

Dear Friends,

As part of the SSUC family, we are always learning about each other, finding new ways to deepen our spirituality, and working together to make a difference in our lives and in the world. We are thankful to be blessed with your presence and the contribution you are making to SSUC. It takes each one of us to make this the supportive, innovative and inclusive community that it is. We're richer for your presence, belonging and participation.



This community has a long and proud history of opening its doors to all, then finding ways to make meaningful contributions to the world outside those doors. You are a vital part of our vision to be this expansive force for good where we all strive to explore, learn, understand, affirm, and be intentional in our desire to be a positive influence in a world with ever growing needs.

Look at just a sample of what we accomplished together in 2024:

- We continued to be a community of belonging in Edmonton and Saskatoon, offering ways to connect through our gatherings, programs and online presence. This means that we engaged in opportunities for growing connections and deepening the reach of needed expressions of expansive spirituality.
- Following the recommendations of our Transition Team, we appointed a Program and Affirming Animator and a Youth Coordinator.
- We celebrated the 25th Anniversary of becoming the first Albertan affirming congregation in the United Church of Canada, marked with a marvelous Sunday gathering and an impactful event that welcomed renowned author and speaker Ivan Coyote.
- We continued our support of our partner agencies and commitment to global justice and humanitarian efforts, in budgeted outreach funds, and in our contributions that went above and beyond, helping people near and far. Our seasonal giving of underwear and coats for the Bissell Centre and winter socks for our friends at Operation Friendship, the support of our pie auction for CHEW, our welcome and support of new Canadians, are just a few examples!
- We helped mark milestones and important life transitions in so many lives, saying joyous welcomes and grieving sad goodbyes, and everything in between.



We couldn't have accomplished these things without your support and generosity. Deep thanks to you!

To continue fulfilling our vision and mission in 2025, we will need to rely on your ongoing support. And there are some exciting things ahead:

- With a year of focus and staffing, we're set to offer the groups and connections that we all need to explore new opportunities to deepen our spiritual journeys.
- We'll host our amazingly successful fall retreat again, but also explore offering a winter online spiritual retreat to give us a mid-winter boost to our learning and spiritual experience.
- We'll continue revitalizing and enlivening our committees and short-term learning and helping opportunities.

2025 will be an adventure that we will take together, and we need you! Here are some ways you can help:

1. Included in this package is a **Financial Donor Pledge Form**. The information gathered from these forms is vital for us to prepare a budget with realistic revenue numbers. We have also again included a Step Chart showing the number of donors on each giving step. After you identify your current level of giving on the Step Chart, we invite you to consider "stepping up" to enable us to achieve our community's goals. We have also included a graph depicting the change in the donation pattern between 2023 and 2024.
2. Perhaps this is also the time, if you don't already, to choose to start giving monthly. Regular consistent giving is easy through the **Pre-Authorized Remittance (PAR)** program, and is a huge help to our ability to do the work of our congregation consistently and well. A PAR form is included to help you sign up or change the amount you'd like to give in the months ahead. We are also available to help with any questions you may have about PAR.
3. Because we all give with our volunteer time as well, we'd invite you to complete a **Time and Task Pledge Form**, offering specific ways you might contribute your energy and abilities to help your SSUC community. We want you to contribute in ways that will bring you fulfillment and deepen your connections with what's important in life, and with other folks in your SSUC community.

All told, we'd like to receive your feedback by December 13, 2024. Due to mail disruptions, you are receiving this package digitally. There are some paper copies available at the church and you may complete these or print your own to return to the church office "Support SSUC" box, or you may submit a secure online form at www.ssucedmonton.com/support2024.

By engaging in this process with us, you are clearly demonstrating that you care about SSUC as an important part of your spiritual journey. We will all work together to claim this community as *our* legacy to continue building!

With heartfelt thanks for your generous support,
"The Engagement Month" Team





Financial Donor Pledge for 2025

This form helps us to shape an accurate budget that will be presented to the congregation at our Annual General Meeting in March 2025. Thank you for your responses which help us plan responsibly and with vision.

Our operating budget supports our ministries of Spiritual Gatherings, Education, Outreach, Congregational Care, Finance, Property (maintenance, utilities and insurance), Church Office, Staff Salaries and Benefits, and additional outreach beyond our congregation through the Mission and Service Fund, and meet our regional and national financial commitments to the United Church of Canada. As you consider your support, you might choose to support us by Pre-Authorized Remittance (PAR), regular in-person giving, online via our website at www.SSUCedmonton.com/donate or by e-transfer to info@ssucedmonton.com.

