



## Unitarian Universalist Church of Roanoke

2015 Grandin Road SW, Roanoke, Virginia 24015 | <http://www.uuroanoke.org>

---

March 10, 2021

Dear UU Church of Roanoke,

I am thrilled to be here, as is Yvette. We have been received graciously and warmly. We've been invited into your faith community home with open arms and hearts. We've had food delivered to our house as we were moving in. We've gotten cards and letters of warm welcome, as well as plenty of help and suggestions for where to find this or that, where to eat and visit. It's clear you all know how to do "hospitality."

As a minister, I'm so pleased to see and experience the commitment of your elected officials and volunteer committees. And more than commitment, I'm excited to see how well they function. ("New eyes" often have better vision and clarity than those who've grown "accustomed" to their surroundings). I so appreciate the time, effort and dedication of your out-reach into the larger community with the Reading Seeds program. The funding of racial justice work speaks for itself in terms of expressing commitment.

My only disappointment is having never had the opportunity to be with you all in person! Thankfully, there is Zoom and the ability to be with you virtually. Unfortunately, this Zoom thing may be with us for the foreseeable future. So, we'll just have to make do with what we've got for the time being.

Being new with you gives me the opportunity to share my view of funding the Work of a faith community, a spiritual HOME. As with any home, one makes a commitment not only to repairs but to its ongoing upkeep and good functioning. One does not make "donations" or "contributions" to one's home as one might to their favorite charity or Public Radio station. With membership and/or regular use, comes a level of responsibility.

The UUA recommends that one commit 3-5% of their disposable income to the funding of their faith community. Disposable meaning available funds after essentials. This levels the playing field so that those who can afford more give more, and those with less can legitimately feel they are giving their "fair share." I would ask that those who can, give a bit more to cover for those who have no income or disposable funds. A thought experiment you might try is to think about the amount you "typically" would give and then compare that sum with the above percentages.

This faith community and its future is well worth your time, energy and investment.

In Faith,

*Rev. Walter LeFlore*