

# Transforming Lives



## 2011-12 ANNUAL STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN



First Unitarian Church  
of Cincinnati



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of Cincinnati

536 Linton Street  
Cincinnati, Ohio 45219  
513.281.1564  
[www.firstuu.com](http://www.firstuu.com)

### *Our Mission*

Our urban Unitarian Universalist community celebrates and supports one another on our spiritual and ethical paths.

We work for justice, dignity and respect for the web of life.

### *Vision Statement*

We will be a liberal religious haven  
Sustained by tradition  
Boldly seeking justice  
Gently transforming lives.

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Printed on recycled paper.



# Transforming Lives at First Church

Last year our congregation gathered in small groups to share our experiences at First Church and express our hopes for its future. Our words helped inspire the creation of a new vision statement for our congregation.

*We will be a liberal religious haven  
Sustained by tradition  
Boldly seeking justice  
Gently transforming lives*

Once a year during the Annual Stewardship Campaign we ask our members to consider the financial commitment they will make to First Church. These contributions help support the ministry and programs of the Church that in turn help transform our lives.

# Transforming Ourselves

First and foremost our religious community transforms us as individuals. Sunday services inspire and sustain us. Small Groups, Spirit in Practice classes, book discussions, interest groups such as the Humanist Group and the Young Adult Group and special events like the Women's Retreat help us connect to people with different life experiences and help us examine our personal lives and philosophy.

*"Participating in Small Groups has helped rebuild my individual faith by learning from others in my group."*

# Transforming Our Families

First Church also helps transform our families through comprehensive and wide ranging Religious Education programs that create a spiritual foundation for our children and young adults. Intergenerational services and social activities then help connect our families to the larger First Church community and help us boldly live our faith in our day to day lives.

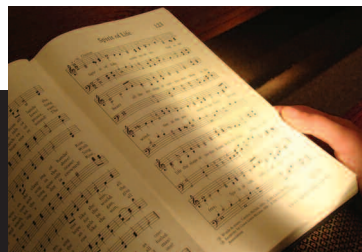
*"My children's Coming Of Age spiritual journey helped me connect with this congregation and look at my spiritual journey."*

# Transforming Our Community

First Church also gives us a unique opportunity as religious liberals to put our beliefs into action. We reach out to the Avondale community through the Carter Fund, tutoring in neighborhood schools, and contributing to the Shiloh Food Pantry. We impact the larger Cincinnati community through our work for the Interfaith Hospitality Network, People Working Cooperatively and refugee families. We encourage community dialogue on critical community issues such as immigration and gun violence. We boldly stand on the side of love with our participation in the Gay Pride Parade.

*"It felt joyful and important to be part of the church whose values support people's own personal choice by participating in the Pride Parade."*

## *What would you give to support all that you get from First Church?*



## From the Ministers

Dear Members and Friends,

As a Unitarian Universalist congregation we are self-funded and rely on the generosity and vision of our members and friends to sustain our mission, vision, programs and activities. We trust you to make a generous decision and are truly grateful for your financial commitment and stewardship. We understand that people are able to give at different levels, and *all gifts are appreciated*. Regardless of what you pledge, we are here for you. Thank you for all you do to create and sustain Unitarian Universalism in the greater Cincinnati area.

In Love and Faith,  
Sharon and Annie

## From the Board of Trustees

Dear First Church Members:

This is the time of year when we ask you to thoughtfully consider what financial commitment you will make to First Church in the next fiscal year that begins July 1, 2011.

**This year our Stewardship Campaign pledge goal is \$400,000.**

Last year we successfully raised \$356,000. Any increase in pledging is a challenge but we would not ask for additional support if we did not believe this additional money was important to meet our needs.

In addition we are asking our members to make a one-time contribution to renovate our beautiful sanctuary. More details about this effort are included in this brochure.

A lot of exciting things are happening at First Church. A new vision has been created and a new strategic plan is in the works. Our membership has reached 315, the highest level in several decades. We are on a roll! Please give as generously as your circumstances allow. As we like to say, give until it feels good!

Regardless of how much you can give, please know that the Board and staff appreciate your contributions.

