

2025 Annual Stewardship Committee Report to Congregation

PLEDGE CAMPAIGN

A primary job of the Stewardship Committee is to coordinate the annual pledge campaign. The committee began working on the theme and details in the spring of 2025. The theme of Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Fort Wayne - The Next Chapter was chosen. A timeline was determined so that all details could be managed and the various tasks divided among committee members. A Volunteer Fair was held in early August following a Sunday Worship Service. This event was coordinated by co-chair Marsi Lawson. This event was held for the second year and was well attended. Many attendees signed up to learn more about committees and groups for which they had an interest. The Kick-Off to the Pledge Campaign was held in late August and was also well attended. The pledge goal that was given to the committee for 2026 was 185K.

Results as follows:

FINAL Total Pledges received=	\$201,791	*20% increase over 25 pledges
Total Pledging Units =	97	*19 new units over 25 pledges
Increase in amount pledged or new=	69	*71% were new or increased

The committee was extremely pleased with the results and response of the congregation.

RAISE RIGHT & KROGER REWARDS PROGRAM

Jan Boeglin did (and is still doing) an amazing job of highlighting this program and getting more & more people to sign up and use their Raise Right Apps. This is what we call “passive income” for the church.

1/1/25 – 12/31/25 Total Earnings = \$2,589.79

1/2/24 – 12/31/24 Total Earnings = \$1975.14

2025 showed a 31% increase.

A couple of additional items to note: In all of 2024, 19 people were earners. In all of 2025, there were 29 earners. *And with 66 “active” account holders, there is still plenty of room for improvement!

SHARE THE PLATE

UUCFW has just begun our third year of using this method to share the Sunday morning plate giving with various organizations nominated by and advocated by congregation members. Giving to other local organizations shows how we as a congregation are supporting our community and the good work being done. In 2025, SHARE THE PLATE gave a total of \$8,728.06 to (6) local organizations. Our church received the other half or \$8,728.06 for regular expenses. Since beginning this way of “Sunday morning sharing” we have been increasing the TOTAL amount the church is receiving (year-over-year) while also giving to the (6) organizations.

Each year a nomination form is provided by June 1st on the Church Center App and in hard copy on the Stewardship bulletin board by the kitchen. Each nomination must include an “advocate”, but nominations are open to any member or friend of UUCFW. *Exception is that current board members and stewardship committee members may not nominate organizations. Nominations are due no later than September 1st of each year.

At the 2025 November Congregational Meeting the following organizations were announced as the 2026 recipients of Share the Plate:

JAN/FEB - APRI/Philip Randolph & Charles Redd Institute	Dennis Shipley Advocate
MAR/APR – Wellspring	Lynn Lees Advocate
MAY/JUN – Save the Maumee	Marilyn Miars Advocate
JUL/AUG – The Center for Non-Violence	Pamela Martin-Diaz – Ad.
SEPT/OCT – Rocket House – Road to Recovery	Chris Tennant – Advocate
NOV/DEC – Little Rivers Wetlands	Cynthia Powers - Advocate

OTHER FUNDRAISING

The Jingle Bell Faire has remained the largest fundraiser for UUCFW. Member Patti Davis is the excellent coordinator of the big event and it did not disappoint in 2025 the JGF earned a total of \$6,399 for the church.

Some smaller and successful fundraisers were held for various reasons with committees and groups of the church. Those wishing to hold a fundraiser need to fill out the Fundraising/Special events form which can also be found on the Church Center App. Stewardship reviews these and passes along to the board or their final approval. We fielded about five of these requests in 2025.

Stewardship is always open to new ideas for churchwide fundraising ideas. We want your ideas but we will also need your help. We are still a small church and it takes lots of hands to pull off the work needed for successful fundraisers.

STEWARDSHIP MOMENT SPEAKERS

The coordinator for this was Elena Gil. Elena may have asked you to speak for a few minutes on a 1st Sunday about “your why” – why you give your time, talent, treasure to UUCFW. We are thankful for all excellent speakers in 2025 and look forward to more in 2026.

The Stewardship Committee in 2025 included co-chairs Ruth de Wit & Marsi Lawson, Andy Candor, Jan Boeglin, and Elena Gil. We enjoyed working with each other and for UUCFW.

Respectfully submitted,
Ruth de With (Co-Chair of 2025 Stewardship Committee)