

White Bear Unitarian Universalist Church
Special Campaign
September 2015

Our congregation is vibrant and thriving. Engaging the wider world in relevant, reverent ways, we are a healthy, multigenerational spiritual community. Unitarian Universalist principles of freedom, reason, tolerance and love guide our 21st century lives.

We are on solid ground.

Thanks to the generous stewardship of members and friends past and present, our budget and our staff are adequate to serve our vision and our needs. Annual pledges, special gifts and wise financial management support the congregation's practical goals and its boldest dreams. Our footing is firm and our outlook is hopeful.

Our potential is very bright, and can be brighter still.

- ***Walking Our Talk: A Greener Building***

Our heating, ventilation and air conditioning systems need major work, estimated at \$700,000. The good news is that we have an opportunity to make our building more environmentally friendly. A team of HVAC experts – all member volunteers – have advised us to invest in cost-efficient systems as soon as possible, before the old ones fail. We'll be more comfortable, more welcoming to all, with up-to-date, energy-efficient systems.

The HVAC work will involve some construction work in the Social Hall and this presents an opportunity to make that space more welcoming. We would like to make modest improvements in lighting and acoustics – these will cost approximately \$100,000.

- ***Extending Our Reach: Investing in our Mission Instead of our Mortgage***

We currently make mortgage payments of \$80,000 each year. Since building the new sanctuary we have reduced our mortgage by **\$400,000**, but \$856,000 remains to be paid. Reducing our mortgage debt will allow us to allocate more of our annual budget toward mission focused expenditures. If we can reduce our mortgage to \$450,000, we would save \$40,000 annually, money that could be redirected to programs that we value, music, justice, lifelong learning, spiritual practices, ministry and staffing.

A Special Campaign in 2016

The Board of Directors, together with the Financial Oversight Committee, Development Committee, current and past Treasurers and the Lead Minister, are confident that now is the time to address these needs and hopes. Our congregation is strong and healthy, and we are ready to invest anew in our beautiful facility, maintaining this house for future generations.

The savings will be significant. Money we send now to the bank or spend to patch old furnaces will serve our vision so much more powerfully when directed to those things we value most:

- Sunday services, music and the arts to grow our souls
- Social justice and environmental stewardship to serve the wider world
- Religious education for children and youth,
- Lifelong learning, spiritual sustenance and circles of support...

... the heart and soul of our beloved community.
