

Cedars Unitarian
Universalist Church



Spreading Our Branches

Annual Campaign
2006-2007

Spreading our branches

When a tree grows, its branches reach out, gathering in as much sunlight as possible. As it turns that sunlight into energy, the tree draws more nutrients up from its soil. That, in turn, strengthens its roots, its trunk, and ultimately its branches, simultaneously solidifying its hold in and of the earth and its reach out into the world.

Like a tree, our church is growing and stretching as we explore new ideas and find space for our growing numbers. We are "spreading our branches" to reach out into our community and our wider world with our saving messages of hope, inclusion, and love. And just as a tree depends for its life on the nutrients in the soil, our church draws on the generosity of each of us and then channels that into its healthy life and continued growth. That's why each adult in our community has the opportunity to make a financial commitment to support our church and its wide array of programs.

Who we are

We are a growing congregation of more than 160 members and almost 100 youth and children. We have a full-time, professional minister, a thriving religious education program, varied educational and social activities for adults and families, a committed social action program, and covenant groups that offer ministry in a more intimate setting. We are becoming known in this area as a voice for tolerance, respect, and social action. To make our presence known and our faith more available to others who might seek to

join us, last fall we moved our Sunday services to The Playhouse in downtown Winslow.

Our future

Our future is in our hands. Where we go and what we do in the future is entirely up to us.

This brochure describes some of the goals we set for ourselves in the coming year as part of the Comprehensive Plan our congregation approved last November. But these are merely words on a page. They will become a reality only with the time, talents, and financial support that each of us gives in the year ahead.



Erin and Alexandra

Having just moved to Bainbridge last May, I am overjoyed with the warmth of the church members, the thought-provoking sermons, the dedication of the committees that I have become a part of, the mind-expanding adult education programs, the charm and knowledge of the Sunday School kids. We owe it to the earth, to our fellow human beings to spread religious tolerance and our conviction that it is our responsibility to make this earth a better place for every creature.

Gerlind Jenkner

A thriving Cedars UU Church will sustain my belief in the power of people working together for a more just and equitable world.

Nancy Baran-Mickle

We're not a typical-looking family; it's nice to be part of a supportive church that sees us not as a curiosity or a distraction, but as a valued part of a diverse community. Cedars UU Church is an important part of our family life – not a separate component, but a complex element that is woven in and among our fabric. Separately, each of us continues to explore our own concepts of spirituality and what it means to be "here on Earth." Cedars provides a tool for us to share UU principles that give the important spirit-enrichment that is crucial in raising our children to be responsible, empathetic adults.

Warren Read
Shayne Chandler
David, Dylan and Dmitry



Kate Harris and David Thut



Betty Baker



Church is about showing up and sharing in so many ways – coming out of our separate lives to join in the effort to create community.

So often in our lives we face the world on our own, needing to rely only on our own resources and abilities. One of the greatest things about being part of this church is that we combine our talents and resources to do much more than we can alone. Individually we could not create a church – together we can do that and make it thrive! Our church is bigger than any one of us, and it requires each of us.

Every day, every year, we each have the opportunity to choose how to contribute to our world.

Thank you all for helping to create this much-needed church.

Rev. Drew Johnston
Minister

Where we stand

Five years ago the fellowship known by the acronym UUFBINK set out an ambitious list of goals to make its presence more visible to our wider community, and to make the good news of Unitarian Universalism more available to all who would seek us. As we succeeded in reaching each of those goals (and in some cases exceeding them), we set out once again in the fall of 2005 to envision our future by developing a Comprehensive Plan detailing how we plan to grow and serve our mission over the next five years. The development of our Comprehensive Plan involved many hours of hard work and dedication from across the congregation to bring our hopes and dreams into focus. With the adoption of the plan by the congregation last November, we set a bold course for the future.

The upcoming 2006-07 fiscal year marks the implementation of the first steps of our plan. The goals we have set for ourselves in this first year are highlighted on the facing page. In order to fund the staff, programs, and activities we need to support these goals, our financial plan estimates that we will need a total income of \$232,400 for next year. A substantial portion of this income will come from pledges from new members, our annual auction, and other fundraising efforts. With these other income sources taken into account, we have set a goal of \$177,000 for this year's Annual Campaign.

