April 19, 2022

Dear Members and Friends of the UUAA Community,

This past weekend, on Sunday, April 17th, we announced from the pulpit the formal launch of UUAA’s Capital Campaign, **Upholding our Values**, with a goal of $1,300,000.

During this presentation, Congregational President Laura Johnstone acknowledged that there had been discussion of a needed Capital Campaign since the congregation’s initial Vision 20/50 work. With the onset of COVID in 2020, attention and focus quickly turned to navigating the global pandemic, even though the need for a Capital Campaign remained. Hence, some congregants were surprised when plans for a Capital Campaign began to be more widely discussed this spring. Laura assured our community that the Board approves of and fully supports this campaign and believes that it will strengthen UUAA and move us significantly toward our Vision. Additionally, she reiterated that UUAA’s leadership is committed to improving communications within the community to assure greater alignment as we move forward together.

Capital Campaign Co-Chair Beth Hospadaruk briefly explained the purpose and mechanics of a Capital Campaign: Capital Campaign pledges are a multi-year commitment by UUAA’s members and friends who pledge funds beyond their annual contribution. Capital Campaign pledges allow UUAA to make major changes that would otherwise be difficult or impossible to fund. She also reviewed UUAA’s three previous capital campaigns, which allowed our community to:

- Buy our current land and build the Sanctuary wing of our facility;
- Build the SGD wing 5 years later; and
- Retire a large portion of our mortgage and refinance other parts of it in order to make needed major improvements.

UUAA’s volunteer Interim Administrator Ed Lynn outlined how this campaign will allow us to make major progress on our Vision 20/50 climate goals, by shifting UUAA’s energy utilization completely toward renewable solar energy, as well as freeing up about $115,000 in operating funds annually, which could then be redirected to support 20/50 projects and critical staffing needs that we might not be able to otherwise afford.

Finally, our Senior Minister Rev. Manish Mishra-Marzetti underscored how the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change has noted that the time for action - the time for doing what we can to reduce carbon footprints - is now. This campaign helps UUAA meet an important global moral need; it also supports UUAA’s longer-term fiscal health and financial sustainability by eliminating operating expenditures dedicated to mortgage payments and certain carbon-based energy costs.
You can see the full presentation launching UUAA’s Capital Campaign here, and obtain more information about the campaign and how to make a financial commitment/pledge by clicking this link.

We invite you to join us as we come together to help support a sustainable planet and a sustainable UUAA community for generations to come.

Rev. Manish Mishra-Marzetti
Senior Minister

Laura Johnstone
Congregational President

Beth Hospadaruk
Capital Campaign Co-Chair

Ed Lynn
Interim Administrator & Capital Campaign Co-Chair