagination, expanding our mission, and the ways this congregation serves the community and the wider world. We have a faith that can be lifesaving to everyone who has a deep need for a spiritual community that won't insist on them leaving a part of themselves at the door. This is our opportunity to envision the ways we can realize that faith in the coming year.

With optimism for our shared journey,
Rev. Ashley

Message from the Treasurer

Someone told me that it's March already! As the expression goes, "My how time flies." As I sit here typing this, I am thinking that it seems like just yesterday that we were making our annual pledge to our fellowship.

I think that you will agree, a lot has happened in the past year. Both outside of our Fellowship, and within our Fellowship. Let's leave the outside talk for coffee hour, and today I will focus on our beloved First Unitarian Fellowship of Nanaimo.

Since I joined the board as your treasurer, we have seen some exciting changes.

- Major renovations of the shelter.
- Turning the shelter operations over to Nanaimo Family Life Association (NFLA).
- Adding a specialized school for autistic children in the other half of our building. Let Me Be Me.
- We brought in Reilly Yeo and Rev. Debra Faulk to enhance our Sunday Services. (I think you will agree with me when I say that they did a fantastic job for us!).
- And then last year in June our ministerial search committee informed us that they had an applicant for our vacant minister's position. They then began the work of writing and securing a contract with Rev. Ashley Burczak, who began working with us at the end of November. Our Fellowship rallied around and have made her and her family very welcome in our community.

So how do we top that?

Our Canvass theme for the month of March is "Making Room for More." What does that mean to you? Our goal is to grow our congregation. And in particular, the next generation of UU's. Your board, along with Rev. Ashley will be working hard to employ a qualified Children's Religious Educator. As you know Rev. Ashley has two elementary school aged children, and we anticipate that we will see growth in the number of families with children over the next few years.

We have learned some valuable lessons about being a landlord. Like with the shelter, there comes a time when we can't manage the duties with volunteers alone. We are now hiring a part time handyperson who can help with the many things that can arise with our building and with our tenants.

Another thing that is being discussed is a refresh of our sanctuary. New paint? Different lighting ...? We have found some safety concerns in the children's room that are being addressed as well.

To be able to do these things, we look to your continued support. So, the title of our pledge drive, "Making Room for More", is quite apt this year.

Thank you for everything you do to make our community welcoming to all.

Yours in love and service,

Larry Boldt

Treasurer

First Unitarian Fellowship of Nanaimo

2026/2027 Budget Summary

FIRST UNITARIAN FELLOWSHIP OF NANAIMO			
BUDGET SUMMARY			
FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2027			
Pledging is critical to our success.			
Pledges represent 79% of our annual Revenue			
Program costs represent 81.2% of Expenses			
REVENUE			
Pledges	\$100,000	79.2%	
Hall Rentals	13,000	9.7%	
Fundraising and donations	18,000	8.2%	
Other	5,400	2.9%	
Total Revenue	\$136,400	100.0%	
EXPENSES			
Minister	\$80,000	44.9%	
Spiritual Explore - child + youth	13,200	7.4%	
Choir	13,325	7.5%	
Office Administrator	24,750	13.9%	
Sunday Services	4,000	2.2%	
Other programs	9,350	5.2%	
- Outreach, Communications, Lay Chaplain and others			
- Sub-total - Programs	144,625	81.2%	
Other Administrative costs	33,550	18.8%	
- CUC dues, Maint, Technology			
AMORTIZATION OF ASSETS - non-cash	0	0.0%	
- allowance for asset replacement			
Total Expenses	\$178,175	100.0%	