

Committee: Stewardship**Chair: No One**

Involved with committee: The Board of Trustees, Gene Verinder, Elena Westbrook, other Visiting Stewards: Tom Brikowski, June Bruns, Amy Dessert, Cindy Hadden, Mary Jennings, Mike Owens, Tom Reid, Sarah Reiling, Ian Rule.

Committee Charter: The purpose of the Stewardship Committee is to nurture a culture of giving that will enable our church community to actualize its vision and values in the community and the wider world. To that end, we ask those who affiliate with this church and its ministries to make a significant, committed annual financial contribution. The Stewardship Chair works closely with the Finance Committee in the preparation of the annual budget. The Stewardship Committee is responsible for the planning and execution of the Church's Annual Budget Drive when we solicit financial commitments from all members and friends to fund our church's budget. Additionally, through periodic communications and presentations, the Committee encourages all members and friends to continue to be good stewards of our beloved church community.

Goals for 2016-2017:

- Maintain a continuing canvass, meeting with new members, explain the finances of the church and solicit their pledges;
- Obtain \$260,000 in pledges for church year 2017-2018;
- Apply for a Stewardship Consultation grant from NTUUC to help us get beyond the pledge plateau that we're on.

Synopsis of efforts:

- The Stewardship Committee has been unstaffed for most of the year, until the Board had to jump in and assume the role in preparation for the Annual Budget Drive. Of several members who were asked if they would chair or co-chair the committee, all declined.
- Periodic review and follow up by the Treasurer of where families stood with regard to pledge payments kept us close to budget on pledge payments throughout the year. Such follow up also allowed us to know what pledges we would not expect to receive.
- "Stewardship Moments" were again used this year and received mostly positively, however, an impact to amounts pledged was not discernable.
- There was no ongoing effort to talk to new members about pledging, other than a short presentation in the Faith Forward program. After the presentation, new members were left on their own to submit a pledge form. Fortunately, most did so.
- The Annual Budget Drive fell far short of expectations, with the current projection of \$219,000 in pledges for 2017-2018.

Plans for 2017-2018:

- Improve the handshake between the Membership Committee and the Stewardship Committee to make sure that each new family joining the church has a conversation with a Stewardship Committee member.
- Identify, early on, either a chair or co-chairs to lead the Stewardship Committee, then identify a "dream team" of others to round out a viable Stewardship Committee.
- Once above is accomplished, begin engagement with Bill Clontz (UUA Stewardship Consultant).