



First Unitarian Universalist Society of Albany

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April 4 2010

Dear FUUSA Family and Friends

Many of you have been involved in the work of our society over the past year and have helped to shape the plans we now hold for the future. Our new facility has made it possible to serve a growing number of members and friends and the resulting increase in membership has been exciting, gratifying and challenging:

- Exciting because we see an array of new opportunities for programs to meet the needs of our growing family.
- Gratifying because when we built our new building we recognized the need to serve a larger and growing membership, but with some uncertainty about what needs might actually materialize.
- Challenging because we now see these needs developing and must take the next steps to be able to serve our growing congregation.

Two weeks ago one possible view to the next five year was proposed to the congregation. Since then there have been four congregational conversations about the proposal and in general the response has been very positive. Reasonable concerns have been raised and addressed in so far as possible. The next step of the process is to make our pledges for the coming year. If the canvass is successful we will take the next step on our journey to a brighter future. We will be able to work toward our objective of adding important staff support, especially the recruiting of a part-time minister. We should all recognize this is **only the first step in a plan which can be modified year by year** as conditions require. At the same time it is important to have a plan for the future which will help us reach our long term goals.

The Canvass goal for the 2010-2011 church year is \$400,291 a \$23,262 net increase above the actual level of 2009-2010. With our current membership of 379 this pledge total will be about \$1057 per member. Where there are two members in a household that means an average of \$2114. This is actually just about the same as the actual average level of support in the 2009-2010 year, when we had about 353 members.

We realize not everyone is able to contribute at this level and we are deeply grateful for the support of those members who help to make our society's programs possible by giving above the average. If we all make pledges which recognize continuing normal growth in expenses of three to four percent, our dreams will be fulfilled.

Thank you for your support and your dedication to our success and our lives together.

*Your Canvass Committee
Your Board of Trustees*

Thank you for your generous support of our congregation!