

Closing the Gap

November 8, 2022

Dear UUCK Members and Friends,

We heard great news on Sunday, October 23, 2022. A significant donation will provide solar panels for Hobbs Hall which will lower utility costs while supporting our 7th Principle of care for the environment. Additionally, we have received the gift of a baby grand piano for Hobbs Hall to enhance our wonderful musical offerings. We gratefully and thankfully receive these gifts and lift up the givers' spirit of generosity.



We all know it has been challenging to reinvigorate and reimagine our future as we move past COVID. Now we meet together in person and share our ideas, energy and hope for the future. In October we held a welcoming ceremony for 9 new members and a group of energized newcomers is meeting monthly. New Chalice groups are being formed both in person and virtually, including a new couples group. We are reinvigorating our pastoral care ministries and recruiting volunteers to join Helping Hearts. Our youth groups are energized and doing great things in the community. They are planning for a monthly dinner to support those who are food insecure in our wider community. Kitchen training for volunteers will be offered in November to help bring us back together over food and maybe spur some fundraising ideas! And we're very pleased that our in-person Social Hour with food and drink has returned.

When the congregation approved the annual budget at the May 2022 meeting, it included borrowing \$133,237 from our endowment fund to balance the budget. As we re-energize and refocus our future this allows us to maintain our staff, programs and buildings. These additional funds cover the shortfall of annual giving pledges, as well as the increase in expenses we are incurring due to the campus expansion.

As we approach the end of the calendar year the Board of Trustees invite you, the congregation, to consider ways you will participate in "*Closing the Gap*", to lessen the need to borrow from the Endowment Fund. We ask you to consider an additional financial gift to the church to help pay back the endowment fund and maintain and grow our current offerings. Does your employer offer a matching donation program? If you are taking a RMD (required minimum distribution) from your IRA, you may choose to make a QCD (qualified charitable distribution) to the church from your IRA (Ask your tax advisor for details).

We are always interested in fundraising opportunities and people to lead creative opportunities to raise money. The BOT is asking how we can help you facilitate your ideas for fundraisers. Contact Board Members directly or email your thoughts to board@kentuu.org to initiate and for follow up.

This is OUR CHURCH. It takes ALL of us to make our dreams a reality. As we join together to build our spiritual community and enlarge our reach into the wider community, the Board of Trustees encourages you to become a part of this endeavor.

We hope to see you over the holidays as we celebrate together and wish for you and yours a blessed holiday season.

Sincerely,

The Board of Trustees

