

Wake Now Our Vision

The UUA, with financial support from the Shelter Rock Congregation, is undertaking a campaign to encourage endowment giving amongst the member congregations of Unitarian Universalism. Shelter Rock has provided a gift matching fund which will provide a gift to match endowment commitments made to UU congregations or other UUA affiliates. See below for details on this wonderful opportunity to multiply your legacy giving.

How large is the match?

Planned gifts which are disclosed to the Legacy Campaign Director at the UUA without an estimated value are matched at a flat \$1000 which will be provided by the Foundation to the church. If you do estimate the value of your planned gift, then the foundation matches at 10%. So if you anticipate that the amount of your planned gift will exceed \$10000 then it is beneficial to the church if you do put that estimate into your match application, as that will increase the match above \$1000. Matching gifts do reach a limit of \$10000 for planned gifts at or over an estimated value of \$100,000.

Why are they doing this?

The Shelter Rock Congregation is wonderfully endowed with a Foundation that they wish to use to further the efforts and goals of the wider UU community. They are doing this to provide for the common good of Unitarian Universalism, and to promote legacy / planned giving in our community. The campaign has been named Wake Now Our Vision.

I think I would like to do this. How do I make sure that the church receives the match for my planned gift?

For the match to be credited toward the WBUUC Endowment Fund, the planned gift must be made toward the WBUUC Endowment Fund. It is possible to make planned gifts to other UU causes, and in such cases, the match goes also to those causes.

When do I need to make the gift in order to qualify?

The gift itself will disburse to the church according to the plan you create. For most donors this will occur at their death. If, however, you disclose your planned gift in 2017-2019, you will be eligible for the match, and the matching gift will be provided to the church by the foundation when it makes its distributions in the near future.

Oh, good. I have some time. Is there any reason that I should do this now? It sounds like 2019 would be fine?

The foundation has funded this program to \$5 million. It is a nationwide program available to donors to many UU organizations. When the matching funds are exhausted, which could happen before 2019, then the match will not be available.

What if I previously let the church know about a planned gift?

The program applies retrospectively to planned gifts disclosed to the church starting January 1, 2017. If you informed the church of your planned gift intention on or after that date, your gift qualifies for the match. You should complete the matching gift submission form, available from wakenowourvision.org, and provide it to Rev Laura Randall, the Legacy Campaign Director at the UUA using the address provided on the form.

I put the church in my will a while ago but have not told the church about it. Can I make use of the match?

Yes, even though you put the church in your will or other planned gift vehicle prior to January 1, 2017, the fact that you had not disclosed the planned gift to the church prior to that date means that you will qualify for the match if you do disclose the plan and apply for the match now.

Why should I assign an amount to my gift?

The foundation match is based on 10% of your estimation, or a flat \$1000 match for a planned gift disclosure without an estimated value. If you think that your future gift might be larger than \$10000, it is beneficial to the church for you to provide an estimate, because that will increase the size of the match from the foundation.

How do I assign an amount to my gift? The gift is planned for after I no longer need the money, and I don't know how much will be left at that time...

Different gift planning vehicles offer different opportunities to make an estimate. The most common type of planned gift is a percentage of your estate, or all or a percentage of some particular asset, so the amount of the bequested gift depends on the value of the estate or asset at that future date. Your financial planning professional or a financial planning calculator may be useful for estimating the future value of such a gift, recognizing that during the intervening years, the assets may be used to generate some of your retirement income.

I feel uncomfortable disclosing an estimated amount. How will that information be shared or used?

The Wake Now Our Vision form is shared with the Legacy Campaign Director at the UUA, and the estimate will be used only to identify the amount of the match. There is no formal mechanism for the information to be disclosed to the church. Disbursement of funds, when that happens later in the campaign, is not expected to make a disclosure because it is anticipated that matches for several planned gifts will be aggregated at that time.

When will the church get the money?

The foundation anticipates making distributions starting in 2019 for planned gifts disclosed between January 1, 2017 and the distribution date.

I'm unsure that I feel ready to commit to an amount – what if they match it and then I need to or want to make a change?

It is the objective of the foundation to encourage us all to make a planned gift, not to inspire fear or guilt. If you disclose a gift plan now, the foundation will provide the match with no future strings attached.

Where on earth did this money come from?

In the 1940s a family in the Shelter Rock congregation donated a significant investment to their church and created a foundation using the funds. The foundation has grown the donation into a significant fund over the last 75 years or so.