

[Snow White enters]

SW: I'm so lost...and so tired. I've been traveling for days. I need to rest. Thank goodness I found this church. *[Looks around]* What a lovely, old-style sanctuary. But it looks like no one has used it for a long, long time. I need some sleep. These pews look comfortable. *[Yawning, lies down]*

[Off stage comes singing "I Owe...I Owe". Dwarfs enter singing]

7D: I owe, I owe. It's off to church we go. *[Whistle]* I owe, I owe, I owe, I owe. *[See Snow White and stop]*

Cashful: Whoa! What's that?

Preachy: Hey, fellas, look at this! Where did she come from?

Cheapy: *[Shakes Snow White]* Wake up, young lady. Who are you?

SW: My name is Snow White and I'm a princess and well, I've run away from my Father's castle. He wants to arrange a marriage for me with some airhead royal, but all of those princes expect me to treat them like, royalty. For-get it! I was on my way to Vegas, but I think I took a wrong turn on the Jersey Turnpike. Never ask a Magic Mirror for directions. Where am I, and who are you?

Teachy: This is the First Unitarian-Universalist Society of Albany, and we are the Seven Dwarfs. I'm Teachy.

Preachy: I'm Preachy.

Cheapy: I'm Cheapy.

Greeny: I'm Greeny.

Cashful: I'm Cashful.

Bossy: I'm Bossy.

Crock: And I'm Crock.

SW: Aren't you a little tall for dwarfs? Except you. *[Cashful reacts]*

Bossy: Well, Crock here used to have the same trainer as Roger Clemens. We've been working out. *[Dwarfs strike body-builder poses]*

SW: What are you doing in the city? I thought all dwarfs lived in the forest.

Cashful: Ever since Disney downsized us... *[points at SW]*... don't you dare! Ever since Disney downsized us, we had to find other jobs, so we moved to Albany, since the State Capitol reminds us so much of Fantasyland.

Cheapy: At first, Joe Bruno hired us to work in his personal laundry, but the ink from the \$100 bills kept turning us green.

Greeny: The seven of us are now the designated drivers for ex-Representative John Sweeny. One dwarf for each day of the week. And we joined this church.

Crock: Why don't you come with us? We are on our way to Emerson Hall for the combination Annual Meeting, Congregational Conversation, Coffee Hour and Committee Reports meeting. *[Aside to audience]* I know, I know, but it cuts down on script transitions.
[Snow White and dwarfs walk around. Rest of cast enters.]

Preachy: Everyone, I'd like you to meet our visitor today, Snow White. *[Hellos]*

SW: What a fantastic space! It absolutely dwarfs that other room.

7D: Hey!!

SW: Sorry. This is way better than my Father's castle. Was it expensive?

P1: Yes, it was, but I'm not sure we got our money's worth. I made a big pledge to the Capital Campaign, but this is all there is; a big room, a big window and a big mortgage.

SIXTEEN GRAND

We got a big new room to listen to Sam,
And hope that more people will give a damn.
In this room sweat equity.
But that doesn't mean we built it for free.

You pledge 16 grand, whadda ya get?
A beacon that's shining and a lot more debt.
Saint Peter don't ya call me, 'cause you should know,
That we U-ni-tar-i-ans just won't go.

We kicked out the tenants and gave up the rent.
Brought in the wrecking ball and poured the cement.
We built towards the Baptists just down the street.
We get any closer we'll pick up their beat.

[Chorus]

*You pledge 16 grand, whadda ya get?
A beacon that's shining and a lot more debt.
Saint Peter don't ya call me, 'cause you should know,
That we U-ni-tar-i-ans just won't go.*

All the light bulbs flicker and the heat doesn't flow.
You can't see the chalice 'cause the stage is too low.
We got lotsa new space, a recycled floor,
So why ain't people comin' through the door?

[Chorus]

*You pledge 16 grand, whadda ya get?
A beacon that's shining and a lot more debt.
Saint Peter don't ya call me, 'cause you should know,
That we U-ni-tar-i-ans just won't go.*

We got lousy parking, 'cause we ain't got a lot.
Every Sunday morning we fight for a spot.
We got all of those hybrids parkin' right outside,
If you come in a Hummer it's best that you hide.

[Chorus]

*You pledge 16 grand, whadda ya get?
A beacon that's shining and a lot more debt.
Saint Peter don't ya call me, 'cause you should know,
That we U-ni-tar-i-ans just won't go.*

We got a great big loan with a low interest rate.
The banks were tough and they made us wait.
Look out when those sub-prime payments kick in.
That's what you call the wages of sin.

You pledge 16 grand, whadda ya get?
A beacon that's shining and a lot more debt.
Saint Peter you can call me, I'm ready, friend... (pause)
'Cause I hear the Campaign's startin' again.

