

Stewardship Team Annual Report, 2023-2024

Co-Chairs: Jim Bonvouloir, David Price

Members: Caitlin Durgin, Alison Fagundes, Donna LaRue, Kenna McLeod, Stan St.Onge

Staff Liaisons: Rev. Allison Palm, Ericka LaValley

Team Achievements:

The 2023-24 church year began with the return of in-person services and activities after the post-covid pandemic period. Our fundraising goals were successfully met.

The Stewardship Team organized a Fall Harvest themed auction and raffle from October 29 to November 4. The online format, like previous years, was used for the auction and raffle. On November 4, a live auction was also held, following the tradition of previous years. Auctria auction software was utilized for the fifth time to manage donations, bids, and raffle tickets. The experience gained from previous years and the work of the previous stewardship team proved invaluable.

The live auction took place in the upstairs auditorium, with Dave Hudson showcasing his engaging auctioneer skills. Desserts and beverages were served, and a lively bid-and-bump auction was held for several items. Cakes donated by church teams were also auctioned.

The total amount raised was \$11,163.28 a 52% increase from the previous year. The team credits the generosity and thoughtfulness of the congregation for the success of the auction, with donations ranging from household items to experiences, electronics, food, gift baskets, and gift cards. We hope to continue this momentum for the 2024 auction and raffle.

In December, the team organized a UU book and gift sale on three Sundays, resulting in \$1,461.70 in sales and a profit of \$593.10 for the church.

The Stewardship Campaign, with the theme “Lead with Love,” was launched on February 4, with a focus on showing appreciation for the hard-working staff members. Staff salaries make up 64% of the church budget, but they have not kept up with the rising cost of living and are below the salaries recommended by the UUA Fair Compensation Program.

An information packet was distributed to all members and friends at the start of the campaign. Updates and progress reports were presented to the congregation every Sunday during the month, and a Stewardship Campaign information table was set up in the dining room after the services. On March 11, a phonathon was held with the help of the Board of Trustees, reaching out to those who had not yet pledged.

The final amount pledged at the end of the campaign was \$403,513.42, an 8% increase from the previous year. A Stewardship Campaign is typically challenging in the first year following a capital campaign, so it is especially notable that the congregation pledged this increase over the

previous year. Many thanks to all the members and friends who generously supported our caring community!

New members of the team this year include Stan St.Onge, Alison Fagundes and Caitlin Durgin.

Co-chair Jim Bonvouloir will be leaving the team in June to lend his expertise to other areas of the church. Thank you, Jim, for your years of hard work and dedication to stewardship!

Kenna McLeod will join Dave Price as co-chair for 2024-25. Thank you, Kenna!

Respectfully submitted by David Price
May 18, 2024