



UNIVERSALIST UNITARIAN CHURCH OF HAVERHILL

WELCOMING ■ CARING ■ FAITH ■ COMMUNITY

Dear friends and members of UUCH,

It is my deep joy and privilege to serve this congregation, where we practice loving one another and serving those in need; where we are about building the common good and making ours a better world. I hope it's obvious how much I love being your minister!

I hope you value what this church adds to your life. But even more, I hope you care about what this congregation stands for. We affirm the worth and dignity of every person. We celebrate diverse theologies and welcome people from all walks of life. We offer spiritual and theological depth and are committed to making this a better, more just world. We believe that a welcoming, caring faith community can change things for the better, and that's what we try to do every day.

In the coming year we want to hire a new music director to enrich our worship. We hope to have paid teachers for our younger Sunday School children, so their parents can come to the worship service. We want to fairly compensate our dedicated staff, and take good care for our beloved building. All this takes money, and I'm asking for your financial support. You are the primary source of our income. Simply put, we need you to help us be a healthy and thriving church. And the wider community needs us to be strong and vibrant.

Tracey and I are pleased to support the two congregations we are a part of. We feel privileged to give back to churches that have blessed us so deeply. Will you join us in pledging as generously as you are able to support our church?

I hope you will take the time to think seriously about how much you can give. Let me know if you'd like to have a conversation about this. Please fill out the enclosed pledge card and return it to the church by March 15. Your pledge card is an important tool in finalizing our 2015/2016 budget. Then plan to come to church on March 22, our Celebration Sunday, when we will celebrate the generosity of the good people here. Thank you for doing your part to help serve our mission of transforming lives and the world!

Yours in faith and love,
Rev. Frank Clarkson





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We are Joan Shaw and Taffy Jervey, members of UUCH since 1999. We were both raised Catholic, but did not feel accepted. For a long period we avoided organized religion until friends recommended the UU church. We found UUCH and felt welcomed into a loving community and found an open spiritual home. Taffy had an experience that made it clear this is where we belong:

I was struggling with a health issue and finally got diagnosed with a nasty type of arthritis. I made the mistake of looking for information on the web which showed scenarios of disability, eye pain, heart valve destruction and the treatments were drugs with bad side effects including possible death. One day feeling depressed and alone, I experienced a supernatural event. As I sat sobbing looking up at the window of Jesus, I suddenly felt the arms of Jesus wrapping around me to console me. On that day, I knew that I was not alone, was loved and UUCH would help me.

We feel blessed to enjoy a growing extended family and home for our spiritual growth. We also feel blessed to find a church where we could celebrate our marriage, something we could not experience in many churches.

We have chosen to follow the footsteps of our church founders by being active members, participating in many activities, fund raisers and committees including permanent funds, capital campaign, stewardship, board of trustees, clerk and community meals. In addition, we give generously to the annual fund and church fund raisers. We do this in order to help preserve the spiritual home that we cherish, not only for us, but for others who need it now and in future generations. We hope you will also give as generously as possible, both financially and actively so we can sustain the life and work of this church.

“Let there be an offering to sustain and strengthen this place which is sacred to so many of us, a community of memory and of hope, for we are the keepers of the dream.”

Brandoch L. Lovely (# 674 UU hymnal)





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After being a member of UUCH for more than 35 years there seems to be a million reasons to pledge to this church.

The best place to start is at the beginning. Like most young families we were looking for a spiritual home to raise our children. We found UUCH. It was a place both we and our children could explore and develop our and their belief systems. As time went on the church became a place of strength and support as our family faced the death of loved ones. With this support I was able to come through these hard times.

We witnessed the church being a leader in the community with the development of programs for the homeless and hungry in the city of Haverhill. There was support of other churches that needed a neutral place to worship. This church not only states that service is its prayer but we live it.

It has always been my feeling that nothing comes free. The church needs strong and creative staff members. Our beautiful but old building needs to be maintained. As a member of this great church it is my responsibility to help with that. By pledging it gives the church a way to plan its future and be able to continue its great works and support our wonderful staff.

Please consider what the UUCH means to you and our families and give what you can.

Thank you,
Maggie Reeve





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My grandfather, Vinton Bowering was minister of this church. After his sudden passing, my grandmother Janet Bowering became minister. Grandma's voice echoed from the pulpit all of my childhood. Grandma retired, I went off to college and slowly drifted away from the church. Over the past few years we have had the opportunity to become reacquainted with church. At first I came regularly because it was what grandma wanted and needed, then we came regularly because it was what William wanted, now we come regularly because it is what our family values.