- SW: What's with all the chairs? What do you do in here?
- P2: Everything. We have services, meetings, weddings, dinners. Hey everyone, when we are finished in here, we need to set up the chairs for a rental this afternoon. Clear out everything except three chairs.
- P3: Three chairs? What rental needs only three chairs?
- P2: The alumni of the Elliot Spitzer School of Ethics and Integrity.
- P3: I don't know about anyone else, but I feel like I spend half my time here setting chairs up and moving chairs out.

CLEARIN' OUT THE CHAPEL

Sunday's here,
The-e-e bell will chime.
(Whoa-whoa-whoa)
Chairs all wait
In ten straight lines.
At 3 PM,
It's meeting time,
And we'll never stop movin' chairs around.

[Chorus]

*Because we're clearin' out the chapel and we're
Gonna move chairs.
Clearin' out the chapel, and we're
Gonna move chairs.
Gee, I really love them, but I'm tired of movin'.
Clearin' out the chapel of chairs.*

Fuusans chose
A-a-a brand new space.
(Whoa-whoa-whoa)
No more pews,
Flexible place.
It's busy here,
A hectic pace.
And we'll never stop movin' chairs around.

[Chorus]

*Because we're clearin' out the chapel and we're
Gonna move chairs.
Clearin' out the chapel, and we're
Gonna move chairs.
Gee I really love them, but I'm tired of movin'.
Clearin' out the chapel of chairs.
Yeah... yeah, yeah, yeah-h-h,
Clearin' out the chapel of chairs.*

SW: I can see why the little guys need a personal trainer. It costs my Father a lot of money to run his castle every year, and this is bigger. Is this place expensive to heat?

P4: Is it ever! It takes a ton of cash every year. And it's never easy to come by.

SW: Whenever Father needs money, he just sends out his tax collectors to shake down the peasants.

Cashful: We do that too, only we call it the Canvass.

MONEY, MONEY

Pledgin', ah money, money,
You are my canvasser,
And you got me dodging you.

I just can't believe the bold tenacity of you.
I just can't believe it's true.
I just can't believe the hoops you've got me jumping
through.
I just can't believe it's true.

Pledgin', ah money, money,
You are my canvasser,
And you got me dodging you.

When you called me up I knew how hard the game could
be.
I knew how hard the game could be.
Like an octopus your tentacles are into me.
Tentacles are into me.

Pledgin', ah money, money,
You are my canvasser,
And you got me dodging you.

Money, ah pledgin', pledgin',
You are my canvasser,
And you've got me dodging you.

SW: Oh, that's terrible. How will you ever get enough money? Is there a solution to this problem?

P2: Honey, the solution is the problem. This church has a Board of Trustees, which is charged with providing leadership and guidance. Without realizing the consequences, we recently elected an entire board of lawyers. They immediately started arguing about becoming partners of the Board and billable volunteer hours and they ended up filing injunctions and restraining orders. Now, they're forbidden to get within 100 feet of each other. As a result, no decisions are being made and our fiscal situation has gotten precarious. Only our borrowing keeps us afloat.

YOU KNOW WE STILL HAVE TO BORROW

We met our goal completely.
Folks wrote their checks so sweetly.
But still the chill of truth has come to light.
You know we still have to borrow.

We know this hall's a treasure.
It gives us all such pleasure.
But are we sure the bank will treat us right?
You know we still have to borrow.

Of lofty dreams we've spoken.
We pray that we'll make out just fine.
But will our hearts be broken,
When we ponder the bottom line?

We're just afraid our spending,
Will never have an ending.
And will our mortgage be too much to bear?
You know we still have to borrow.
You know we still have to borrow.

[Snow White starts to say something]

- P5: *[Points to Snow White]* Enough questions! We need to keep this meeting on agenda. The next item is the report by the Green Sanctuary Committee.
- Greeny: We have made wonderful progress this year on going green, but we have more to do. We will soon begin new energy-saving projects. In an effort to reduce greenhouse gases, the choir will only sing every other note. During the hot summer months, we will reduce our belief system to four principles. And, The Seven Dwarfs have volunteered to take a turn every week in the hamster wheel of any member's hybrid car.
- P6: Just a darn minute! You greenies are so smug with your light bulbs and your carbon footprints. Then, you go home to your suburban houses with your big, green lawns. You spend countless hours watering and fertilizing to make the grass grow so you can cut it twice a week riding around on gas guzzling lawn tractors. Our Green Sanctuary movement is fine, but the most serious environmental problem we face is the wanton waste of gasoline in our lawn mowers. Instead of mowing our lawns, we should let them all go back to nature.