Thank you!  
Jenny Krueger, *President, Board of Trustees*

## Campaign Goal

**This year our fundraising goal for the operating budget is \$400,000 in member pledges.** This is an increase of \$44,000 over last year's pledges. This additional money will go to support:

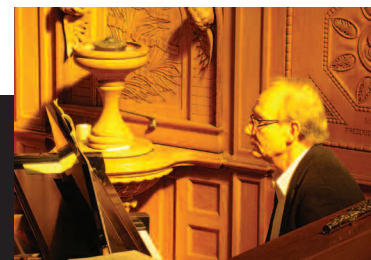
- Improvement to our senior minister compensation package and funding for participation in Leadership Cincinnati
- Additional funding for RE including support for a Junior High teacher and programming enhancements
- Modest increases in committee budgets to enhance programming and services

Revenues	2010-11	Proposed 2011-12
Member Pledges	\$356,000	\$400,000
Other Revenue	\$49,500	\$34,600
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 405,500</b>	<b>\$434,600</b>

Expenses	2010-11	Proposed 2011-12
Personnel	\$284,900	\$298,850
Committees	\$16,300	\$21,350
General Operations	\$78,800	\$85,850
Denominational	\$25,500	\$28,550
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 405,500</b>	<b>\$434,600</b>

## Giving Guide

Adj. Gross Income	Monthly Giving	Annual Giving
\$10,000	\$21 – 42	\$250 – 500
\$20,000	\$42 – 83	\$500 – 1,000
\$30,000	\$63 – 125	\$750 – 1,500
\$40,000	\$83 – 167	\$1,000 – 2,000
\$50,000	\$104 – 208	\$1,250 – 2,500
\$60,000	\$125 – 250	\$1,500 – 3,000
\$70,000	\$146 – 292	\$1,750 – 3,500
\$80,000	\$167 – 333	\$2,000 – 4,000
\$90,000	\$188 – 375	\$2,250 – 4,500
\$100,000	\$208 – 417	\$2,500 – 5,000
\$125,000	\$260 – 521	\$3,125 – 6,250
\$150,000 +	\$313 – 625	\$3,750 – 7,500+



# Transforming Our Sanctuary

In 1888 the members of First Church built a new home on the corner of Reading Road and Linton Street. They hired the renowned architect James McLaughlin, who designed the Cincinnati Art Museum. He created a unique space featuring soaring arches and golden stained glass. In the following years beautiful wood carvings and spectacular Tiffany windows were added.

The Sanctuary was last renovated in 1980. After 30 years we are once again called on to be good stewards of the beautiful space we inherited. In the summer of 2011, *we plan to install a new furnace, repair and paint the deteriorating plaster, replace the carpeting, and, for the first time, install air conditioning.*

## Renovation Fundraising Goal – Over \$75,000

Our top priority is funding the annual operating budget for the coming year. Once you make this pledge, we then need you to make a contribution to the Sanctuary Renovation.

The total cost of the work outlined above is projected to be more than \$150,000. Currently we have \$75,000 earmarked for this work of which \$50,000 has come from a legacy gift by Pat Davis and the remainder from the general capital budget and the Heart and Hand Auction. In addition we have received \$25,000 in member contributions.

This is a great start but **we still need to raise over \$75,000 by the completion of the Phase 1 renovation work in September 2011.** If, for example, everyone made a one-time contribution equal to 50% of their annual operating pledge, we would not only reach our Phase 1 goal but be well on our way toward funding the next phase of the sanctuary renovation which includes new lighting and improved audio-visual capabilities.

## How to Pledge

**This year we are asking you to make two pledges:**

- A pledge to the annual operating budget payable between July 1, 2011 and June 30, 2012.
- A pledge to the Sanctuary Renovation project payable by September 1, 2011.

**There are two ways to make your pledge:**

- **Pledge online** – Go to the church website at [www.firstuu.com](http://www.firstuu.com). Click on the link to the Stewardship campaign page to complete your pledge. The form has a place to enter both your operating pledge and your contribution to the renovation.

If you choose this option, a Campaign volunteer will be in touch with you to thank you and answer any questions you might have.

- **Talk with a Campaign volunteer** – In the three weeks following the campaign kick-off on *March 6*, every member who did not make a pledge at a Kick-off event will be contacted by a Campaign Volunteer. This offers you an opportunity to ask questions about the budget or renovation project and discuss your pledges. It also offers a time to share your thoughts or ask questions about First Church. At this time you can either fill out a pledge form or pledge online.

*Thank you for your support of First Church.  
What you contribute will come back to you in  
many ways throughout the year!*

