

Stewardship Team Annual Report 2019-2020

Co-Chairs: Vengerflutta Smith & Marie Jones, Members: Jim Bonvouloir, Brian Ibsen-Johnson, Karen Murray, Staff Liaisons: Rev. Allison Palm, Sherri Woolsey

The broad purpose of the Stewardship Team is to serve as the chief fundraising arm of the church. Under the UUCN Strategic Plan adopted in June 2016 the Stewardship Team was given charge of generating the funds to grow the church as outlined in the 5-year plan. The ongoing goal is to instill in our members an understanding of themselves as stewards of this church community.

As the year began, the team set an \$8,000 fundraising goal. It was decided to start the fundraising effort with a book fair in December, de-construct the Auction broken up into segments in the spring and finally, the Stewardship Drive in February.

The Auction was historically our single biggest fundraiser netting around \$7,000. However, due to declining attendance the past several years, the team decided on a different approach that might generate more interest and raise additional funds. Because of this, the auction was de-constructed; breaking it into segments: Basket Raffles, Bid and Bump, Silent Auction and Art Auction with each section occupying a specific month. The Basket Raffle was held in January and raised \$880. Unfortunately COVID-19 interrupted the remaining plans for the de-constructed auction and thus the fundraising goal was not reached.

The December Book Fair was popular with the congregation. Stewardship was able to sell items from the UUA bookstore, InSpirit, from a list they provided the team, keeping a portion of book and merchandise sales. The Fellowship Room was used after Sunday Services the last Sunday of November and first three Sundays of December to set up and sell the items. Sales totaled \$2,770.51 in book and merchandise sales which netted the church \$612.00.

The team then focused on the Stewardship Drive in February. The theme this year was "Fueling Our Flame." Joan Connacher and Paul Introcaso were invited to speak during two Sunday services on what our church means to them. The Stewardship team would like to Thank Joan and Paul for their support with the Stewardship Drive. As in the past couple of years, our children were also invited to make a pledge. With assistance from Sadie Kahn-Greene, our Director of Faith Formation, special pledge forms were made for the children to fill out. Thank you to our youngest pledgers! Our goal was to raise \$340,000, and to date we have \$336,046 in pledges. Thank you to everyone who made a pledge.

The team is also tasked with keeping members and friends updated on the status of their pledge twice a year; at the midpoint (in December) and again toward the end of the pledge year (in May). Members are invited to check their pledge status at any time in Breeze by logging in, going to their profile, clicking on "Giving" and then selecting the date ranges they wish to review. This information may also be printed as a report of giving should it be needed.

Respectfully Submitted,

Marie Jones & Vengerflutta Smith