

First Unitarian Universalist Society of Albany

A Welcoming Congregation

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February 1, 2014

Dear FUUSA Members and Friends,

Welcome to the Stewardship Campaign for the 2014-15 year at FUUSA: **“Put Your Money Where Your Heart Is.”** Think deeply about what FUUSA means to you. Where is your heart? What does it mean to you:

- To experience the music and words of a Sunday Morning Service or Evensong?
- To be part of a community that educates itself, encourages discussion, and takes a stand on significant public policy issues like same sex marriage and hydro fracking?
- To help our children learn life skills and principles as part of our Religious Education Program?
- To find support for your personal journey through Wellspring, Meaning Matters, This I Believe Service, and Small Group Ministry?
- To receive support during times of personal illness or need?

What does your heart say you should give?

In the next few months, we will be reflecting on FUUSA’s mission statement. Our Stewardship Campaign is the way that we translate our mission--the hopes and dreams of our congregation--into the foundation of an annual budget.

This year we are making a few changes in the Stewardship Campaign:

1. Budget Highlights: Our Campaign goal for this year is \$440,000. To reach this goal everyone will have to raise their pledge by an average of 6%.
If we reach this year’s goal we will be able to:
 - a) Continue moving staff compensation levels to meet UUA guidelines, especially for custodial and clerical staff.
 - b) Increase FUUSA’s share of staff Health Insurance Coverage
 - c) Support a part time ministerial intern next year
 - d) Increase our support for Adult Education and Outreach
2. Recognizing generosity – Just as we recognize volunteer commitments of time and talents with public thank yous such as the Unsung Hero Awards and RE Volunteer Recognition Sunday, we will be recognizing those who support FUUSA with their financial contributions. Please consult the attached “Giving from the Heart” guide. We are asking members and friends to let us know their category of generosity. Names of all

of our Supporters, Sustainers, Visionaries, and “10-Percenters” will be printed in the annual report. (You can opt out of your name being printed but we would still like to know which category you are in.)

3. Online Pledging – To make the process easier, we will be offering the opportunity for members and friends to pledge on line. This will be in addition to the Stewardship Gatherings and one on one process that we have used in the past.

This year we would like everyone to think deeply about what FUUSA means to you. When it comes time to pledge, listen to your heart. Are you capable of giving that much? Think about what it would mean to increase your pledge to give that amount. Determine your donor category and feel good about it. Our personal experience is that we were glad when we increased our pledge and decided to give more each year. We hope yours will be the same.

Thank you for your generosity and support.



Peggy Sherman
President



Chuck Manning
Stewardship Committee Chair

P.S. Please note that we have sent this first letter as an email to reduce financial and environmental costs, as well as staff time.