



**Greenville Unitarian
Universalist Fellowship**
1135 State Park Road
Greenville, SC 29608



Shine Like a Star

GUUF Annual Pledge Campaign 2023-2024



**Greenville
Unitarian
Universalist
Fellowship**

Goal: \$410,000

All of us are called at this important time to usher GUUF into a new era of post-pandemic vibrancy and impact. With our core values of Love, Interdependence and Community put into action, we will shine even brighter!



From Our Minister

I am truly grateful to be serving as your new Minister and am thrilled to have found a congregation full of so many fabulous and committed UUs!

I'm excited about GUUF's next chapter as we move forward - energized by re-engaging with our values, vision, mission and covenant – the foundations that will help GUUF shine and thrive for years to come!

Your increased support this year will help us continue to build on our post-pandemic momentum, including much-needed enhancements to our Religious Education program for children and youth and more funding for our programs and outreach efforts. It's through THESE monetary increases that we can increase OUR impact within the GUUF community and out in the world. Together, I truly believe that we have the power to change lives, liberate souls and make our corner of the world a better place through

our justice work. Our potential is limited only by how big we are willing to dream and how far we are willing to go to make those dreams come true. Let's shoot for the stars! – **Rev. Chris Hockman**

From our Pledge Drive Chair



Like the rest of the world, GUUF is coming out of these difficult times, and I couldn't be more excited about our future. We have a great new called Minister, a terrific DRE, and new faces are showing up every week. Now is

the perfect time to invest in GUUF's future with a pledge that I hope reflects your enthusiasm for the Fellowship's future. Our main goal is to fully fund GUUF's Religious Education program that invests not only in the future of our children, but in GUUF's future as well. – **Clark Bell**

What keeps GUUF Shining Like a Star? It's You.

The ability of the Fellowship to survive and thrive depends solely on the support of its members and friends. Eighty-five percent (85%) of GUUF's revenue comes from annual pledges. Making a pledge – a promise to donate a certain amount in the coming year – is essential to building an annual budget that supports and sustains all the Fellowship's efforts.

We know that we need to increase our budget by \$65,000 to fully fund our dreams for the coming year. Here is a breakdown of what that extra \$65,000 can do.

Religious Education program enhancement

Meeting the pledge goal means that our Religious Education program for children and youth will be fully staffed and funded. The further we move into 2023, our RE registration is increasing – now up to 65 children and youth! We want to build on this new momentum by getting our staffing back to pre-pandemic levels with the addition of two part-time positions: Youth Director and RE Coordinator. Your pledge will make sure that GUUF is in the best position possible to serve children and families.

COL increases for existing staff

In these days of rapid inflation, cost-of-living increases for existing staff who keep GUUF operating efficiently and effectively are also included.

Increased bookkeeping hours

This increase will add necessary professional bookkeeping hours, taking a significant load off of volunteers. Having paid, professional assistance at our fingertips will continue to ensure that GUUF's financial information is correct, up to date and consistent with current accounting standards.

