

RVUUF Endowment Trust

Annual Report for the RVUUF Board, 2023/2024

This report to the Board is offered pursuant to the Endowment Trust Agreement and is hereby extended to the congregation as well. Our Endowment Trust was established in 1997 as a separate endowment governed by a board of elected Trustees and responsible to the congregation. The Trustees have chosen to place our investments with the Unitarian Universalist Common Endowment Fund. “The Unitarian Universalist Common Endowment Fund is a diversified investment fund seeking current income and long-term investment returns through portfolio allocation and professional asset management with UU socially responsible investing goals”. Those wishing to learn more about UUCEF may browse www.uucef.org.

Our Endowment Trust Agreement provides: “Except as requested by the Board, distributions made under the provisions of this paragraph will be primarily for special, one-time proposals not normally provided for in the Fellowship’s operating budget”. These might include, but are not limited to grants to UU camps and conferences, theological schools, and to the Fellowship for special projects and for the wider mission of the UUA.

Be assured, Trustees have continued to be supportive of the mission of RVUUF. Distributions from the Endowment in the form of grants, are governed by the Trust Agreement, which provides that the maximum available distributable amount (ADA) permitted in any given year is 5% of the average value of the assets of the Endowment over the 13 calendar quarters ending December 31 of the prior year. However, if this amount is to ever be exceeded, it may be authorized by a 75% positive vote from those members present at a duly called meeting of the congregation. For this fiscal year RVUUF members adopted a resolution on June 4, 2023 which states: “Now therefore, be it resolved that we, the members of RVUUF Fellowship, being present at a duly noted business meeting, do hereby authorize the Endowment Trustees to distribute an amount in excess of the ADA for the fiscal year 2023-24 not to exceed \$58,000, provided that such distribution may only be made during the fiscal year 2023-24”. This year your Trustees chose to make available 5.0% of assets, or \$42,646. The full \$42,646 of ADA was requested by the Board and appropriately distributed by Trustees in support of

ongoing operations of RVUUF. It was not necessary to release and distribute the additionally-authorized \$58,000.

As noted above, and for the last several years the Endowment has made grants in support of RVUUF's operating budget. It is the intent of Trustees, that over the longer-term the day-to-day operations of RVUUF will become more self-sustaining and not dependent upon the Endowment for the infusion of grant monies. This will allow the Endowment Trustees to consider other worthwhile grant proposals for support in RVUUF's wider community.

As well, our ongoing goal is to increase the value of the Endowment to help assure that RVUUF will be able to meet whatever challenges the future may hold.

Although the financial longer-term effect of such events as the pandemic on the operating finances of RVUUF may certainly pose some daunting challenges, your Endowment Trust may be seen as a positive resource for future stability. Historical donations to the Endowment fund from loyal RVUUF members and friends since inception total \$668,172. Just during this year, new contributions totaled \$5,000 and we received proceeds of a bequest from a former member in the amount of \$51,394. Today, even following annual disbursements, these contributions have grown to a fair market value of \$911,663. as of March 31, 2024.

During the period of this report your Trustees have continued to be aware of the responsibility to administer the Arthur Kreisman Legacy Circle, established in 2007 to honor members and friends who have given significantly above and beyond RVUUF's annual operating fund pledges. Contributions that qualify for this circle include (1) bequests in the form of a Charitable Gift Annuity, an entry in a will, an IRA, or a life insurance policy; or (2) cash or other hard assets. IRA distributions, paid directly to qualifying charitable organizations (such as our Endowment Trust) will not be considered as income to the donor for income tax purposes. In all cases for the Legacy Circle, the beneficiaries must be either RVUUF or the RVUUF Endowment Trust. The minimum amount to qualify is \$5,000. The Legacy Circle has 56 members. A plaque recognizing donors can be found on the wall, just to the left as you enter the great hall sanctuary.

We are grateful to past and present members of the Legacy Circle and to many others who continue to make our Endowment Trust a success. Please speak to any of our Trustees about estate planning or joining the Legacy Circle.

Trustees have been Joann Cleckner, Liaison to the Finance Committee; Joan Dean: Lois Pettinger; Michael Ross, Chair; and Rosalie Wolff, Treasurer. Joann's term will conclude, June 30th and Joan Dean has moved away. So, we'll be electing two new Trustees at this annual meeting.

Beyond the spiritual, we are indeed fortunate to have the substantial RVUUF Endowment Trust in our portfolio of organizational assets.

Michael T. Ross

Chair

May 17, 2024