

First Unitarian Church of Toledo
MISSIONAL BUDGET
For Fiscal Year 7/1/11-6/30/12

I. Freedom of Thought and Belief –providing a voice for liberal religion in northwestern Ohio (\$100,100)

First Unitarian Church is the chief voice of liberal religious in northwestern Ohio – an area that is home to more than a million men, women and children

Our religion is liberal in the sense of the word “liberality”: it is open, generous and tolerant. It promotes inquiry into the meaning of religious experience without the restrictions of doctrine. While it grows out of the Judeo-Christian tradition, it looks to all sources of religious wisdom to inform our answers to life’s great questions: Why am I here? How should I live? What is death?

We honor the free pew and the free pulpit and radical congregational polity – town hall democracy in which each church governs itself and calls its own minister without denominational intervention.

We light the flame of liberal religion and keep it burning through dynamic worship, wonderful music, and outreach to those who have not yet found this place we call home.

Worship services are provided fifty-two week a year and draw up to 200 people. Our candlelight Christmas Eve inspires us and reaches many who never come to church at any other time of year. Homecoming Sunday, Thanksgiving services, Easter and Flower Communion help us mark the passing seasons and their impact on our lives.

Weddings, child dedications and memorial services help us mark the important passages in our own lives.

Worship is enhanced by stimulating sermons from our two ordained ministers and our commissioned lay leader/chaplain. How many churches can expect illuminating and challenging services from three different perspectives?

And, of course, our message is available for all. Everyone is welcome regardless of race, sexual orientation, gender, education or income.

We estimate the cost of this function of our church at \$100,100 per year.

II. Educating Ourselves, Our Children, and Others (\$98,000)

As part of shining the light of liberal religion, we stress the importance of education – education for children, for our young adults, for our adults and for visitors and friends. Our education program covers the whole human life span from the nursery to the end of life.

We seek to educate our children and young adults in the Judeo-Christian-Unitarian tradition and on the wisdom from other religious traditions. We provide opportunities for them to make friends with “like minded” kids, to take part in service projects and to play and have fun. Our young adults benefit enormously from programs like Coming of Age and Our Whole Lives sexuality education. Our young adults are also given leadership opportunities through the high school group and district religious education activities.

Our adult religious education includes education about UU history and belief but it also incorporates programs on environmental justice, sociology, American history, local history and special forums and speakers. Through these programs, we can receive instruction in Buddhist meditation and spirituality.

All members of our congregation from infants and their parents to our many nonagenarians benefit from our educational programs. We estimate the cost of this function at \$98,000.

III. Nourishing Our Community/Promoting Social Justice (\$89,000)

We are a community of doers – individuals involved in a vast range of other organizations, many with a social justice focus. Coming to this church nourishes us and gives us the energy and courage to continue our efforts outside the church.

The Parish Visitors led by our Chaplain provide direct services to our members. Largely unseen, they provide support that allows some of our older members to stay in their homes. They comfort the bereaved and mourn with them. They provide meals for the sick and visit the shut-ins. They educate those in crisis about resources available to them.

Chalice circles provide an opportunity to explore spirituality in small groups as well as to make new friends.

We also provide an opportunity for our members to socialize and have fun – coffee hours, summer picnic, potluck lunches, book club, bridge nights and The Evening Alliance and Laymen's League (TEALL).

In addition, our Social Justice Committee, with the support provided it to it by our members and friends, engages in the direct support of organizations working for social justice.

Both of these functions are of critical importance. As many social justice organizations lose funding continued support from our church and from our members is critical.

As we nourish our members and friends, we support their social justice work. We estimate the cost of this function at \$89,000.

To continue our work, we need a total budget of \$288,000.

*To achieve this budget figure we have set a **minimum goal of \$240,000 in pledged dollars**, which we expect to be contributed freely from 100% of our members, supporters and active friends of First Unitarian Church. Other monies may come during the year from church fundraisers, special donations, new pledges, weekly offering plate and interest earned from our endowment. Please consider a generous contribution this year to the "light" of liberal religion in Toledo.*

A Word About Our Building

Beginning July 1, 2011, our new building will be paid for. Paying off the building note reduces our expense and provides us with a clean, accessible home with on-site parking. In addition, it is easily drivable from all parts of the Toledo metropolitan area and gives us much needed green space for play and gardening.

The on-going cost of the building – about \$53,000/year for utilities, snow removal, routine maintenance, cleaning, etc. and \$6,000 in capital maintenance – is factored into the three parts of our mission described above. We cannot fulfill those missional goals without continuing to care for and maintain our home. Building expense represent about 18% of the entire church budget.