Our goals for 2006-07

Worship with open hearts

- Compensate our minister in accordance with the established Fair Compensation Guidelines of the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA).
- Establish a reserve account to provide professional services during future sabbatical leave by both our minister and our Director of Religious Education (DRE).
- Reinventoriate and expand our choir and other music programs.

Nurture a learning spirit

- Compensate our DRE in accordance with the UUA's Fair Compensation Guidelines and increase the job from half-time to three-quarters time.
- Expand our religious education program into a Lifespan Faith Development program that reaches members of all ages.
- Create a larger and more varied youth program.

Serve justice with compassion

- Continue to grow our Alternative Gift Project.
- Expand our social action and social justice programs.
- Work toward UUA Green Sanctuary certification.

Love without judgment

- Expand our Member Development program for new and existing members alike.
- Revitalize our Welcoming Congregation program.
- Create more covenant groups.



Every day, I'm reminded why I care that Cedars not just exists, but prospers.

As I write this, I'm watching our community as we support each other in a difficult and profoundly sad time. At the same time, there are manifold other ways in which our growing congregation fulfills its mission on a daily basis.

None of this would be possible without our joining together to support Cedars work, for ourselves and for the world. Through our annual giving, together we have made a difference. We can and must continue to do so. We have gifts to share with each other and with the community at large; the more generous we can be, the more we will have to share. Let's join together to share our special message with the world!

Jason Klein
President

Some things to thoughtfully consider

Our current Annual Operating budget is met through the generous giving of every one of us in this faith community. In addition to our own gifts, however, we have been receiving a subsidy from the UUA as part of the Extension Ministry program for the last several years. That subsidy ends in June.

Since each of us is in a different financial situation, each of us can give at a different level. That's why we're asking you to consider the UUA's suggested "Fair Share Giving Guide", printed on the next page, when you're thinking about your level of giving. How do you value what our church does in and for our world? How do you value what being a part of our church means to your life? What is it worth to you? When deciding how much to give, we ask that you search your heart and give what feels right to you. Consider taking steps up to higher levels on the chart immediately below.

When considering how much to give for annual stewardship, please remember that the funding of our annual Operating Budget is separate from the recently approved Capital Campaign. That said, our ability as a congregation to build and sustain a church building will be heavily dependent on the level of our annual giving. Indeed, achieving the goals outlined in our Comprehensive Plan will require not only that we increase our overall level of annual giving as a congregation, but also that we continue to add new members.

If you need to make a choice, please give to the Annual Campaign before contributing to the Capital Campaign. Whatever you do, please remember that all gifts are important and deeply appreciated.

Gift Level		Anticipated # of Gifts 2006-07	Actual # of Gifts 2005-06
\$7,501 +	per year (\$625+ per month)	2	0
\$5,001	\$7,500 per year (\$418 \$625 per mo.)	4	1
\$3,501	\$5,000 per year (\$293 \$417 per mo.)	5	3
\$2,501	\$3,500 per year (\$210 \$292 per mo.)	10	8
\$1,501	\$2,500 per year (\$126 \$209 per mo.)	25	19
\$1,001	\$1,500 per year (\$84 \$125 per mo.)	20	18
\$751	\$1,000 per year (\$64 \$83 per mo.)	15	12
\$501	\$750 per year (\$43 \$63 per mo.)	10	12
\$251	\$500 per year (\$22 \$42 per mo.)	9	20
Less than \$250 per year (Less than \$21 per mo.)		4	8

