

President's Letter, February, 2017



Dear friends,

We are more than halfway through the church year and things are going well, thanks to all of you and the work you are doing. This is a big year for us. Not only is this our 50th anniversary year, but this is our first year with Rev. Rose. Sunday morning attendance is at record levels, there is new enthusiasm for social justice work, we've completed a successful Capital Campaign, and in May we will dedicate our labyrinth. (If you haven't created your paver brick for it, now's the time!).

Work will start this spring on replacing all of our rooftop heating and air conditioning units, plus replacing much of the roof as well, with funds raised in the capital campaign. That is work that we knew, when we bought the building, that we would have to do. It feels good to be this far along with that project. Thank you for supporting this work so generously.

Speaking of fundraising, we have one more big money-related task this spring. That is our annual Spring Stewardship Campaign in which we will raise the money to operate the church for the coming year. The campaign begins March 12 with the "sermon on the amount" and a kickoff lunch.

Those of you who are new to the church need to know that we don't do two big fund drives every year. This year is an exception. To recap, in the Fall we raised the money to replace the heating and air conditioning units and much of the roof. Now, with the Spring fund drive, we will collect the money to support our staff and our programming for another year. The good news is that we've calculated that we only need to increase the budget by 10 percent this year. That's about \$44,000. That seems doable to me and I hope it does to you, as well.

The other good news is that we will use much of that money to add two critical part-time staff positions. We hope to add an Office Assistant and a Membership Coordinator. The Office Assistant, who will work 13 hours a week, will assist Rev. Rose and Deb Markum, our church administrator. The Membership Coordinator, who will work around 18 hours, will take over many of the functions now being performed by Fern Aron and Vickie Trott, our Membership Chair and our Welcoming Chair, respectively. They will be stepping back from those responsibilities this summer after many years in that service.

This new staffing, if we choose to support it, would bring us more in line to the point we were at when we moved into our building in 2012, when we had both a full-time minister and a full-time director of congregational life. We are large enough now—with slightly more than 300 members—that we need both positions. Rev. Rose has been putting in long hours this year. We cannot ask her to do that forever.

We will lay out the proposed budget more fully in coming weeks, but I wanted to give you a preview.

In other news please give some love to Gaby Kusko who has agreed to be the Local Arrangements Coordinator for the Unitarian Universalist Association's annual General Assembly, which will bring more than 3,000 UUs to Kansas City in June 2018. It's a big job and she is the right person for it. She will be asking for our support and we will give it to her.

All the best to you,

Marjorie Rice