Social justice/other programs

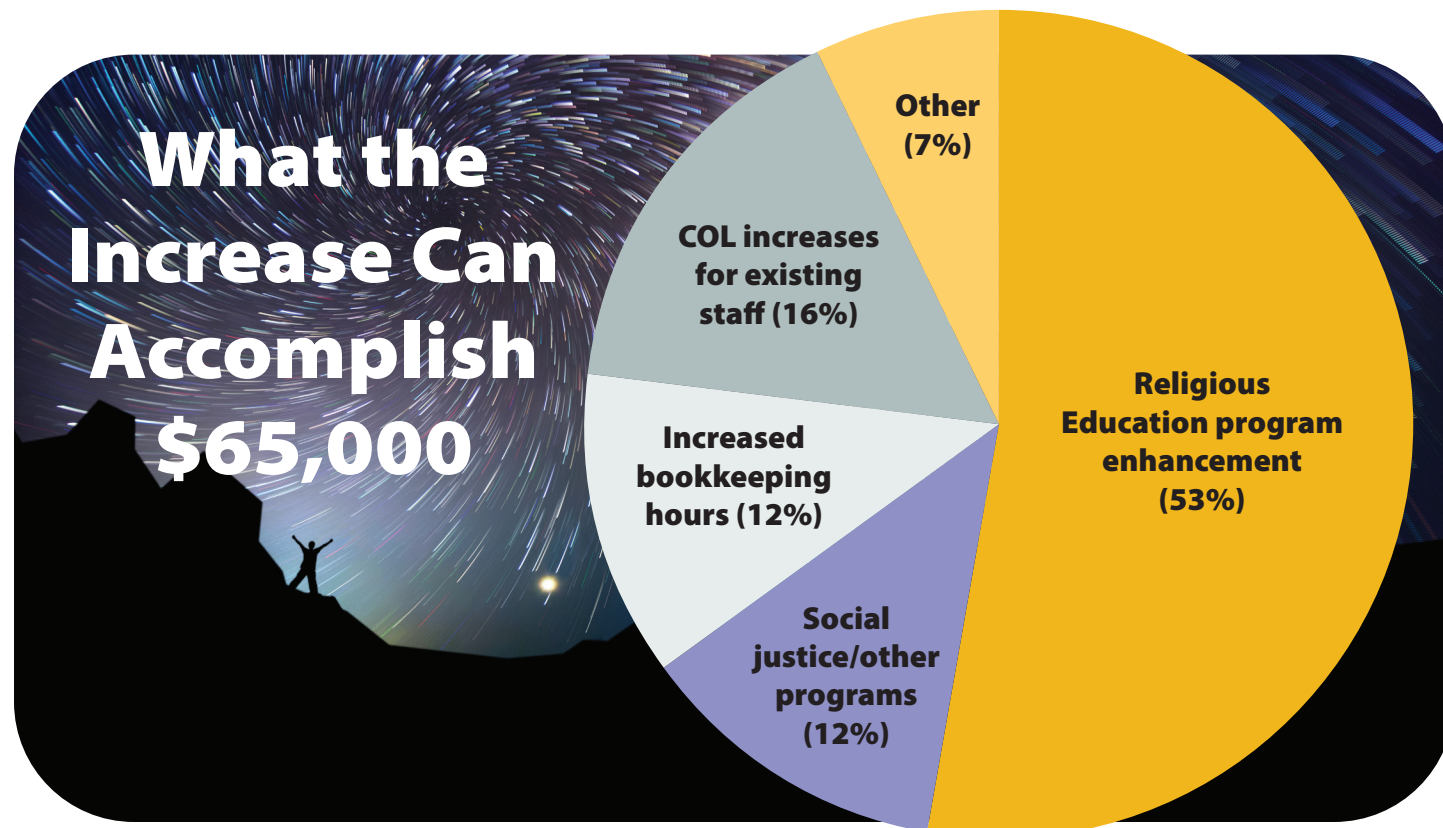
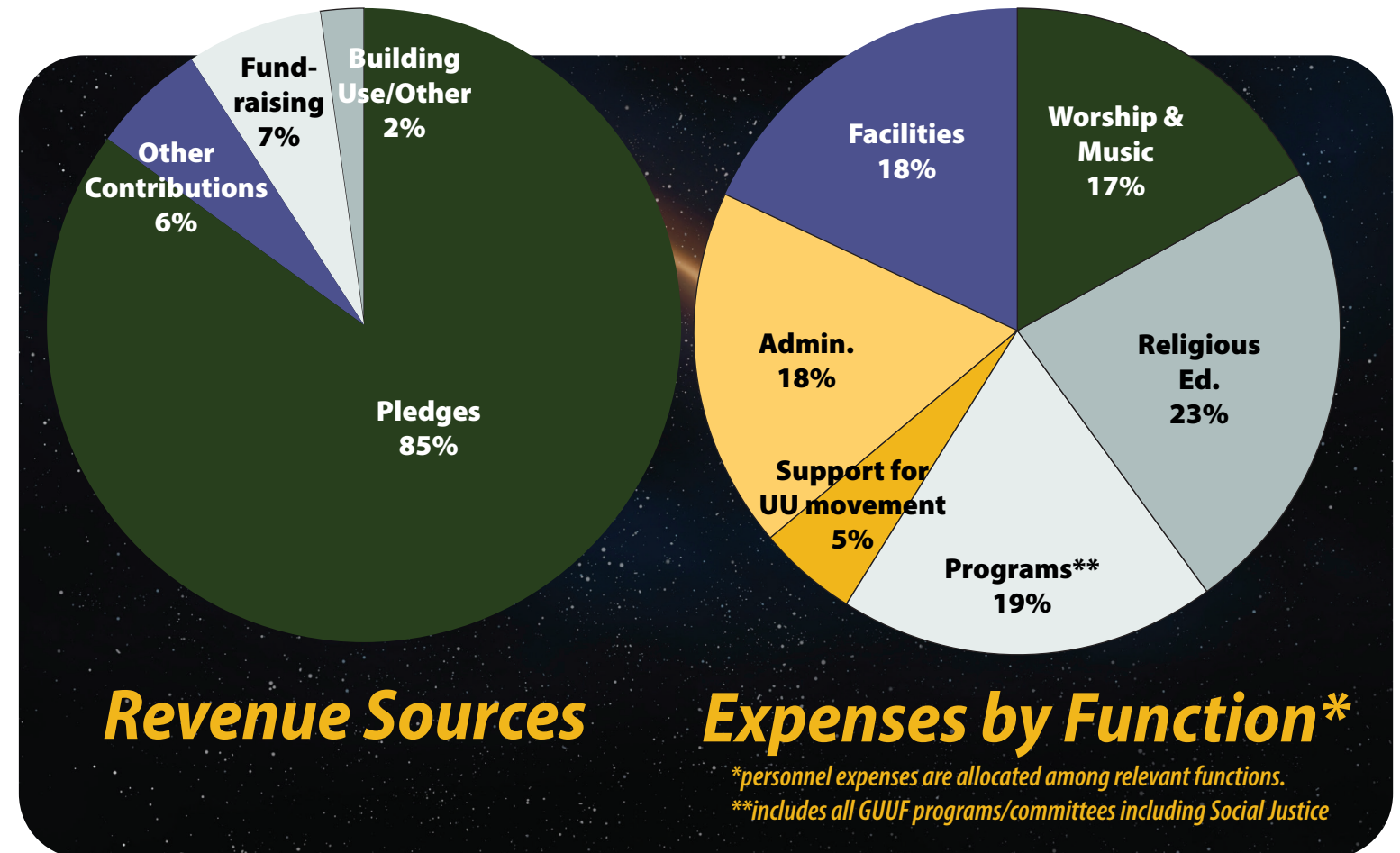
More funds will be able to support GUUF's social justice efforts with Greenville's interfaith justice organization (GOAL), South Carolina UU Justice Alliance (SCUUJA), and the Rowland-McFerrin house, as well as other vital GUUF programs.

Other

Many smaller increases in a large number of areas will add up to a more impactful GUUF!

2023/24 Pledge Goal

Projected sources and uses if \$410,000 goal is met



How much should I give?

The best way to help meet the goal is to consider increasing your pledge this year. Take a look at the enclosed Fair Share Contribution Guide. After reading the instructions, locate your monthly income on the left side of the chart. Read across the guide to find your current monthly giving amount and note if it is at the Supporter, Sustainer or Visionary level. Are you able to go up a level this year toward a 5%-of-income gift (or higher)? Just imagine, if everyone gave 5% of their income* we would absolutely blow away our goal with a total of \$480,000. Giving 4.5% would also allow us to surpass our goal with \$430,000. *calculated using median household income for Greenville County.

As an alternative to the percent-of-income method, you might want to consider raising your pledge by 30%, which will help us achieve the goal. If that is not possible, will you consider a more modest increase in giving this year – 20%, 10%, etc.?

When you have determined your pledge, please fill out and return the enclosed Pledge Form or pledge online by visiting www.greenvilleuu.org and going to the Member Area menu to find our online pledge form.

Thank you for answering the call to help GUUF shine like a star!