



Priceless 2021

VanUCC STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN

Vancouver United Church of Christ

Dear Members and Friends of Vancouver UCC

We ask you to think and pray about your financial commitment to our church in 2021. For those of you who were able to give faithfully in 2020, we want to thank you. Much has changed in our life together this past year, and yet your ongoing financial support has allowed us to adapt to the many challenges of 2020. Although church life will undoubtedly continue to need to adapt in 2021, we think you'll agree that there are many reasons to continue supporting, or increasing, your financial commitment to Vancouver UCC, including:

Gratitude: If you will reflect on all the ways Vancouver UCC and the relationships you have formed here have made your life better, more meaningful, more faithful, we think you'll agree that you have much to be grateful to Vancouver UCC for. Priceless!

Investing in a better world: Stewardship is sometimes thought of as "funding the church budget", and to some extent that's true. But we believe it's better defined as a chance to join with others in an investment in a better world, i.e. God's Realm. The world needs a voice of compassion and justice. Look at the enclosed brochure describing how Vancouver UCC will be making God's Realm more present in 2021. That's a very special investment opportunity, totally different from investing in our personal security. Priceless!

The Priceless Pearl: *"...the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it."* (Matt 13:45-46). We spend our financial resources on many things like housing, food, and health insurance. They're important, of course. And sometimes we're led to believe that our pledge to the church is "charity", a commitment we make with whatever's left over, no different from supporting other nonprofit organizations. We don't think so; this is priceless, like the pearl.

Maybe you have other reasons to make this commitment. Whatever they are, this is your opportunity to join with 100 +/- others to provide the resources for God, working through all of us, to continue and even increase our ability to be a force for creating a better world. Let's be sure that Vancouver UCC has the resources to be able to take advantage of the opportunities that come along in 2021. Please complete your enclosed pledge form and return it to the church **by November 23, 2020** using the preaddressed envelope.

Trusting an unknown future to a known God,

Your Stewardship Team: ***Jan Foulke, Richard Trefren, Gary Roberts & Sandy Mathis (Chair)***



How Much Should I give?

This is a question only you can answer. Only you know your resources, your obligations, and your capacity for giving. That said, here is some guidance and ways to frame your prayers about this question.

- Some people find guidance in knowing about the gifts that others have made. For the 2020 Pledge Year there were 98 pledges for a total of \$210,000, an average of \$2,148 per pledge. The median (equal number of pledges more and less than the amount) was \$1,800. Those pledges represented 80% of the 2020 operating budget; the balance of operating expenses were paid by rental and other income sources.
- Some people want to set a goal for their stewardship investment based on giving a proportion of their income. Others want to increase that proportion over time. (A traditional “tithe” is 10% of your income.) On the other side of this sheet you’ll find a guide to proportional giving that you may find helpful.
- Some people want to increase their pledges each year if they can, understanding that the cost of building maintenance and staffing do not stay static, or for personal stewardship reasons. If you’d like to be reminded what you pledged in 2020, please contact Jan Foulke. Jan serves as Financial Secretary and holds all those records confidentially. You can also find it on the giving statements that Jan has mailed you.
- If you’ve never pledged before, or if you’re relatively new to this practice, and you have questions about what this is all about, why a pledge is helpful for planning the church’s ministry, feel free to contact any member of the Stewardship Team. Your pledge is a personal financial commitment to the church, but not an obligation. If your circumstances change during 2021, we just ask that you keep the Financial Secretary informed.
- The 2021 operating budget is still being prepared, but as this letter is being prepared, we already know that:
 - The 2020 budget did not include any raises for our wonderful staff
 - Several items of building maintenance needs have arisen
 - However we gather for worship in 2021, covid precautions are likely to increase costs.

As of this writing, it appears these increased costs of ministry will call for an approximate 7% increase in pledges. Additional pledged resources would allow us to take advantage of new ministry opportunities and be more prepared for unexpected expenses.

However you arrive at the pledge amount that is right for your family, your Stewardship Team and Council will gratefully receive the amount you offer after prayerful consideration as the amount that is right for you, the amount you wish to invest in God’s Realm, i.e. a better world, through Vancouver UCC in 2021.



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A Guide to Proportional Giving

Annual Giving if Percentage Is:

Income	1%	3%	5%	7%	10%	15%
\$10,000	\$100	\$300	\$500	\$700	\$1,000	\$1,500
\$15,000	\$150	\$450	\$750	\$1,050	\$1,500	\$2,250
\$20,000	\$200	\$600	\$1,000	\$1,400	\$2,000	\$3,000
\$30,000	\$300	\$900	\$1,500	\$2,100	\$3,000	\$4,500
\$40,000	\$400	\$1,200	\$2,000	\$2,800	\$4,000	\$6,000
\$50,000	\$500	\$1,500	\$2,500	\$3,500	\$5,000	\$7,500
\$75,000	\$750	\$2,250	\$3,750	\$5,250	\$7,500	\$11,250
\$100,000	\$1,000	\$3,000	\$5,000	\$7,000	\$10,000	\$15,000
\$150,000	\$1,500	\$4,500	\$7,500	\$10,500	\$15,000	\$22,500
\$200,000	\$2,000	\$6,000	\$10,000	\$14,000	\$20,000	\$30,000
\$250,000	\$2,500	\$7,500	\$12,500	\$17,500	\$25,000	\$37,500