



Hello Members, Supporting Friends and Frequent Visitors!

As we transition from winter into spring, we begin to spend more time outside in our beautiful North Florida environment. This reminds us of our seventh UU principle: "Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part." Our church has always prided itself on its environmental awareness and activism, and this year we choose to celebrate it. At the same time, we must not overlook all the vibrant ministries of our church -- religious, musical, pastoral and charitable as well as environmental -- under the inspired leadership of our new minister, William Levwood.

Every year we ask each member, supporting friend and frequent visitor in the congregation to make a financial commitment (pledge) for the upcoming fiscal year (July, 2019 through June, 2020) so that the Unitarian Universalist Church of Tallahassee (UUCT) can grow, nurture, and support programs and ministries that matter to us and to our community. This is called the annual canvass, and we are looking for your pledges. This year's canvass theme is *Race to the Future 2035*.

Why 2035? Because 2035 is the year in which:

- Tallahassee / Leon County aims to achieve net 100% renewable energy.
- Global warming, still accelerating, may well reach a critical tipping point.
- Young children in our congregation will just be graduating from college.

We ask you to reflect on the part you play in leaving the world a better place by 2035. For details, please explore the accompanying canvass brochure.

Of course, financial stewardship goes hand in hand with environmental stewardship. Accordingly, you will be assigned to one of eight pledge teams with an environmental motif. To help foster healthy competition among teams, the progress of each will be measured in two ways: (1) Pledges Received and (2) **Miles Per Gallon Equivalent (MPGE)**, explained fully on the reverse of this letter. Briefly, the greater your pledge, the greater the MPGE you will accumulate for yourself and your team. Who says our canvass can't be fun?

In addition to celebrating UUCT's environmental mission, we aim to increase our overall budget by 5%, with special emphasis on a 1.8% cost-of-living salary hike for our minister and especially for our valued staff. We also want to boost the office hours of our personable and incredibly productive office administrator, Suzanne Ripka.

So step outside, celebrate UUCT's environmental activism, and join the friendly competition for your vital pledge dollars. We need your help in making our 2019-20 canvass a success.

Your UUCT Canvass Committee:

Len Adams, Ev Anderson, Lynette Norr, Phyllis Thomson and Steve Urse.

## Race to the Future 2035: Scoring Your Pledge

How much should you pledge for our 2019-20 canvass? Tough question! Every pledging congregant's finances and commitment to UUCT is different.

As a useful starting place, you may wish to consult the accompanying Suggested Fair Share Contribution Guide, front and back. It portrays four increasing levels of financial support as a percentage of your income: **Speedwalker, Runner, Cyclist and E-Vehicle Driver**. Of course, every pledge matters! Whether you are a Speedwalker or Runner just starting your career, a mid-career Cyclist, or a retired E-Vehicle driver, your pledge will enhance UUCT's environmental stewardship and budget. (None of which precludes career-starting E-Vehicle Drivers or retired Speedwalkers!)

After determining the amount of your pledge, write it on the accompanying green-colored pledge form. In the middle of the form, you will also see three check boxes. **If applicable** (it's ok if none is pertinent), check one of them:

- Check here if you are a first-time pledger**
- Check here if you MATCH or EXCEED last year's pledge**
- Check here if you EXCEED last year's pledge by 5% or more; 10%**

With this information, your pledge will be **automatically** scored to determine your own special **Miles Per Gallon Equivalent (MPGE)** for yourself and your team. (Note: MPGE is the measurement used by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to compare the efficiency of all pure- and hybrid-electric vehicles).

### First-Time Pledger

Less Than \$300 .....	1 MPGE
\$300 or More.....	3 MPGE
\$750 or More.....	4 MPGE
\$1,250 or More.....	5 MPGE

### Returning Pledger

Less Than Last Year *.....	1 MPGE
Equal to or More Than Last Year .....	3 MPGE
5% or More Than Last Year.....	4 MPGE
10% or More Than Last Year .....	5 MPGE

\* No box checked

**We should be able to easily meet our 5% budget increase goal if most pledgers score 3 or 4 MPGE and most teams achieve an MPGE score in the high 40's or above.**