A. These are the ways I/we plan to respond financially to the work of our spiritual community in 2025:

** Please indicate by initials, if two or more separate contributors are responding.*

Weekly Contributions of \$ _____, for an annual total of \$ _____.

OR

Monthly Contributions of \$ _____, for an annual total of \$ _____.

** Please note that should your circumstances change, you can adjust your weekly or monthly contributions and annual commitment at any time. This is not an obligation, but a help to our planning.*

B. In order to facilitate my donations, (check all that apply)

- I am/We are a registered PAR contributor, making no changes.
- I/We will be completing a new PAR form because I/we would like to begin making donations by PAR
- I/We will be completing a new PAR form because of a change in my/our monthly PAR amount.
- I/We will be contributing in-person, online (requires SSUC pay a small admin fee) or by e-transfers (preferred)
- I/We would like to receive information on ensuring my support of SSUC is assured in the future by way of wills, bequests, life insurance and/or gift annuities.

Name(s)

Date

**Please return this form to the church office by December 13, 2024.
Alternatively, you may submit this form securely at www.SSUCedmonton.com**

Consider using PAR to make your contributions. Pre-authorized remittance (PAR) is an amount specified by you that is transferred to SSUC from your bank account on the 20th day of each month. Making your commitment this way helps manage your monthly giving regardless of absence, travel or life's busyness. It also helps us create a more stable and dependable cash flow. If you'd like to register for PAR, please complete the PAR form included in this package. Note that any change in monthly withdrawal amounts or banking information also require a new PAR form to be completed.



PAR AUTHORIZATION FORM

(For new PAR donors and changes to amounts or banking details)

Church Name: Southminster-Steinhauer

PAR Congregational Number: 10 04 0840

I/We, _____, (envelope # _____,) request and authorize The United Church of Canada to debit my/our account on the 20th of every month in the amount of \$ _____, starting on the 20th of _____ (enter month). This contribution is made on behalf of:

Name of Local Church: Southminster-Steinhauer United Church

Address: 10740 – 19 Avenue

City: Edmonton Province: Alberta Postal Code: T6J 6W9

This contribution by me/us to the above local church is to benefit:

Local Church \$ _____ Mission and Service Fund \$ _____ Other \$ _____

This donation/payment is made on behalf of (check one): _____ Individual(s) _____ Business

Please attach a VOID cheque or all relevant banking information.

Signed: _____ Date: _____

I may change the amount of my contribution at any time subject to providing notice of 15 days.
I may revoke my authorization at any time, subject to providing notice of 15 days at which time I will submit a cancellation form obtained from the Church PAR Contact or by contacting my financial institution or visiting www.cdnpay.ca.
I have certain recourse rights if any debit does not comply with this agreement. For example, I have the right to receive reimbursement for any debit that is not authorized or is not consistent with this PAR Agreement. To obtain more information on my recourse rights, I may contact my financial institution or visit www.cdnpay.ca.
I waive my right to receive pre-notification of the amount of the Pre-Authorized Remittance (PAR) and agree that I do not require advance notice of the

Name of Church PAR Contact: Ann Didluck Phone No.: 780-435-2288 (h)



Due to high service charges (2.5% for Visa and MasterCard; we do not accept Amex), we generally do not encourage people to use credit cards for PAR donations. However, if donors wish, this service is still available.