Suggested Fair Share Giving Guide

	Supporter The Church is a significant part of my life and promotes my spiritual growth.			Sustainer The Church is central to my identity and I am committed to sustaining our programs.			Visionary I am committed to both the present and future growth of my church.			Full Tithe I designate 10% of my income to the church as a way to live out my spiritual principles.		
Adjusted Annual Income	Suggested % of Income	Monthly Payment	Annual Payment	Suggested % of Income	Monthly Payment	Annual Payment	Suggested % of Income	Monthly Payment	Annual Payment	Suggested % of Income	Monthly Payment	Annual Payment
\$10,000	2%	\$16	\$200	2%	\$17	\$200	5%	\$42	\$500	10%	\$83	\$1,000
\$25,000	2%	\$42	\$500	3%	\$63	\$750	5%	\$104	\$1,250	10%	\$208	\$2,500
\$50,000	3%	\$125	\$1,500	4%	\$167	\$2,000	5%	\$208	\$2,500	10%	\$417	\$5,000
\$75,000	3%	\$188	\$2,250	4.5%	\$281	\$3,375	6%	\$375	\$4,500	10%	\$625	\$7,500
\$100,000	3.5%	\$292	\$3,500	5%	\$417	\$5,000	6.5%	\$542	\$6,500	10%	\$833	\$10,000
\$150,000	3.5%	\$438	\$5,250	5%	\$625	\$7,500	6.5%	\$813	\$9,750	10%	\$1,250	\$15,000
\$200,000	4%	\$667	\$8,000	5.5%	\$917	\$11,000	7%	\$1,167	\$14,000	10%	\$1,667	\$20,000
\$300,000	5%	\$1,250	\$15,000	6%	\$1,500	\$18,000	8%	\$2,000	\$24,000	10%	\$2,500	\$30,000
\$400,000	6%	\$2,000	\$24,000	7%	\$2,333	\$28,000	8%	\$2,833	\$34,000	10%	\$3,333	\$40,000
\$500,000	7%	\$2,917	\$35,000	8%	\$3,333	\$40,000	9%	\$3,750	\$45,000	10%	\$4,167	\$50,000

How to make a gift

- During our Annual Campaign each spring, you will be asked to renew your financial commitment to the church by completing a Financial Commitment Card.
- A Visiting Steward will be contacting you to make an appointment. When you get together, you'll have a chance to talk about your hopes and dreams for our congregation. You'll also be asked to give your completed Financial Commitment Card to your Visiting Steward.
- When you join the church as a new member, the gift you make upon joining is for the remainder of our current year (our fiscal year runs from July to June). A special Financial Commitment Card is used for new members to account for the partial-year commitment.

- You may pay your gift monthly, quarterly, or annually. You may pay by credit card, check, stock, bond, mutual fund transfer, or cash. Automatic debit withdrawal is also available. Your Visiting Steward can help you with the details of making your gift.

Contacts

If you have any questions or ideas, please feel free to contact one of the following:

Stewardship Co-chairs

Jeff Philip

jeff@soundweddings.com

Todd Parkington

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Frank Petrie, Treasurer

frank.petrie@kpff.com

Jason Klein, President

jklein@sounddsl.com

Office

(206) 780-0373

Combined Campaign Leadership Team

Co-Chairs

Jeff Philip
Todd Parkington

Communications

Carolyn Kempkes

Events

Trish MacCabe
Kimberly Parker
Shayne Chandler

Alumni Canvassing

Sally Wilson

Advance Canvassing

Michael Read
Julia Brunzell

Regular Canvassing

Heidi Parkington

Trustees

Representative

Rod Kempkes

UUA Fundraising

Consultants

Larry Wheeler
Aggie Sweeney

President

Jason Klein

Minister

Rev. Drew Johnston

Alumni Support

Susan Shaffer
Marvin Evans
Donna Moore
Larry Knight
Richard Wilson

Event Support

John Klemesrud
Maria Klemesrud
Joe Parker

Canvassing Team

As of 2/19/2006

Team Leaders

John Munson
Rod Kempkes
Jan Mulder
Nancy Philip
Kate Harris

Visiting Stewards

Beverly Tamanini
Nancy Baran-Mickle
Jane Martin
Vonda Davis
Richard Wilson
Tracy Dickerson
Greg Bedinger
Julie Hill
Chris Schmit
Warren Read
Carol Ann Davidson
Blair Burroughs
Frank Petrie
Mark Ashley
Dianah Cheung
Frank Coon
Curt Hayes
Marialice Hayes
Julie Ann Dakin
Carolyn Kempkes
Kristina Selset
Verda Averill
Carrie Klein

Schedule of Key Dates

March 11

Campaign Team Workshop

March 17

Advance Gifts Reception

March 25

Campaign Kick-off Dinner

March 26

Combined Campaign Begins

July 1, 2006 -

June 30, 2009

Capital Campaign Gift Period



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www.cedarsuuchurch.org

As we continue the work of building our church, we also mourn the tragic loss of dear members of our community. This past fall, we lost Nick Romeo. On February 17 we lost Ken Hartz and Kathy Bergum. Sharing community includes sadness, yet we also celebrate their enormous and varied contributions to our individual and collective lives.



A Welcoming
Congregation