

# **THE BRUU ANNUAL STEWARDSHIP CANVASS FY 2024-2025**

## **What is a Canvass?**

As a lay-led congregation, we know that our congregants (Members and Friends) are our greatest asset of time and talent. Like all self-sustaining organizations, we depend on and are grateful for your input to determine BRUU's priorities, which lead our administrative and budget planning for each coming year. And we recognize that our primary source of financial support for the many good things we do comes from your pledges.

Each March, the BRUU Canvass Team asks Members and Friends to support BRUU through a personal pledge for the coming fiscal year. Our theme is *Joy at the Crossroads!* expressing the joy we share as we strive for positive change for our families, our communities, and the world.

## **Why are you encouraged to read these documents?**

During the canvass period which officially ends Friday April 13, you are asked to demonstrate your support for BRUU through the giving of a pledge. Please see resources provided to help you determine the amount of your pledge and whether you will make your pledge online or via the attached paper form. A form is also available should you choose to authorize automatic withdrawal(s) from your bank.

Once the Board has determined, from the pledges received from the canvass, an estimate of funds available for the coming fiscal year, a proposed budget will be prepared and submitted to the congregation. Members will be asked to approve the final Congregational Budget at the Annual Congregational meeting which follows the June 2 Sunday service.

## **So why do we pledge?**

We pledge because everything we do, every program and service we provide and every way in which we connect, depends on the strength of your pledges. Each pledge helps us plan the vital programs and activities that are integral to maintaining our beloved community as a safe place for seeking and service and providing a voice for love and social justice in the larger community.

## **What are BRUU priorities in this Aspirational Budget?**

The budget is focused on supporting our priorities as outlined in our Strategic Plan:

- Infrastructure
- Community Building
- Social Justice
- Lifespan Religious Education
- Music

## **What more do I need to know about this Aspirational Budget**

The Board proposes a pledge drive goal of \$375K, a 7% increase from last year, based on a realistic anticipation of pledges. This Aspirational Budget supports:

- An addition of a Sexton position to maintain the building, and
- An addition of Disability Insurance, a long-needed benefit for all staff, and
- An increase in funds set aside for capital improvements.

Each year, the Board faces the challenge of having to make some tough decisions. We recognize that we can't continue to tap into operational and capital reserves as we have in recent years. We're ultimately responsible for making sure that our expenses are balanced by income.

The following reductions in our FY25 budget will ensure that we have met that responsibility:

- A payment of only one-half of our assessed contribution to the UUA (Unitarian Universalists Association) for this fiscal year.
- A slight reduction in staff hours for our two full-time staff members (the Minister and Director of Lifespan Religious Education). The Board expects that this move will allow us to still support a 38-hour full-time role with a reduction in responsibilities. This also includes a small reduction in professional development for full-time staff.

If the proposed income goal is not met through anticipated pledges, the board will have to consider further reductions in staff hours and responsibilities.

We want to ensure that our budget is meeting our commitment to the stated priorities before we attempt to explore the possibility of larger aspirational budgets. Thank you for your support.

Pledges	\$375,000
Auction	\$30,000
Fundraisers	\$3,500
Rentals & Leases	\$45,875
Donations	\$9,000
Commercial Building	\$8,535
<b>Sources of Funding</b>	<b>\$471,910</b>

**Please be sure to mark your calendar!  
Annual Congregational Meeting  
Sunday, June 2 (after Sunday Service)**

**BRUU FY24-25 Aspirational Operating Budget  
Sources of Funding**