I grew up viewing the church as a second home and we want William to know the bonds and strength of a church community. He has witnessed many gentle acts of kindness, courage, and love. He always asks, "Is it church day?" As parents, we want him to grow up in a place where he feels comfortable questioning himself, others, and even us. I can't think of a safer environment for him to learn these lessons.

This past year has given us the opportunity to see the church shine in so many ways. William has been actively involved in the religious education program and enjoyed every moment of it. As a family we have seen the love, support and kindness of individuals and groups when our family needed it most. We have shared old memories and created new ones both within these walls and in the community.

We are constantly striving to make sure our son is aware that if something is of value to you, you take care of it. One of the ways we care for the church is by making a weekly financial contribution. Many things about church have changed since I was a child, but one thing has remained the same. It is the fact that the church is a place where it is okay to say, "I don't know...but I know someone who can help." We feel privileged to be a part of this church's history and excited in being part of its future.

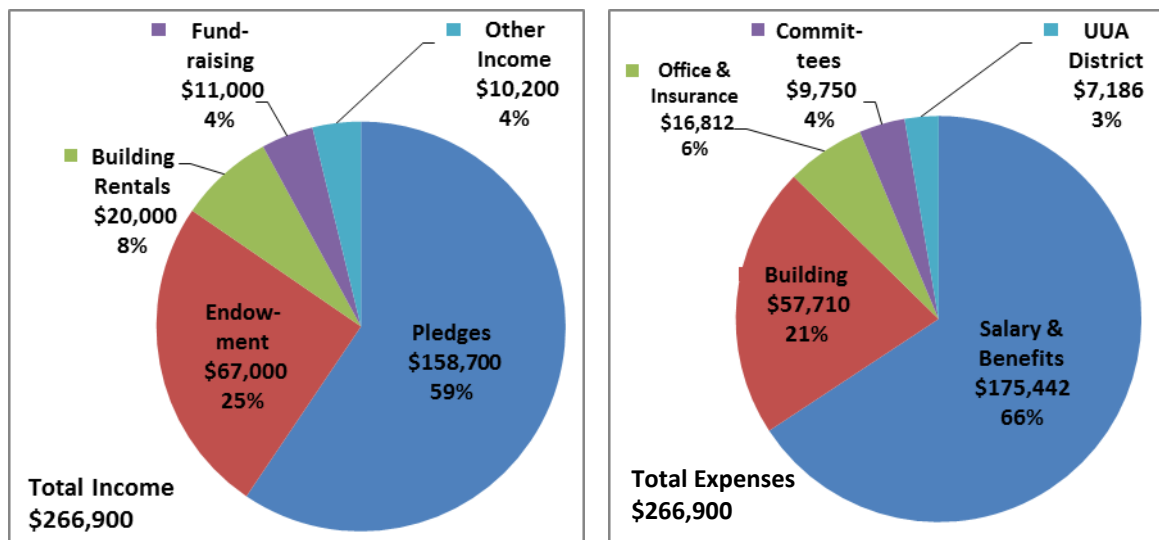
Sincerely,
Laura and Matthew Morley



FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE REPORT STEWARDSHIP BUDGET FY15 - 16

UUCH is a thriving Welcoming and Caring Faith Community that requires a strong financial foundation in order to support our ministry, programs, and the growth that we are experiencing. There are many financial priorities to support including our wonderful talented staff, our beautiful but aging building, our excellent religious education program, our congregational outreach programs, and our enthusiastic involved committees.

Our total proposed budget for FY15 – 16 is \$266,900 which is an increase from this year's budget of \$250,300. In order to meet the proposed budget, pledges from the congregation will need to increase by 8.7% from \$146,000 to \$158,700. The following pie charts provide the high level insight into the sources and uses of the budgeted items:



The proposed detailed budget for FY15 – 16 is attached. Some important aspects of this budget are meeting the UUA fair compensations guidelines for all staff, adding a part time Music Director, expanded hours for our office administrator, providing adequate funds for the maintenance and upkeep of our building, providing additional paid staff to support our growing Sunday RE program, supporting the budget requests of the UUCH committees, and making progress towards becoming a fair share congregation with the UUA.

The Stewardship objective is significant for UUCH as it represents an 8.7% (\$12,700) increase on top of a 16.8% (\$21,000) increase that was pledged for the current fiscal year. Nevertheless, we are confident that this is an achievable goal given the growth we have had and the congregational enthusiasm we are all experiencing. It will however require all of us to further step up our financial commitment in support of this congregation and all that it means to us.

