



ROGER JONES, FAMILY MINISTER
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST SOCIETY OF SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA

AUTUMN 2010-WINTER 2011

Dear New Friends and Prospective Members,

Welcome to the congregation! I'm glad you are considering membership here. These words come from Dr. Rebecca Parker, the president of Starr King School for the Ministry: "Over the years in ministry, I've learned that no one comes to church for a petty reason."

I've learned that as well. People don't call to make an appointment with a minister for trivial reasons. No person or family shows up on Sunday mornings just to kill time. Most of our visitors don't seek us out unless something has set them on a search for belonging, depth, celebration, and meaning.

Nobody joins this congregation—and nobody *supports* it, either—for trivial reasons. I think of the volunteers: Trustees, committee members, Religious Education teachers, worship leaders, musicians, Greeters, Ministry Circle leaders, Lay Ministry listeners, cooks, and others.

I think of the devoted members and friends who stretch themselves to support the congregation with generous financial pledges every year. Doug Kraft and I invite you to consider the enclosed materials and your own circumstances, and to make a generous pledge commitment for the coming months.

Many people think of their pledge in terms of giving a percentage of their income or assets. I encourage all Unitarian Universalists to aim toward giving, in the aggregate, at least 10% of their annual income to organizations that serve the greater good. One of these organizations, of course, would be their church.

I make a monthly gift to UUSS that totals 5% of my yearly income, and I give another 7% to other institutions, causes, campaigns, and charities.

Enclosed is a pledge card for the fiscal year, which began July 1, 2010. If you are ready to make a monthly pledge, let us know if you have any questions about filling it out. Also enclosed is a budget. That's a summary of projected income and budgeted expenses. Also enclosed is a pledge card to help us fund the 2010-11 budget. At a Congregational Meeting on May 23, 2010, members discussed and voted to approve a budget proposed by the Board of Trustees. The Stewardship Campaign (pledge drive) for the next budget year starts in winter.

Current pledges to UUSS range from less than \$10 a month to nearly \$20,000 a year. This is an economically diverse congregation. This diversity is what it means to be part of a community. Contributions of all sizes are valued and appreciated.

Some can afford to give more than others, and some less. Indeed, some pledge and give more because we know others cannot.

If you would like a personal meeting to discuss your pledge or *any* aspect of church life, please give Doug or me a call or an email. We strive to earn your trust and to keep it.

Your pledge is your decision, so please choose an amount that feels right. Give till it feels right! Again, welcome to UUSS.

Yours in the spirit,

Roger

PS--Please know that if your financial situation should change in the coming months (for better or for worse), it is quite appropriate to revise your pledge (either down or up!) by notifying the UUSS Office or one of the ministers. Thank you.