I FOUGHT THE LAWN

Cuttin' grass in the hot sun,
I fought the lawn and the lawn won.
I fought the lawn and the lawn won.
We need to save fuel or there'll be none.
I fought the lawn and the lawn won.
I fought the lawn and the lawn won.

I ditched my Round-Up and my Ortho-Gro.
Threw out my Weed-B-Gone.
My neighbors hate me 'cause I don't mow.
I fought the lawn and the lawn won.
I fought the lawn and the lawn won.

Riding mow'r, you are no more.
I fought the lawn and the lawn won.
I fought the lawn and the lawn won.
I'm now endorsed by Al Gore.
I fought the lawn and the lawn won.
I fought the lawn and the lawn won.

I shot my mower and it wasn't hard,
I guess my work is done.
Now I've got a "hillbilly yard".
I fought the lawn and the lawn won.
I fought the lawn and the lawn won.

P5: Now, we shall hear from the Finance Committee.

SW: Does your Finance Committee have lawyers, too?

P5: No, these are our dukes and duchesses. You know, all titles and no money.

FC: As mentioned earlier, our cash flow is a serious problem. One particular aspect of this really worries me. We need to look very closely at our big

arrears. *[Everyone looks at their own or someone else's backside]* No, no, our arrears...our back pledges.

All: Oh-h-h.

FC: Making a pledge is just the first step. You also need to pay it off. To make sure that we get these back payments, the Finance Committee has contracted with the Vinny and Louie Collection Agency. Remember, we know where you live!

PAY ME PROMPTLY

Pay us promptly, pay us quick.
Always pay on time.
No more welching, no more tricks.
Never short a dime.

Pay us promptly, pay us now,
Everything we need.
You will pay us, this I vow,
Unless you like to bleed.

Pay us promptly, pay us well.
Take us to your bank.
For it's there that we will tell,
Whether you've been frank.

Pay us promptly, pay the man.
Do not let it slide.
Or the boys will visit and,
Take you for a ride.

P7: There are other things besides money, you know. I'd like to hear what's going on with the decorating. We have this new space with all these bare walls. Where are the quilts? Where are the paintings? Give us something to look at!

SW: I like it. After a lifetime of moth-eaten tapestries and suits of armor, you learn to appreciate The Clean Look.

Bossy: FUUSA has a wide variety of artwork which we have collected over the years. The Art and Aesthetics Committee has been charged with creating a cohesive decorating scheme. It is impossible to create such a scheme using an eclectic group of pieces. Therefore, as chair, I have decided to focus on the work of one particular artist. ME!

P7: But you are not an artist.

Bossy: I have a number of things in various media which I did as a child in elementary school. They would be perfect. The Board put me in charge. I get to decide.

MY WAY

And now, the time is here,
I get to make the big decision.
The Board, has made it clear,
It's mine to take, without derision.

I'll tell you what goes where.
I'll say it loud, not in a shy way.
And so, since I'm in charge,
We'll do it my way.

The walls, they're mine to fill.
I brought my stuff, it's in this carton.
Some nudes on Etch-a-Sketch,
And paper chains from kindergarten.

I think it all looks swell.
When it's been hung, it will make my day.
I love the art I've done,
I did it my way.

Yes, you may say and try to prove
That better art hangs in The Louvre.

But even so, I have no doubt
That Bossy's in and Renoir's out.
You say "Van Gogh", but I say "No".
We'll do it my way.

Let's trash the FUUSA quilt,
But save the frame, we'll use the lumber.
Inside this room we've built,
We'll hang my own big paint-by-number.

If you think this is wrong,
Just pack your bag and hit the highway.
But if you're gonna stay
We'll do it my way.

For what is art, it's what I say.
Too bad I lack an MFA.
I would do more if I had time,
But my next stop's the Guggenheim.
I sold my soul for full control.
We'll do it my-y-y way-y-y-y!

[The Dwarfs force Bossy off]

SW: Is he a prince? He reminds me of my last boyfriend.

P1: People, our agenda, please! The Personnel Committee has decided to have an open meeting this year. Our single item is whether to end the one year probationary period of Leah Purcell, our Director of Religious Education. Before we vote, Leah has asked to make a presentation on the new RE curriculum she is developing for the UUA. Leah?

Leah: I am revamping the curriculum to bring the RE program into the 21st Century. To date, I have completed four grades.

The Pre-K's have been using a lesson called "Celebrating Me and My World". The new one is called "Celebrating Me and My Words". We will bring linguists in to teach the children useful, aged-related phrases in many languages; such as "No thank you, Mother", "May I have another cookie?" and "poopy-head".

Instead of “A Year With Dr. Seuss”, the Kindergarteners will have “A Year With Dr. Ruth”. They’re going to start asking questions. They might as well know now.

