

Building On



... expanding spiritual horizons at FVUUF

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Phased Plans Adjust to Needs, Funds

Plans to build a sanctuary addition are moving forward, attendees at the Fox Valley UU Fellowship's annual congregational meeting learned. Building Steering Committee and Design Team Co-Chairs Albert Park and Terry Dawson showed members the latest set of building plans at the May 23 meeting.

The 350-seat sanctuary will be built in 2012 or 2013, dependent on members and friends pledging \$750,000 during a Capital Campaign this fall and how quickly the pledges are paid. The current Fellowship Hall would then function as originally envisioned: a place for social activities before and after services, meals, special events and even meeting space.

If the Capital Campaign exceeds its goal, the congregation has several options:

1. Add a library
2. Extend the current program wing with four additional rooms and remodel the current Founders Room to create needed office space
3. Add a 150-seat balcony to the sanctuary
4. Build only the sanctuary and reduce the mortgage loan amount

The congregation would decide which option to pursue when the Capital Campaign is completed. From its inception, our Fellowship home was designed to be built in phases so that our building can grow to meet our needs and as we have the funds.

The latest plans are posted on the Fellowship's web site under Building Project at: fvuuf.org. ☺

Finances Fine to Proceed with Capital Campaign

By several measures, the Fellowship's finances signal it's fine to proceed with a Capital Campaign this fall to fund a new sanctuary.

A \$1.25 million sanctuary would be financed by a \$500,000 mortgage loan and \$750,000 contributed by members and friends in a Capital Campaign, Stewardship Chair Marti Wheeler explained at the congregational meeting May 23. A consultant from the Unitarian Universalist Association said the congregation can expect to "reasonably raise" this amount based on a revised feasibility study submitted in February 2009.

Wheeler also reported that the project cost compares favorably by several standards:

- ♦ **Debt less than 25 percent of operating budget.** If we rolled our current mortgage & new projected mortgage together, the Fellowship's debt would be 18 percent of the 2009–10 operating budget. Since we will continue to pay our current mortgage, that amount will be less at the time we take out a new loan. At that point, our operating budget also will be greater, making this benchmark even more favorable.
- ♦ **Project cost two to three times operating budget.** The \$1.25 million sanctuary is just over two times the 2009–10 operating budget.
- ♦ **Successful Annual Stewardship Campaign.** The 2010–11 operating budget grew by four percent, which meets our overall financial plans. It also includes the UUA's "fair compensation" minimum salaries or greater for all staff and a higher percentage of our "fair share" dues to the UUA.

Watch for a more detailed accounting of the Fellowship's building fund in the next issue of *Building On* this fall. Until then, if you have questions about the project's financial aspects, contact Stewardship Chair Marti Wheeler at 920-739-2192 or mwheeler@new.rr.com. ☺

Update on the Facilities Expansion Project at Fox Valley Unitarian Universalist Fellowship



Capital Campaign Kickoff Oct. 17

Save the date: Sunday, Oct. 17 4:30–8:00p.m. for the All Fellowship Capital Campaign kickoff event at Homestead Meadows in Greenville. Months, well years really, of planning will draw together into our event of the decade! We look forward to being with you for this great evening. ☺

Leadership Team Readies for Fall Campaign

By Lisa O'Connor, Building Steering Committee Co-Chair

Question: “Just what does it take to lead a capital campaign?”

Answer: “A lot of wonderful people, committed to their cause, with various talents and ideas, working together to make it happen.”

That is exactly what we have assembled to launch our Capital Campaign this fall. We have strategically broken down all the campaign elements into manageable areas, each with lead coordinators. The team has already established the theme, timeline and events in an energizing and absolutely wonderful way. And, we are not done yet! The largest and perhaps the most critical role in the campaign is that of the visiting stewards. Please consider being a visiting steward if asked. It is a great chance to meet with no more than four others in the Fellowship and be a very important part of the success of the campaign—plenty of training and support provided! There are other roles available too—please consider being a part of the campaign team. ☺

Building On is published periodically to inform members, friends and the wider UU community about the Fellowship’s building expansion project.

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