

Birmingham Unitarian Church

A UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION

Dear BUC Congregant,

It's up to you. It's up to you to support your church. Really, it's up to you to *be* your church. The church literally does not exist without its members. You create your church by giving of your caring and your skills as well as your own budget as you participate in ways that are meaningful to you and help make the world a better place.

Together as a congregation, you can do more and be more than you could do and be individually, to promote and live out progressive values. Together, in a world that sorely needs your active presence, you can be a force for healing.

As members of the church, you join together in a covenantal relationship, because you know in your heart that here are things worth doing: worthy of your time, your attention, and a portion of your monetary resources.

Like so many things we do as Unitarian Universalists, it's up to you to determine the right amount for you to contribute to the finances of your church. It is hoped that you will "give until it feels good," as I heard one UU financial consultant put it, as you find the intersection of your means, the needs of the church, and BUC's value to you for yourself and for the larger community and the world. This has both spiritual and practical dimensions.

Unlike some religious institutions, this church does not charge a membership fee or require a certain percentage of your income in order for you to be a member. A financial commitment and contribution are required by your Bylaws, but the amount is unspecified. (And for those experiencing financial hardship, a waiver is available by contacting the minister.) There is no "higher authority" than the congregation itself to provide financial support for the church.

It's up to you, but not just you alone. It's up to you as a congregation to decide how you will move forward in community. In today's world, it matters more than ever.

Will you give until it feels good?

In faith and hope,

Connie

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