

LOVE GROW SERVE

Love *You're not meant to wait for it. You're not meant to search for it. You are meant to generate it.*

—Michael Bernard Beckwith

Love God; Love each other; Love ourselves. These are the simple instructions Jesus gave us. Unconditional love allows us to transcend and transform our current circumstances. As we see God in everything and everyone we learn to live with open hearts.

Grow *Don't go through life, grow through life.* —Eric Butterworth

There is a spark of the Divine in each one of us that is longing to know Itself more fully. Spiritual growth comes when we are willing to examine our thinking, beliefs, and lives, and find the courage to live more fully as our authentic selves.

Serve *The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in service to others.* —Mahatma Gandhi

When we give freely of our unique spiritual gifts—our ideas, our time, our expertise—we are giving in the same way God has given to us—graciously and abundantly. We are blessed and we are a blessing such that the world becomes a better place for everyone.

Dear Unity Family,

My annual letter launching our stewardship program is going to be a little different this year. Typically, I highlight positive messages and accomplishments to encourage your participation in the coming year, both as financial stewards and in your service commitments.

This year is different—our 2021 story is more complex than that. Our larger community, our Unity community, and our individual lives have been touched by a pandemic, by social and cultural transitions, by our own griefs and losses, and I would be remiss to deny those experiences by sharing only “good news.” It’s important to tell the entire story. Grace and peace to you all as we walk this path of learning and growing together.

And the entire story does include good news—when we look for it. Consider how Unity has made a difference in 2021:

- Our online gatherings continue to bless and inspire in this time of seeming isolation—the community and connection we consciously cultivate touches so many lives. We’ve attracted new participation from as far away as Ohio, Florida, The Gambia, The Congo, and France, blessing others in ways we never would have had we not been “obliged” to create our powerful online experience.
- Our online small groups and classes continue to bless us, individually and collectively as we grow in spiritual understanding together.
- And now, in the awareness that Unity of Bellevue has never been closed, on December 5, we reopen our building to in-person services and activities. I’m so looking forward to seeing as many of you as possible.

In all of these ways and even more, in the face of what would appear to be trying circumstances, Unity has come together all year long to continue to love God and one another, to grow in our spiritual understanding, and to serve the greater good. I believe our true character is revealed in the challenges of our lives and I am proud of the character our community has demonstrated as we have walked this path. On behalf of your staff and all our leaders here at Unity, I say thank you.

Just like any other, less complicated year, your willing and generous support of our community—your conscious and Spirit-resource giving—have made it all possible. Unity has been here to support and bless us through it all.

Stewardship is the prayerful work of financially supporting Unity so we can continue on this path of love, growth, and service. Stewardship grows you even as it grows our community. It is one way we practice opening our hearts and minds to what it means to fully participate in something larger than we are—opening to the possibility to love more fully, grow more consciously, and serve more graciously.

Unity Stewards make a conscious pledge to support individual and global spiritual awakening and transformation through the spiritual growth and development work we’re doing here at Unity. That’s a powerful vision and I invite you to step forward boldly in support of it.

This flyer is intended to answer your questions and provide support for your stewardship journey. Please feel free to contact me or any board member as you prayerfully review this and consider the difference you can make in this powerful work we are about here at Unity.

Love, gratitude, and blessings,





Love Grow Serve: Unity Stewardship Q&A

Why should I pledge?

At Unity we engage in giving as a spiritual practice, one that duplicates the giving nature of the Universal Presence we call God. We give because God gives, as active participants in the flow of good in our lives. We give as a declaration of our faith that we are abundantly supported by God, and as an expression of gratitude for what we have already received. We joyfully give to our Center because it is a source of spiritual inspiration; it is here where we awaken to our spiritual nature and we are grateful for this powerful spiritual resource.

How will my pledge be spent?

Your financial gifts fund so many things: our mortgage, salaries for our amazing staff, music and youth and family programming, building maintenance, hospitality, utilities, insurance, licenses and fees, printing and office supplies, technology—all the things that support our mission of awakening people and transforming the world.

What are our Stewardship goals?

Our minimum goals are 55 stewards pledging at least \$175,000 in total 2022 giving. Our intention is that we joyfully surpass these goals.

How much should I pledge?

Your pledge is your best-guess estimate of your 2022 giving. You can pledge based on a percentage of your income or you can pledge a specific annual amount. Every pledge, no matter the size, is gratefully received as a valued contribution to the work we do here at Unity.

Can I change my pledge?

Yes. Simply call or email us and let us know so we can appropriately shift our financial recording and planning.

A powerful spiritual standard for giving is a tithe, or 10% of your annual household income. For some, reaching a 10% tithe is a goal reached a little at a time. This chart may help you consider setting a tithing goal:

Annual Income	3%	5%	7%	10%
\$20,000	\$600	\$1,000	\$1,400	\$2,000
\$30,000	\$900	\$1,500	\$2,100	\$3,000
\$50,000	\$1,500	\$2,500	\$3,500	\$5,000
\$75,000	\$2,250	\$3,750	\$5,250	\$7,500
\$100,000	\$3,000	\$5,000	\$7,000	\$10,000
\$150,000	\$4,500	\$7,500	\$10,500	\$15,000
\$200,000	\$6,000	\$10,000	\$14,000	\$20,000

How do I fulfill my pledge?

The easiest way is to structure your giving by providing your credit card, debit card, or bank account information and allowing us to make regular debits against that card/account. There are two main benefits to this approach: 1) You keep the divine flow of giving going, even when you miss a Sunday and 2) we are able to count on your gift toward our monthly cash flow. Alternatively, you may fulfill your pledge via check mailed to the Center or by visiting our "Give" website page on a regular basis.

Thank you for your generous support of our spiritual center