Next Fall, the 3rd Grade will learn all about “Holidays and Holy-Moly Days”. This program studies the origins and meanings of little known holiday celebrations; Penguin Awareness Day, Wave All Your Fingers At Your Neighbor Day, International Talk Like A Pirate Day, and my personal favorite, NYS Pass the Budget On Time Day. *[Someone whispers in Leah’s ear]* Oh, I forgot. That’s already April Fool’s Day.

The 4th Grade has been studying “Timeless Themes”. Now they will look at “Themeless Times”, which attempts to answer the question “What is that big, black metal sculpture all about?” We hope to teach the children the important lesson that every answer to that question is wrong.

In closing, I’d just like to say I think I’ve done a pretty good job this year.

AIN'T MISBEHAVIN'

Your kids to talk with,
Sam and myself.
A light to walk with,
I've got books upon my shelf.
Ain't misbehaving, I'm savin' my love for youth.

I don't do preachin',
This job I love.
I just do teachin,
It's RE I'm thinkin' of.
Ain't misbehaving, I'm savin' my love for youth.

Like Ann before me,
Tellin' stories.
In the service,
Never nervous.
Kids' smiles are worth waiting for, believe me.

I don't stay out late,
One place to go.
My job at FUUSA,
Just me and my kids, you know.
Ain't misbehaving,
I'm savin' my love for youth...and maybe Kevin.

Ain't misbehaving,
I'm savin' my love for youth.

P8: By the way, Leah, the photographer from Olan Mills Studio took the kids' portraits weeks ago. Aren't the proofs back yet?

Leah: No, and you all have been waiting so patiently for your photos.

SW: It's all right. Someday your prints will come.

P9: I don't know if this is the right time to say this, but I'm going ahead anyway. I've heard a fair amount of dissention here today, and I shouldn't be surprised by that. I've been there. When we began planning for our expansion, I was dead set against it. I didn't want to spend the money, I didn't want to give up the old sanctuary and the pews, I liked things just the way they were. Now that we are in here, I'm not so sure anymore. I tried my best not to like it, but...

I'VE GROWN ACCUSTOMED TO THIS SPACE

Damn! Damn! Damn! Damn!
I've grown accustomed to this space,
Its' charm has snuck up on me now.
I've grown accustomed to those lights,
Like artichokes, but bright.
The floor, the chairs,
Re-used, who cares?

We'll have a service or a dance.
Perhaps a wedding or a meal.
There are no limits to the uses
That we can make of this Hall,
But can't we please just put some
Artwork up upon the wall?

I've grown accustomed to the doors,
Accustomed to the feel,
Accustomed to this space.

We have more classrooms for RE,
And lots of storage for our things.
I've climbed the stairs up high to see
Our lovely balcony.
The railing's low,
Look out below.

And though the windows here are high,
We still see sunshine and the sky.
I had my doubts when we got started.
I could only see the flaws.
I dug my heels in firmly.
Now I've changed my mind because,

I've grown accustomed to the walls,
Accustomed to the size,
Accustomed to this space.

P4: Meeting adjourned.

Teachy: So, whadda ya think, Snow? Are you still going to Vegas?

SW: What happens in Vegas may stay in Vegas, but I'm staying right here in Downtown Albany. I'm going to need a job, though. Could you use another dwarf?

DOWNTOWN

When I'm alone and life is making me lonely
I can always go, downtown.
When I've got worries, FUUSA helps in a hurry,
'Cause I'm gonna go, downtown.

I'll listen to the music of the Sunday morning choir,
Soon I will be singing too, my soul will on fire.
How can I lose?

[Chorus]

*The sermons are smarter here.
You can forget all your troubles, forget all your fears and
come
Downtown, Washington Avenue.
Downtown, we've got a place for you.
Downtown, FUUSA is waiting for you.
(Downtown, downtown)*

Don't hang around and let your problems surround you,
We've got coffee hour, downtown.
Maybe you need inspiring books you can read and
They'll empower you – downtown.

There's Small Group Ministry and you can go to lots of
parties.
Kids can join RE and at our dinners you'll eat hearty,
Happy again.

[Chorus]

The folks are much brighter here.

*You can forget all your troubles, forget all your fears and
come*

Downtown, FUUSA in Albany.

Downtown, you'll feel at home, you'll see.

Downtown, you're gonna be alright now.

(Downtown, downtown...Downtown, downtown)

And here you'll find a lot of folks to greet and understand
you.

People on your wave length who just need a gentle hand
to make some new friends.

[Chorus]

So baby we'll see you here.

*We can forget all our troubles, forget all our fears and
come*

Downtown, FUUSA in Albany.

Downtown, you'll feel at home, you'll see.

Downtown, FUUSA is waiting for you.

(Downtown, downtown, downtown, downtown)