

Stewardship Notes: From the Board

So far, we have received 29 pledges from 48 people for the 2019 fiscal year, totaling more than \$78,000. This is a good start, but we still have a way to go to meet our budget for the coming year.

If you have already made your pledge, thank you. If not please let us know what we can expect (and, remember, we need your pledge even if it is \$0—that tells us not to wait to settle our budget until your pledge comes in). If you need a pledge form or an Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) form, we have put them online at xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx.

In case you missed it, these are the words I spoke last Sunday about the reasons for *my* pledge:

When I was a kid, part of the Catholic Holy Week Service was a litany—a sort of call-and-response—in which the priest would intone a string of evils, one after another, like “Ab omni malo” (From all evil), and the congregation would respond each time, “Libera nos Domine” (Spare us, O Lord). Sometimes I think when the pledge campaign comes along, UUs pray silently, Libera nos Domine. But it doesn’t have to be that way. Pledging can be a celebration, if you let it.

Kathy & I contribute 5% of our income to the UUFM. We each have our slightly different reasons for doing this, but let me tell you mine.

For the first 10 years of our life together, we lived the itinerant life of graduate students and young scholars. In those 10 years, we bounced from one end of the country to the other, east to west and north to south. We lived in 6 different places in those 10 years. When we moved to Mankato, what I wanted most was to plant a tree and stick around to sit under its shadow. As any gardener learns, to be healthy a plant needs a supportive environment—a lone tree is left to bear the full force of hail and ice and wind, is exposed to insect attacks (and the ministrations of passing dogs). With other trees and shrubs and herbs around, it attracts songbirds and butterflies and pollinators. So, I learned that to live a full life in Mankato I needed a supportive community, both to defend *and* to enrich the life I wanted to lead. Some things just simply need to be shared to be truly enjoyed, and the good life is one of those things.

Oliver Wendell Holmes once said, “I don’t mind paying taxes; with them I buy civilization.” I don’t mind contributing to this congregation; with it I nourish the beloved community.

Tony Filipovitch