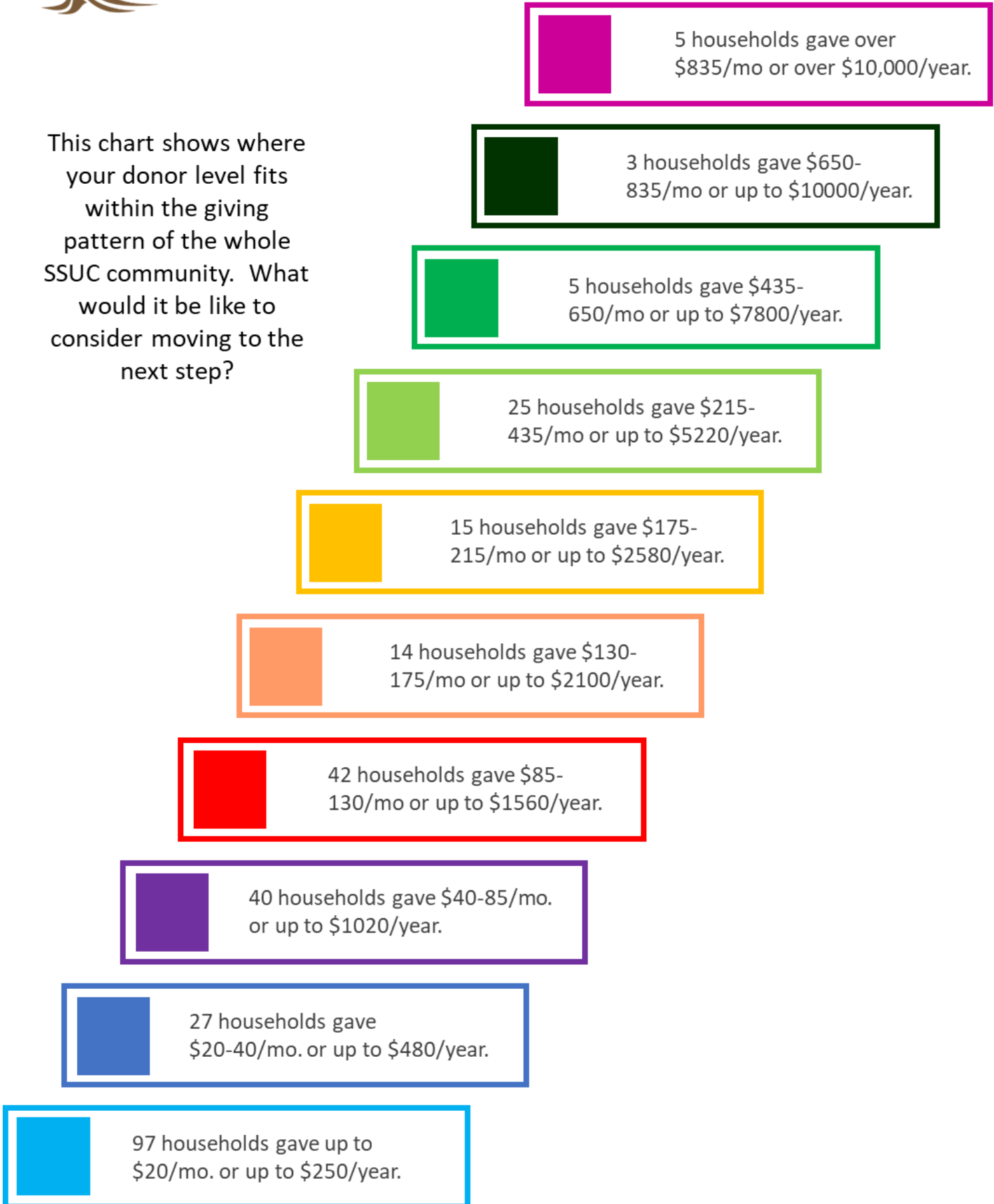
Debit My Credit Card Number _____ EXP _____
CARD NUMBER MM YY

