



Growing Our Spiritual Garden

“A garden requires patient labor and attention. Plants do not grow merely to satisfy ambitions or to fulfill good intentions. They thrive because someone expended effort on them.”

– Liberty Hyde Bailey



2026-2027 Stewardship Pledge Campaign

Your pledges are the lifeblood of our spiritual garden—the water, soil, and nutrients that ensure it continues to grow for generations to come.



All Faiths Unitarian Congregation

2756 McGregor Boulevard

Fort Myers, Florida 33901

www.allfaithsuu.org

How Does Our Spiritual Garden Grow?



All gardens experience difficult seasons. All Faiths' Spiritual Garden has been through some hard times in the past several years: the loss of a popular minister, three devastating hurricanes, and a reduction in membership from deaths, disabilities, and dislocations. Yet the roots of our Garden have been strong, and we were able to survive these hardships through the dedication of our members and the perseverance of our loyal staff. Even during the hardest times, our members pitched in to pay off our mortgage, continued conducting services, maintained our active social outreach programs, and ultimately found a dynamic new minister in *Alberita Johnson* to provide new energy to nurture our Spiritual Garden.

Recently, our Spiritual Garden is showing clear signs of new growth. Our Sunday services attendance has greatly increased; we are undertaking an expansion of our lobby and social hall that will create more flexible space for our activities; and we continue to maintain our social outreach programs, including those on racial equity, rainbow connection, and climate action, that raise our visibility in the wider community. Most importantly, we have welcomed over 20 new members to our congregation this year, and several more potential members are prepared to join us in the next several weeks. We now have 105 members, a double-digit net increase over last year.

All successful gardens require sun, rain, cultivation and nourishment to flourish. Our Spiritual Garden needs similar fundamental support from our members. Our challenge is that the number of our pledge units (i.e., individuals and households) has declined in recent years from 82 three years ago down to 70 this year. It is important for us to increase our base of support to have the financial means commensurate with our growing membership.

How Can We Support Our Growth?



We need to increase the number of pledges to replace those that we have lost to keep pace with our growing membership. In addition to pledges from new members, we need pledges from existing members who may have been reluctant to make commitments in past years. It is important for the Board to know what revenue to expect for planning next year's budget.

Our members should also try to set their pledges at a level that is sufficient, compatible with each member's means, to support our growing membership. We ask each of you to review the chart showing the range and number of pledges and see whether you can move to a higher bracket of support for the coming year. It is our hope that with our pledges, we all will feel the pride and satisfaction of successful gardeners who have provided the support necessary for the flourishing of our Spiritual Garden.

Proposed 2026-2027 Budget

We have 105 *members* and 48 *friends*. Every pledge will help, no matter how small. You can pledge by completing a paper pledge card, an electronic pledge form (email), or by pledging online at www.allfaithsuu.org.

Please return your completed form by February 9, 2026

Income: Proposed Budget 2026-27	
Pledges	\$219,929
Cash/Other Donations	15,000
Fundraisers	1,110
Rental Income	7,500
Rites of Passage	250
Other/Subsidies	4,000
Food & Beverage	350
Interest	3,500
Total Income	\$251,639

This year's budget is a 6% increase over last year.

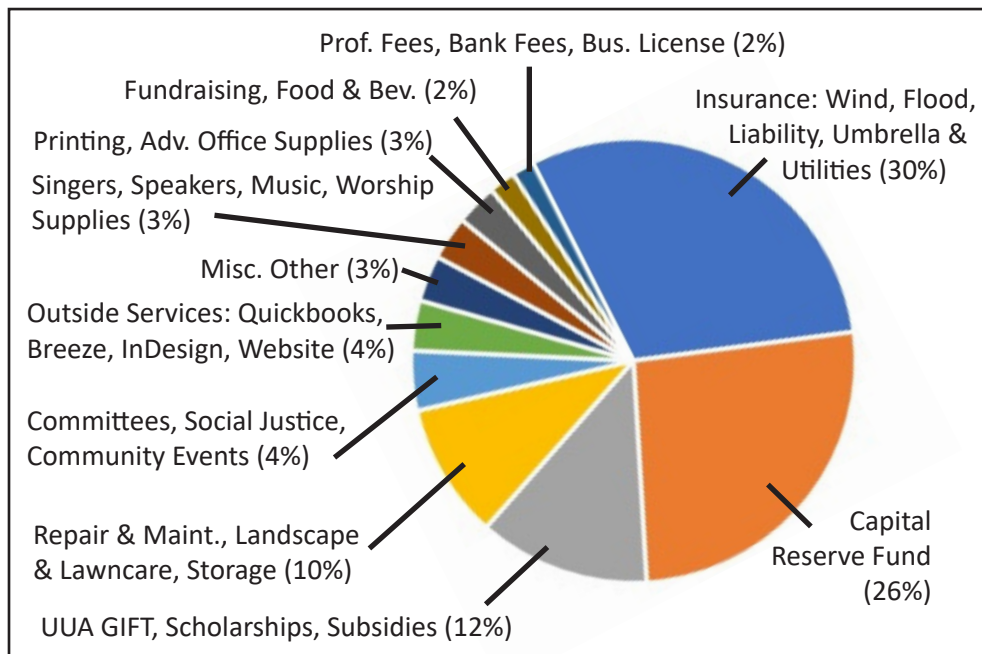
Who Pledged Last Year?

2025-2026 Pledges





2024-2025 Range of Pledges	Pledging Units	\$ Amount Pledged	% of Total Pledge \$
\$10,000 or more	2	\$ 31,000	19%
\$ 7,000 - \$9,999	3	\$ 39,150	13%
\$ 5,000 - \$6,999	4	\$ 25,800	12%
\$ 3,000 - \$4,999	10	\$ 25,100	21%
\$ 2,000 - \$2,999	10	\$ 29,250	13%
\$ 1,000 - \$1,999	23	\$ 24,380	17%
\$ 500 - \$999	7	\$ 7,670	3%
\$ 499 or less	11	\$ 2,810	2%
Totals	70	\$176,013	

Where your pledge money goes?

The majority of All Faiths' budget is for staff salaries, benefits, workers compensation, and payroll fees (\$174,012). Other major expense categories are building expenses, insurance, capital reserves, utilities, lawncare, repairs, and janitorial supplies. Besides these essential items, your generosity supports the day-to-day operations and social outreach of the Congregation. The capital reserve fund finances our anticipated future capital expenditures.



The Seeds We've Already Sowed

-  Under the leadership of our Minister, Alberita Johnson, and her inspirational services, our Sunday attendance has grown.
-  We have realized growth in new members to offset the losses in membership over the past few years.
-  We have completed planning for expansion of our vestibule, and the addition of a new classroom; the project is out to bid.
-  Our presence in the community is strong and continues to grow through our outreach programs, our monthly share-the-plate initiative, tabling events, and our representation in Lee Interfaith for Empowerment.