



March 16, 2019

Dear NUUC Friend,

This year's annual pledge drive is historic: it is combined with our first ever capital campaign project. While we did a small capital campaign project in 2001 to purchase our current building, this is our first all out effort to raise a substantial amount so that we might expand our building in a way that expands our capacity to live our mission of "Welcome, Inspire, Connect, Act." For your planning and comfort, we are committed to not asking you for financial donations more than once a year. Hence this year we will be asking for your capital and annual pledge at the same time. Church members will be contacted by one of our trained visiting stewards. These folks will be in touch not just to learn what financial resources you can commit, but to hear your vision and hopes for our future. Very little of the visit will be about money.

In order to do a single combined campaign, we have altered our fiscal year from our previous January 1-December 31 calendar to a more regular fiscal year of July 1-June 30. **Hence, your pledge to our operating budget will cover July 1, 2019-June 30, 2020.**

While your pledge is not directly connected to our exciting building plans (check them out by hitting the "Building Expansion" banner link on the front page of our website), all that we do is connected. Last year we hired our own sexton rather than continue with a cleaning service, in anticipation of greater need for custodial help in the future. We also need to hire administrative, which will free up my time to develop programming that will help us grow into our expansion. We also want to budget payroll service to relieve the burden on our volunteer Treasurer.

Here's a glimpse of how we have been living out our mission this year:

**We WELCOME** beyond ordinary borders, boundaries, or personal identities. This also means that we are committed to generously offering the resources available to us as Unitarian Universalists to seekers in our area. Two examples include our annual community Autumn Ritual and Winter Solstice Service, which draw participants from inside and outside the congregation.

**We INSPIRE** with thoughtful worship, our growing and energetic religious education programs for children and youth, and, also, our adult enhancement programs, including Spiritual Autobiography, Mindful Writing, Brown Bag Books, UU Beliefs, Yoga, UU 101, Women's Group, and so much more. We are gifted with a very talented and creative Director of Religious Education, Jen Aultman. In the future we look forward to even more intergenerational programming that extends beyond Sunday morning and reaches out into our community.

**We CONNECT** through spirituality, the arts, shared learning, social events, and caring. One example is our music program. Under the leadership of Music Director Marlene Hartzler and Pianist Wade Jones, our program is alive, dynamic, and a real center of our lives together.

**We ACT** in the service of compassion and justice. In the past year, we provided Christmas dinner to the women in the Horizon program at the Ohio Reformatory for Women, as well supported more than a dozen other justice initiatives in a myriad of ways. In the immediate future we look to enhancing our leadership development opportunities that will allow our member to make a difference in our community and enable a culture of abundant generosity and service.

Our ability to continue to make a difference is directly linked to our level of commitment—commitment of our financial resources, commitment of our time, and commitment of our skills and talents to help us fulfill our mission. But most of all, thank you for all the support you offer our congregation, in so many ways.

Warmly,

Rev. Susan Ritchie and your NUUC Board of Trustees