



*"[They] who plant trees; plant hope." – Lucy Larcom*

Dear Members and Friends,

**Welcome to the 2022-2023 Stewardship Campaign: Cultivating Our Future!**

Our new apple orchard was the gift of members who saw the wisdom, beauty, and utility of planting fledgling fruit trees for our congregation, for the city of Cleveland, and for the future. The saplings share the ground with 100-year-old oaks, a 70-year-old building, a 30-year-old Memorial Garden, and a 10-year-old Permaculture Garden. Each tree grows in soil cultivated by congregants, neighbors, and IMPACT students with confidence and hope.

Now we ask you to help deepen our roots in Northeast Ohio, to extend our reach, to strengthen our connections to one another, and to the important work of our UU congregation. The year ahead holds so much opportunity, with the Reverend Dr. Randy Partian and a remarkably bright and talented staff poised to support us as we move in new directions. Rev. Randy brings a strong commitment to covenant, deep dedication to worship, relationship, and pastoral care as well as expert, servant leadership.

The work to transform lives and communities for the better has continued, consistent with UUCC's mission: **To Build Community Within and Without, To Search and Grow Spiritually, and To Promote Justice in Action.**

The sanctuary lights are on, the candles are burning, and we keep working in teams, committees, and as individuals to achieve our strategic vision, even as we have found new ways to honor some of our historic traditions. At UUCC, we continue to face the anxiety and uncertainty of the past year with gratitude and generosity.

Why answer the call to stewardship? Why pledge to UUCC and “Cultivate our Future?”

- To support the congregation that nurtures you and your family!
- To fairly compensate our staff, honor our commitments, and extend our reach!
- To help UUCC create a more powerful presence for children, grandchildren, and community!
- To honor, demonstrate, and promote our UU values including our 8<sup>th</sup> principle of anti-racism!
- To align UUCC resources with our highest values and aspirations!

As we did last year, we are hosting two congregational gatherings over the next few weeks regarding the stewardship campaign – Saturday, March 12 at 7:00 pm and Sunday, March 20 at 1:00 pm. **Both gatherings will be virtual.** These highly participative events are designed to provide you with a congregational update, and an opportunity to get your questions answered regarding UUCC’s current status and future outlook . No need to register in advance – just show up for a session. You are encouraged to bring a meal and engage in lively and meaningful conversation. NOTE: The link for each session will be shared in the e-blast, on the UUCC website, and an email sent one hour ahead of each session.

You can do your part to ensure that UUCC continues to bear the fruit of community, spirituality and service in Greater Cleveland. Please make as generous a pledge for the 2022-2023 fiscal year as you can. Contribute so that as UUCC convenes safely in person, we can continue the reunification process, build our community inside and out, and promote our fierce, compassionate commitment to justice in action. Please answer the call to stewardship generously by filling out the enclosed pledge card. Thank you!

In Fellowship and with Gratitude,

The 2022-2023 UUCC Stewardship Committee

Co-Chairs

Barbie Jones & Lou Salza

Members

Linda Coulter

Dennis Grossman

Rev. Randy Partain

Sharon Edmond

David Kantor

Don Stimpert

Carol Gay

Tom McKenna

Cat White

Ray Gonzalez

Shane Millette