

EUROPEAN UNITARIAN UNIVERSALISTS PLEDGE LETTER 2023

April 3, 2023 • [admin](#)



Hey there friends and members of EUU! I bring springtime greetings from our President, Karen Kyker, and the other members of the Coordinating Committee who manage our group on an ongoing basis.

This spring brings another edition of our retreats and this time, happily, once again in person! We look forward to a retreat that as ever will be fulfilling spiritually and emotionally. Spring, of course, also marks the beginning of our annual pledge drive campaign, which is now undertaken on a calendar-year basis. So on the off-chance that you haven't already done so when paying your registration for the spring Retreat, or you won't be at the upcoming spring retreat, this is an invitation to consider making your 2023 pledge now!

Our treasurer, Jutta, reports that EUU finances are in very good shape in part as a result of lower costs associated with the recent number of online retreats which required fewer major outlays for facilities (more about this below*), and also thanks to the ongoing support we receive from you, our members and friends. As our retreats are meant to break even financially, we seek your pledges essentially to cover the costs of other activities, such as supporting our Transylvanian Unitarian brethren through our longstanding exchange program with them, and helping to develop our affiliated European UU fellowships. As a largely volunteer organization, these costs do not weigh heavily on our budget, even after bank charges, insurance, IT and publicity costs, expenses of the UUA Ambassador visits to our fellowships, and professional development charges that we cover.

Our Social Action targets for the year ahead, as in 2022, are focussed on 'People and Planet'. 'People' will focus on easing the lot of migrants and women, and on quick responses to emerging humanitarian crises, such as in Ukraine, Turkey and Syria. 'Planet' will have us consider and act to move forward on climate change and sustainable food production.

*While financial contributions from EUU membership help us with our intention to keep our financial situation in good shape, we are currently focused on spending down some of our recent surplus. Consistent with our mission and values, we are considering proposals to heavily subsidize attendance at upcoming retreats, especially for families with children, young adults, and everyone else who finds it a struggle to attend in-person retreats as often as they would like. We are also looking at investing in more of our own technical hardware to better support consistent strong online attendance at retreats, seeking to make this manner of participation as integrated as possible.

As in 2022, we have budgeted just 7000 euros in pledges for 2023, a modest amount and one we should again achieve easily. So how about getting us on the road?

We fully appreciate that some among us have experienced severe financial pressures due to the pandemic or other challenges and we do not wish to overburden you. We very much appreciate all among us who make significant non-financial contributions to EUU in the form of time and service. We are also grateful to those who are able to contribute a little more financially, to support all the EUU does for, and means to us, in helping create community across borders.

So we're asking you to continue to support this wonderful organization and its many activities towards creating a better world, with a pledge that will allow us to reach our target and continue to offer backing for our shared faith, and our richly nourishing retreats, without dipping into reserves.

Thank you so much, whatever your contribution, and we look forward to seeing you at the retreat!

If you can, please give in euros by transferring your pledge [to our account with our new bank, using this link \(https://fs6.formsite.com/bD4eWJ/kz2tyygxmf/index\)](https://fs6.formsite.com/bD4eWJ/kz2tyygxmf/index).

If this form of payment doesn't work for you, please contact the Treasurer, Jutta Hamm-Ullmann, at treasurer@europeanuu.org so she can advise on how to proceed.

In gratitude,
Sharon Marshall
Pledge Drive Coordinator