

UUCN 2015-2016 Stewardship
Rick Spitz - Member of Stewardship Team

Our campaign this year focused on evolving from an annual pledge drive to a year round stewardship initiative. Stewardship is not just about money. It involves much more, including caring for, serving, and supporting our church. Our campaign theme was "Being All In". We used our Church Mission & Ends as a driving force, and spoke of how we could all move from being a mid sized family size church to a growing program based church.

We heard a lot of great suggestions from members of our congregation. We also had a great extended dialog of how we as a congregation can "Be more and Do More", both with in our church and also in the outside community. Another key theme in our campaign was demonstrating that we are a congregation ready to do great things with a wonderful new minister.

We held presentations and dialogs with many different groups, heard individual member's thoughts on being "All In" during Sunday services, produced an online video so that everyone could access our presentation, and even held a phone-a-thon to make sure we met our earlier pledge deadline this year.

So how did we do? In the 2015-2016 stewardship campaign 259 members participated in pledging. They provided both joint family pledges and individual member pledges. Our official budget numbers show that in the prior year's 2014-2015 campaign, the total base pledge amount was \$235,000.

For 2015-2016, it appears many of our members heard the call for "Being All In" and expressed their generosity. Quite a few increased their pledges by 30% or more from their prior year pledge. Many others increased their pledges by more than 10 or 15%. Still others not able to increase their pledges still maintained their prior year pledge levels.

This resulted in a total annual pledge from our membership of over \$283,000. That's more than a 20% total increase, or approximately 50K more. This is the largest annual increase we have seen in many years and perhaps in the history of our church.

Thank you all very much for such great results.