Unitarian Universalism is a faith tradition based on the congregational model. Each congregation is a distinct organization that determines its own budget, hires staff and sets policies according to its local traditions. Although the ALUUC pays dues to support the UU Association, we receive no direct financial support from the UUA.

The ALUUC began in 1953 with 19 members who envisioned a home for religious liberals that would enshrine Lincoln's ideals. Since then, we have grown to over 275 members, constructed our current building with an expansion for a new sanctuary planned. We have called a full-time minister and hired several part-time staff.

The ALUUC strives to maintain a diverse membership that respects differing views. We foster action in the interest of justice, honesty, and understanding in our community and in the world. We seek through our fellowship to nurture and support each other both in our human needs and in our search for spiritual fulfillment. The Congregation serves as a visible example of tolerance and acceptance.

We are a “welcoming” congregation celebrating the lives, relationships, and contributions of our LGBTQ members and friends. We affirm and promote their full participation in the leadership, ministry, responsibilities, and blessings of our congregation’s life and in the community.

The future looks bright, but ALUUC needs to remain financially strong to achieve its mission. The congregation benefits by the donations from everyone. A financial contribution, consistent with the ability to pay, is one of the responsibilities of each church member. We ask that every member support the work of the ALUUC through pledging.

**ALUUC Pledge Statistics**

- ALUUC currently has 220 “pledge units” (individuals and families).
- FY20 pledges ranged from $25 to $19,000. The average pledge was $1,734. Are you average?
- In FY20 56% of the member units pledged. This year we hope to see 75% of our members pledge.

**84% of ALUUC income is from pledged contributions.**

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**Levels of giving**

**Supporter:** The congregation is a significant part of my spiritual and intellectual life that I want to support. My fair share financial commitment starts at 2% of my income and rises to 6% as my income and capacity rise.

**Sustainer:** The congregation is my central community; I am committed to sustaining the programs and ministries of my congregation. My fair share financial commitment starts at 3% of my income and rises to 7% as my income and capacity rise.

**Visionary:** My commitment is a clear demonstration of the unique importance of this congregation and of my spiritual principles. My fair share financial commitment starts at 5% of my income and rises to 9% as my income and capacity rise.

**Transformer:** I am deeply committed to the congregation; my contribution provides fuel for transformation and is part of my spiritual practices in living out my UU Principles. My fair share financial commitment represents 10% of my income.

Wherever you find the right level, revisit it periodically and reassess whether it’s still the right level for you or if you are ready to move to a deeper level of support.

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**Affirmation**

- I will pledge a specific amount each week or month, and give more if circumstances allow.
- I recognize that there are direct costs to ALUUC for UUA dues. I have a commitment toward fair compensation for the ALUUC minister and staff.
- Unitarian Universalism is important to me and I want to support the mission of ALUUC.
- ALUUC is a significant part of my life and promotes my spiritual growth.
- Unitarian Universalism is central to my identity and I am committed to sustaining our programs to foster and promote Unitarian Universalism.
- I want ALUUC to remain a beacon of liberal religion in the Springfield area.

A financial commitment by every member will ensure that the Mission, Strategic Visions and Goals of ALUUC can be achieved.
Why Give?
ALUUC is a welcoming congregation for all people, regardless of their race, ethnicity, religion, politics or sexual orientation. We seek community and engage in an individual search for truth. Members work toward economic, social, and environmental justice. ALUUC offers many avenues for growth and making connections including:

Avenues to search for truth
- Sunday Sermons
- Labyrinth Walks
- Group Meditation
- Pastoral Counseling
- Humanist Group Discussions
- Study and support groups

Modeling to respect the web of nature
- Improving energy efficiency of the facility including the use of solar panels
- Cultivating the Prairie Garden
- Recycling

Guidance for the next generation
- Religious education
- Senior High Youth Group
- Eco Camp
- Whole Life classes

Opportunities to work for social justice
- Advocacy for causes/monthly Change for Change collections
- Supporting the homeless
- Collaborating with local social justice advocates and organizations
- Racial Justice Project
- UU the Vote

Community and Fellowship
- Sunday Services
- Pastoral Care
- Potlucks & Coffee Hours
- Circle Dinners
- Covenant Groups
- Game and Movie Nights
- Concerts and Coffee Houses
- Seasonal events & parties

Where does my pledge go?

Expenses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Denomination dues</td>
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<tr>
<td>Facilities</td>
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<td>Minister Compensation</td>
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<td>Program</td>
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<tr>
<td>Religious Education</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outreach and Inreach</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Finance</td>
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<tr>
<td>Office</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Personnel</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

About Your Pledge
If all members contribute generously, our goal will be easily met. We fully appreciate that sometimes it’s hard to know what’s reasonable, especially if money is tight and making ends meet is a real challenge.

Consider this: if you regularly drink a gourmet coffee or soft drink, you could set some of that aside and donate the savings to ALUUC. Whether that results in contributing $5/week, $10/month or even $100/year, it can and will make a difference!

Arthur Ashe once said: “From what we get, we can make a living; what we give, however, makes a life.”

Giving of time is also essential to stewardship. There are many opportunities to volunteer at ALUUC. Please complete the back of your pledge card indicating your areas of interest.

“Give When the Spirit Says Give”

ALUUC
FY2021 Stewardship Drive

Abraham Lincoln
Unitarian Universalist Congregation
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Springfield, IL 62711
Phone 217-585-9550
Website: www.aluuc.org