

## Get as much as half your contribution back on taxes

Your Westwood contribution is a charitable tax deduction. You can get almost 50% of it back as a tax refund, on your tax payable. (If you don't pay taxes, you are not eligible). A \$250 monthly contribution costs less than \$130.

The Canadian Revenue Agency provides a quick online calculator.

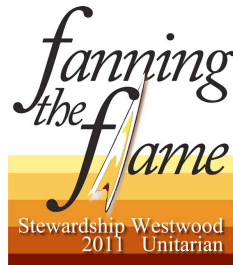
[www.cra-arc.gc.ca/chrts-gvng/dnrs/svngs/clmng1b2-eng.html](http://www.cra-arc.gc.ca/chrts-gvng/dnrs/svngs/clmng1b2-eng.html)

## Membership & Friendship

Our membership doubled to 80 from 2000 to 2004, and then hovered around there for several years. This year, we have about 100 members and 40 friends. We continue to gain new members every year, but at the same time, some members move away or become less active. We also have many friends who are active in the church, but for various reasons have not chosen to be members. A friend is anyone who chooses to be listed in our directory but is not a member.

## Supporting Canada's Unitarians

As a member congregation in the Canadian Unitarian Council (CUC) Westwood contributes \$91 per year per member. We gain strength from a common national voice and benefit from many CUC resources.



## Thank you...

for learning about the dollars and sense of Westwood. If you have any questions, please contact our Treasurer or members of the Board.

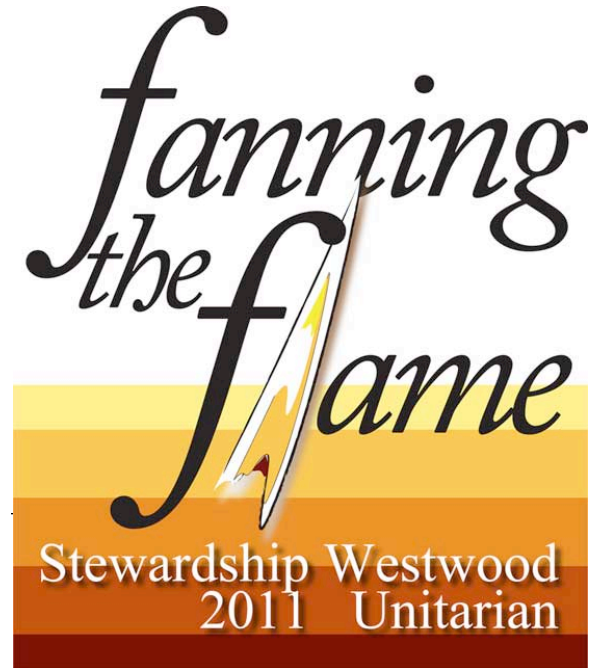
If you would like to help us make greater sense of Westwood's financial picture and stewardship responsibilities, we welcome your input at [stewardship@westwoodunitarian.ca](mailto:stewardship@westwoodunitarian.ca)



## Westwood Unitarian Congregation

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Sunday mornings are an important part of the week for many of us. At Westwood, we create this time and space together. We organize the service, brew the coffee, clean the floors, write the program, build the website, publish the newsletter and... pay the bills. Westwoodians contribute in many ways, and we cannot forget that one crucial part of these contributions is financial.

Our Stewardship at Westwood includes regular financial contributions that are vital to *fanning the flame* of our spirit.



## Stewardship at Westwood

Stewardship is the time we consider our contribution and we look at our congregation's finances. We are all stakeholders in Westwood so it's important to have access to financial information. Westwood depends almost entirely on the support, financial and otherwise, of its members and friends. Our financial year runs from July 1 to June 30.

## Proposed 5% budget increase

For 2011-2012 the Board, after submissions from committees, is proposing a 5% increase in expenses. The total expenses would go up from \$118,802.00 for 2010-2011 to \$127,818. In the proposed budget this represents a small deficit of about \$12,000, but Westwoodians rarely spend the whole budget.

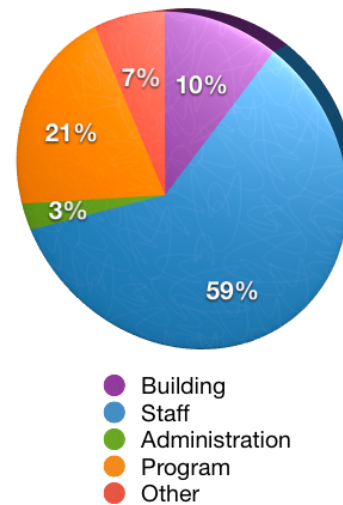
**Staff:** About 59% or \$75,963 (up from \$67,487) are staff costs, administrator, religious education and minister. One part of the cost increase is moving our Minister, Rev. Anne Barker from 0.6 of full-time to 0.7 of full-time, an incremental increase.

**Programs** would go up from \$26,400 to \$27,150. (worship services, choir, conferences and leadership development... etc).

**Building:** about 9%, \$12,513.00, will go to building-related costs (utilities, janitorial, etc.).

**Other:** 6% goes to "other" expenses such as CUC Membership, and 3% goes towards administrative expenses (copying, telephone, etc.)

Westwood Expenses 2011-2012

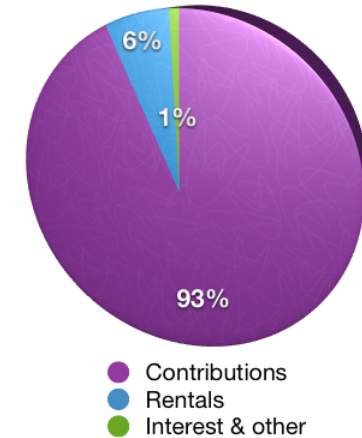


## Where does our revenue come from?

While rentals from our building make a nice contribution, fully 93% of the churches revenue comes from the contributions of members and friends.

Our community is growing. Westwood has about 100 members and 40 friends. We share the costs, which is about an average of roughly \$76/month per person. But of course some cannot afford nearly that amount, and many contribute much more.

Westwood Projected Income



## A free and responsible statement of support

Westwood members and friends contribute to the life of the congregation in many ways, including their vitally important gifts of time and talent. Members and friends also support Westwood financially. This support usually comes in the form of monthly pledges but it also includes Sunday offerings and special donations.

## Fanning the flame... brighter

Stewardship is asking you to consider if you can increase your contribution this year. The Board set this as a sustainable budget to set the stage for future growth. We are asking you to "fan the flame" for this growth with an increase, as you are able, to build this year and in the future.