The Finance Committee:

Paul Floyd, Doug Rosene, Roger Auclair, Roy Wright, Sue Cammett, Abbe Wertz



UUCH Budgets FY13-16

ITEM	FY 13-14		FY 14-15	FY 15-16
Income Categories	Budget	Actual	Budget	Budget
Pledges	\$125,000	\$125,677	\$146,000	\$158,700
Endowment (PF: \$61,000 First: \$3,000)	\$64,000	\$64,296	\$64,000	\$67,000
Fundraising	\$9,500	\$8,163	\$11,000	\$11,000
Building Rentals	\$19,000	\$19,470	\$19,000	\$20,000
AT&T Real Estate Tax				\$1,700
Christmas Letter	\$4,000	\$0	\$0	\$0
Other Income (Sun collections, Donations)	\$6,000	\$11,358	\$10,300	\$8,500
TOTAL INCOME	\$260,110	\$259,981	\$250,300	\$266,900
Expense Categories				
Staff Salary/Benefits				
Minister	\$82,172		\$82,172	\$87,999
Religious Education Director	\$32,467		\$31,390	\$31,987
RE Sunday Staff		\$168,250		\$2,261
Music	\$22,352		\$8,625	\$13,693
Office Admin	\$21,702		\$24,202	\$27,551
Sextons	\$11,718		\$11,718	\$11,952
Intern	\$6,000	\$6,000	\$6,000	\$0
Subtotal	\$176,410	\$174,250	\$164,107	\$175,442
Administration				
Insurance	\$7,000	\$8,581	\$7,200	\$6,712
Office Supplies	\$3,000	\$3,794	\$3,500	\$3,500
Service Contracts (copier)	\$2,300	\$3,398	\$3,000	\$3,000
Telecommunications	\$3,000	\$3,588	\$3,600	\$3,600
Subtotal	\$15,900	\$19,711	\$17,300	\$16,812
Buildings & Grounds				
Building Contracts (Sec/Fire, Elev, Heat)	\$3,700	\$2,461	\$3,700	\$3,700
Building Repairs	\$8,200	\$9,465	\$12,000	\$16,000
Electricity	\$5,000	\$5,250	\$5,800	\$5,800
Heating	\$13,100	\$10,784	\$11,000	\$10,500
Janitorial Supplies	\$500	\$425	\$500	\$500
Lawn Service/Snow Removal	\$2,600	\$3,506	\$3,000	\$3,000
Lift Expenses & taxes			\$1,100	\$1,100
Maintenance Supplies	\$500	\$267	\$300	\$300
Mortgage	\$11,010	\$11,013	\$11,010	\$11,010
Plantings and Ground Maintenance				\$0
Real Estate Taxes	\$1,600	\$1,658	\$1,600	\$1,700
Refuse Removal	\$500	\$1,095	\$1,250	\$1,250
Water - Sewer	\$1,000	\$938	\$850	\$850
Other Expenses	\$0	\$2,024	\$1,500	\$2,000
Subtotal	\$47,710	\$48,886	\$53,610	\$57,710
Committees				
Board of Trustees	\$450	\$533	\$500	\$500
Caring Ministry				\$350
Community (CommMeals/dropin ctr)	\$2,000	\$1,674	\$1,700	\$1,700
Fellowship (coffee hr, circle dinners)	\$200	\$110	\$150	\$150
Green Sanctuary	\$500	\$0	\$400	\$400
Membership	\$250	\$150	\$350	\$250
MLK Breakfast	\$250	\$250	\$250	\$250
Music	\$1,700	\$1,701	\$1,200	\$1,200
Religious Education & Adult RE	\$3,500	\$1,278	\$1,900	\$1,900
Social Justice	\$700	\$920	\$700	\$700
Stewardship	\$400	\$0	\$550	\$500
Welcoming Congregation	\$500	\$106	\$350	\$350
Worship	\$1,300	\$912	\$850	\$1,500
Subtotal	\$12,150	\$7,634	\$8,900	\$9,750
Denominational Commitments				
UUA Contributions	\$4,000	\$3,943	\$4,000	\$4,460
District Contributions	\$2,242	\$2,299	\$2,300	\$2,477
District Meetings	\$400	\$0	\$0	\$250
Subtotal	\$7,642	\$8,988	\$6,300	\$7,186
Total Expenses	\$259,812	\$259,469	\$250,217	\$266,900
NET	\$298	\$512	\$83	\$0