

Stewardship Committee Annual Report, May 2010

Stewardship is what we all do to take good care of our resources – the time, talents and treasures that each person bring to UUC. While the Stewardship Committee does promote all aspects of stewardship our primary goal is to collect and manage the pledges of financial support that are the major component of our annual funding. This year’s results compared with last years are:

- 2010-11: 216 pledges for \$287,000 for next year (June 2010 to July 2010).
- 2009-10: 210 pledged for \$290,000 for the current year.

We recommended that the Board use \$285,000 for planning and budgeting to allow for some pledges not being fulfilled (people moving or losing income, etc.) even though we expect to receive more pledges.

Considering Tampa Bay Area’s continued drop into deeper recession this year, as measured by the increase of unemployment to records levels, the congregation has been incredibly generous – even many of those with financial difficulties have made smaller yet significant contributions to our beloved community. Thank you; thank you.

A key effort by the Stewardship Committee was to provide as much information as needed to the community to raise their awareness of UUC’s finances – where the money comes from and where it goes – so everyone can be confident our money is being well-spent. To make this information widely available we published articles on UUC finances in the Octagram in December through March, and made a presentation at Open Issues.. We also committed to put emphasis on the youth in the congregation as part of our stewardship actions. Accordingly the annual stewardship dinner became our first annual stewardship carnival. The weather was not cooperative but we had over 150 participants in a wonderful event, freely moving from indoors to the intermittently sunny outside.

The pledge results for 2010-11 are not substantially different from last year except those who had to reduced their pledge made greater cuts than last year. Considering the economy, this is an outstanding result.

PLEDGE RESULTS

Change in # Pledges	Pledge not renewed	New Pledges	Increased Pledge	Same	Reduced Pledge
Last Year Pledges		11%	34%	34%	22%
This Year pledges	32 pledges (-\$26,600)	14% (+\$27,480)	35% (+\$17,800)	32%	19% (-\$26,800)

We analyzed the role of members in pledging because the By-Laws require members (but not Friends) to make a financial commitment to UUC. In turn, to fully support national and local UU organizations, UUC pays about \$84 dues per year per member. We have

253 pledging members and 64 members who have not made a pledge for 2010-11. The membership information is shown below:

MEMBER DETAILS

Members (pledging)	Members (active not pledging)	Members who have left UUC	Total
253 (80%)	39 (12%)	25 (8%)	317

The Religious Education (RE) program has grown significantly. As shown below the current roster shows an amazing number of 70 families with 110 children registered. Note that this list may include families that are no longer active as the participation in RE fluctuates throughout the year. But the list includes 29 RE families that were not on the Stewardship pledge list and thus have not yet been asked to pledge.

Religious Education (RE) FAMILY DETAILS

	Members (pledging)	Members (active not pledging)	Not in UUC records	Total
RE Families	32	9	29	70
# Children	48	11	51	110

The carnival in February was a great event that took a many helpers to make it happen. To all those who helped, we offer our sincere appreciation. In particular we would like to acknowledge Nancy Baker, Bill Dishongh, Sheila Knaust, Ann Myers and Helga Reaves for their leadership and support. We also thank those who gave a testimonial at services during the pledge renewal period.

I would like to publicly acknowledge the wonderful cooperation I had with Bill Snell, the Stewardship Co-Chair. He has such a deep knowledge of UUC and its members we were, I hope, able to be welcoming when making contacts and sensitive to avoid missteps. His counsel and assistance on even the most menial tasks made our committee successful. Thanks, Bill.

Owen Thompson
 Co-chair, Stewardship Committee
 May 2010