

“Beat the Goal, Get the Dream”

Thoughts on Stewardship

- Financial Stewardship is one of many ways to express engagement with our church.
- While not a measure of engagement, it is a facet.
- What is financial stewardship? An annual pledge of money to help our church operate.

Good Stewardship Ensures a Healthy Church

To ensure the long term health of our church, it is absolutely necessary to have a wide participation in financial stewardship.

Stewardship Involves Everyone

- Members usually select which church activity they wish to join.
- Stewardship is embraced when some one finds engagement through our church community.
- If our church community is healthy, then the sense of engagement involves the congregants in all forms of church community, including pledging.

Stewardship and Engagement

- Usually, if people become fully engaged, then financial commitments will follow, but it does not happen in reverse.
- This is why a focus on overall engagement is good for the long term health of our church.

Why is Engagement Needed?

- Our modern environment has left many hungry for a deeper sense of community, one that lasts longer than a few clicks of the mouse or a few scans of the eyeball.
- Engagement is the tie that binds stewardship to other activities of our church community.

Types of Engagement

- We can have an initial engagement with someone through intellectual means, but building lasting engagement requires **emotional** connections.
- What stirs the emotions of each of us is different, which is why we have such a variety of activities at First Unitarian.
- These activities are essential if we are to sustain and foster our church community, if we are to continue to have a vibrant and growing church community.

Music

Sermons,

Meditation

Social Justice

Religious Education

Green Sanctuary,

Building/Grounds

Chalice Circles

Kitchen

Caring

Dining

And many more....

Healthy Community



Volunteerism, Engagement and Stewardship

- Volunteering is important as it fosters deeper engagement among the members.
- But **volunteering alone is not enough to maintain a financially healthy church community.**

Key Facts

- The current 2013-14 church budget was approved at June 2013 annual meeting with a **\$15,000 shortfall**.
- Minimum pledges totaling \$250,000 for 2014-2015 estimated to be needed to barely get the church **into the black**.
- A Fairshare giving guide accompanies this powerpoint.
- The church remains committed to the practice of a balanced budget.

“Beat the Goal, Get the Dream”

- This years pledge campaign starts on Sunday 3/16 and runs thru 4/16.
- It has goal of raising at least \$250,000 in pledges. It will be called a success if it raises \$260,000.
- **Basically, we are asking each congregant to, on average, forego one Starbucks Latte and cookie each week and give that money instead to the church. That is an increase of \$23.16 per month or \$5.33 per week.**
- It is hoped the average pledge will increase by 1.21 times. For example, we are hoping that the mean pledge of \$1,323 will increase to \$1,600.
- Any monies raised in excess of the base goal of \$250,000 will be allocated at this year’s annual meeting to the top 4 committees/activities of the church as determined by a vote of the congregation at this year’s annual meeting.