

Stewardship “State of the Team” Report
for Congregational meeting on February 14th. 2016.

Last winter we adopted the theme **We’re Getting Ready....** to launch our pledge campaign for the current fiscal year which began on July 1, 2015. 221 households turned in pledges totaling over \$528,000. This represented the highest giving total ever! It surpassed last year’s goal by \$50K. At our recent congregational meeting we expressed confidence and commitment to run a deficit based on last year’s budget, which means we are pledging to meet last year’s pledge goal. In this coming fiscal year we are striving to maintain that willingness and momentum with the pledge drive that begins on March 6th.

Our Campaign theme was inspired by the song *We’re Gonna Keep on Moving Forward* from Emma’s Revolution. As you have seen in recent mailings our current logo is

Moving Forward...Building the Future

The biggest challenge to our current achievement to my mind is the number of pledging members. We are gaining new members, but we are experiencing a high attrition rate due to members moving or dying. Given the age of our current congregation, this will be an ongoing issue as we strive to move forward. But many of us here have begun to really step up to sustaining this church, this campus and this faith. We must continue or plan for a very different future.

Another critical piece of the equation that will make a huge difference is leadership. We did not get a new chair this year and only one new member of the Stewardship Team. The final, absolutely determinant, factor is the number of Connectors who step up. The Stewardship Team is convinced the success of this year’s Stewardship fundraising depends on having a minimum of 60 people willing to help have ‘connecting conversations.’ Failing to reach our pledge goal is something we believe will greatly affect our successful search for a minister.

We, like many institutions that don’t like to talk about money, are waking up to the hard reality that not talking about money means not getting money. But what many such communities fail to realize is that the real conversation is not about ‘money.’ It’s about values, connection, an interest in creating moments that matter and expressing commitment. So this year we are inviting you to proudly wear a colored dot on your nametag. These colors follow the UUA giving guide that accompanies your pledge form. The first color represents a contribution - of any size. It says you believe in the community and you financially support it. The other colors declare your level of participation and we hope you can embrace those, too. They range from yellow, to blue, to green to red - the Transformer level. I hope to see many red dots and I welcome the rainbow we can create this year with the pot of gold at the end. Thank you.

Anne Greenwood for the Team: Lisa Maynard, Jo Maxon, Bob Moore, Ira Nelken, Marta Tobey, Zackrie Vinczen (intern minister) and Rev. Greg Ward