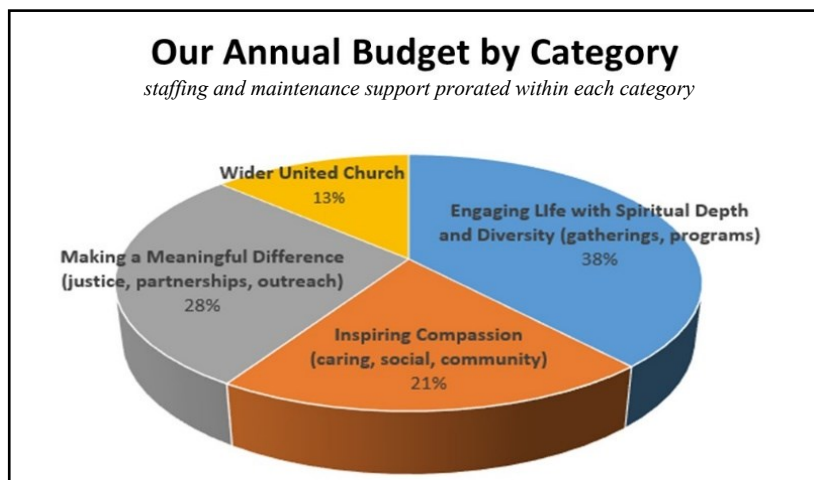
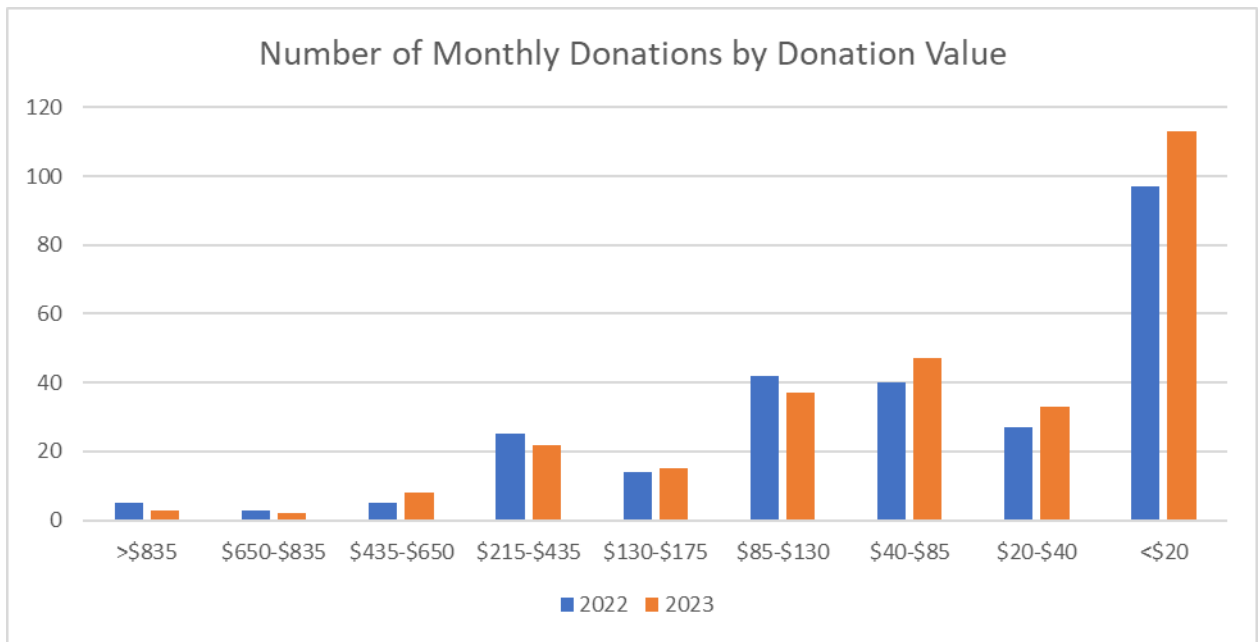
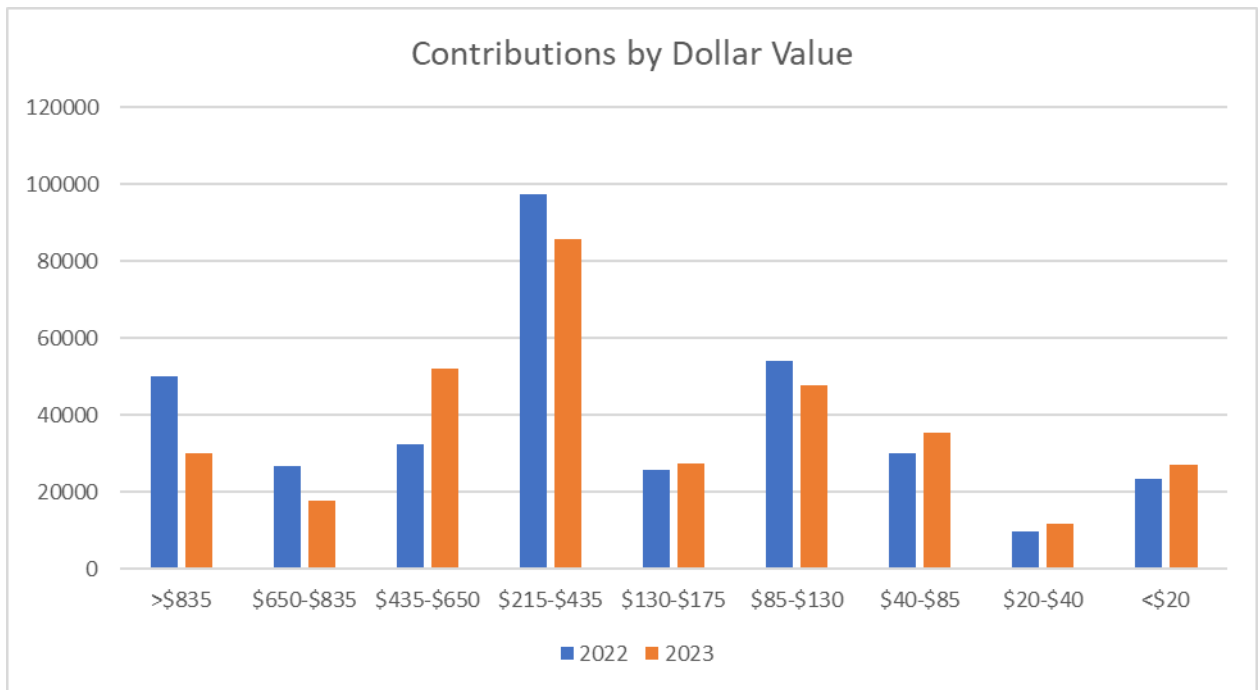
Name on Card: _____ Authorized Signature: _____

We agree to be bound by, comply with, respect and apply all relevant provisions of the Canadian Payments Act and all related by-laws, rules and standards in force from time to time as they apply to PAR's including, without limitation, the Confirmation/Pre-notification requirements or waiver of Pre-notification requirements and cancellation requirements as set out in Rule H1

The use, retention and disclosure of personal information collected from this form is done in compliance with privacy legislation, including but not limited to, the Personal Information Protection and Electronic Documents Act (2000, c.5).

This chart shows where your donor level fits within the giving pattern of the whole SSUC community. What would it be like to consider moving to the next step?





Total Estimated Givings Needed in 2025: \$450,000



Time and Task Pledge for 2025

We all have passions and interests that work together to make SSUC a diverse and dynamic community. How can you help in contributing to the fantastic community we are? Please initial where you can contribute (if more than one person is using this form). **Return to the office by December 13, 2024.**

Circle if you are already involved in that activity and intend to continue; check the box if this is a new area you are interested in being involved in.

Name(s): _____

I can help with spiritual gatherings from time to time by:

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Joining the team of gathering companions | <input type="checkbox"/> Helping with table ritual prep/serving |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Serving as a livestream 'chat host' | <input type="checkbox"/> Being added to the welcome team |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Being trained as tech crew | <input type="checkbox"/> Working with a group to plan a Sunday gathering |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Being added to the coffee crew | <input type="checkbox"/> Being added to the infant/toddler care team |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Helping on a donation count team | <input type="checkbox"/> Contributing to the instrumental or choir Music |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Helping arrange décor/candles/banners | <input type="checkbox"/> Other ways I can contribute: |

I can help provide care and connection to members of the SSUC community by:

- Assisting with caring tasks or receptions associated with memorial gatherings/celebrations of life
- Keeping in touch regularly with a small group of people in need (ill/injured, unable to attend, etc.)
- Making occasional meals for those in need
- Assisting with support group facilitation
- Other ways I can contribute:

I can help with educational, affirming or community building events by:

- Helping plan or assist with community meals
- Planning or assisting with social/support events that connect our community
- Planning or contributing to learning/study opportunities or interest groups
- Other ways I can contribute:

I can help with SSUC property and grounds by:

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Contributing to small maintenance tasks | <input type="checkbox"/> Assisting with rental user's entry/exit |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Maintaining a flowerbed | <input type="checkbox"/> Helping care for and maintain the kitchen |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Being part of an occasional work crew | <input type="checkbox"/> Ideas/help in finding a new custodian (Jan.) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Helping promote our space/kitchen for rentals | <input type="checkbox"/> Other ways I can contribute: |

I can help with outreach programs, refugee support, reconciliation by:

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Being on a support team for newcomers | <input type="checkbox"/> Sharing a project/cause SSUC could support |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Staffing our Food Bank Depot | <input type="checkbox"/> Promoting a seasonal campaign |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Offering an occasional land acknowledgment | <input type="checkbox"/> Helping the Zatoun Olive Oil Team |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other ways I can contribute: | |

I can help with fundraising activities and events by:

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Joining the Grocery Card Team | <input type="checkbox"/> Helping coordinate "Thrifty Treasures" |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Joining a Spring Dinner/Auction Planning Team | <input type="checkbox"/> Contributing other fundraiser ideas |

Over...

I would like more information about becoming involved in the following standing committee areas:

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Spiritual Gatherings Planning Team | <input type="checkbox"/> Property Maintenance Team |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Congregational Care Committee | <input type="checkbox"/> Refugee Sponsorship and Support |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Outreach Committee | <input type="checkbox"/> Adult Education Support* |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Event Planning and Coordination | <input type="checkbox"/> Children and Youth Program Support |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Earth Charter/Ecological Initiatives* | <input type="checkbox"/> Finance Committee or Trustees |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ministry & Personnel (Human Resources) | <input type="checkbox"/> Moving Forward to Reconciliation Work |
| <input type="checkbox"/> SSUC Board Roles | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Affirm Committee (2SLGBTQIA+, Allies) | |

*Dormant Committees in need of revitalizing!

When I think of my time and the kind of work that SSUC does, I am most excited about this aspect of the SSUC community, and want to support and/or contribute in these ways: