



Canvass Connections

Aiken Unitarian Universalist Church Financial Commitment Campaign 2010

We Have the Chalice Lighter Grant ... Now What? By Patrick Krohn

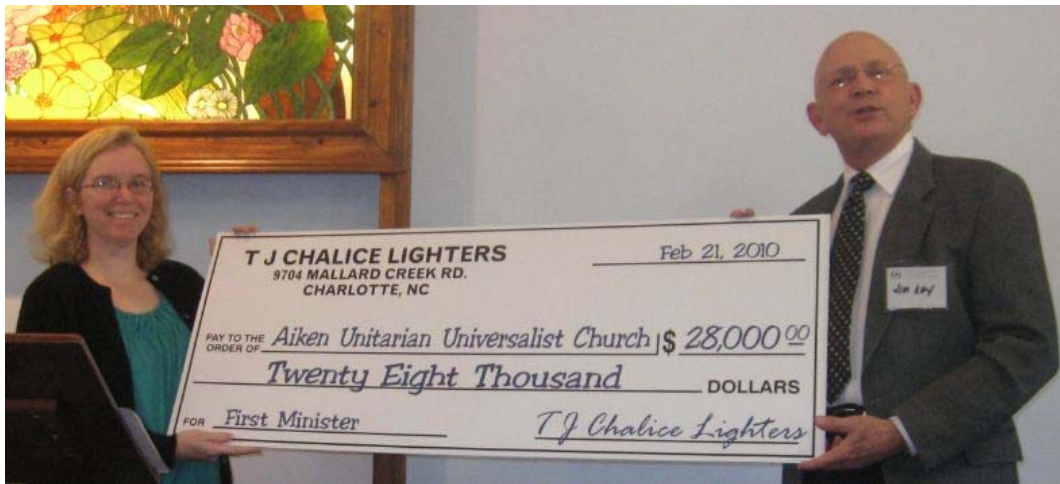
From our strategic plan: By 2011, Aiken Unitarian Universalist Church will employ a professional Unitarian Universalist minister who understands the needs of our congregation and supports our mission.

We're doing it! Check this off the list in 2010! Last July we put together a grant proposal to the Chalice Lighter's committee to help us get our first minister. In October we learned we were chosen to get the grant. The Call then went out to our fellow Unitarian Universalists in the Southeast. They came through for us in a big way and raised the \$28,000 we requested. Our search committee started getting together too, developing an applicant information package to search for our 1/3-time minister. In February District President Jim Key came to present the "check" to our President Katie Miller. The search committee is now in the middle of interviews for possible candidates.



Mission of the Aiken Unitarian Universalist Church:

We are working together to create a welcoming and inclusive community which supports spiritual growth, ethical living, and open-minded exploration of religion.



Phew, like many of you, I'm sure glad that's all done. (And thank you to everyone who had a part in making all this happen.) Then I think, what's next? The easy answer is—we get the new minister on board and enjoy his/her contributions to our growing UU congregation. Along with that step is ensuring we have a successful Financial Commitment Campaign to fund the mission of the church and to pay our part of the minister's salary. "Wait a minute," some have asked. "Doesn't the grant cover the salary?" The grant only covers a part of the salary. It was a way for us to get past the catch-22 we saw: We are almost large enough to support our own minister. But we might need a minister to help us attract more people so we could afford to have a minister to help us attract more people ...



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Now What? *Continued from page 1*

During the course of the next 3 fiscal years, the grant will pay less and less of the salary. The breakdown of the salary responsibility will look like this:

FY2010-11 will be a 50-50 split (About \$12,000 each)

FY2011-12 we will pay 75% the grant 25% (\$18,000 us \$6,500 grant)

FY2012-13 we will pay 80% the grant 20% (\$21,000 us \$4,500 grant*)

FY2013-14 we will pay 100% of the salary

*The difference in the grant money will be used this year once the minister is hired.



As we take on more responsibility, we will need even more support from our members and friends. This year we are asking for everyone's support and participation in our Financial Commitment Campaign as we take this next big step in the life of this congregation.

Letter from our President—Katie Miller

Our congregation has been going at warp speed for about 10 years now.



Ten years ago a group was forming to explore having a congregation in Aiken. Six years ago that same congregation purchased a building

and got their charter from the UUA. Since then we've gone through strategic planning, doubled our membership, we've added the playground and RE Annex for our growing population of fabulous children, added a choir, and were awarded a Chalice Lighter grant. And that grant was just the beginning.

What we've been doing these last ten years was just the beginning! We are about to embark on something that some congregations are only able to dream about. We've taken the dream we had in our strategic plan in 2006 and made it happen faster than we

ever thought we could. We said that by 2011 we would establish a ministerial presence at Aiken UU. Wow. I remember thinking that was a lofty goal but darn it if we haven't proved me wrong. I've never been happier to be wrong and I am really looking forward to the changes this will bring in the next ten years. But for now, we have to fund that dream. In order to continue the ministerial presence that we will have very soon, we must reach a little deeper and give a little more.

Please help us with this year's stewardship campaign. We need everyone to join Starship AUUC before we go back into light speed. We want you all along for the ride!

This I believe!

Canvass Connections
published March, 2010.



All About Making your Financial Commitment during Canvass

Developing Your Generosity

Develop your generosity by committing to a pledge that supports what you believe for AUUC as well as our shared beliefs for this community. Consider a growth plan for your pledging. If you are new to pledging, determine where you are comfortable giving and then consider pledging at the next level. Make your pledge meaningful to yourself and to the others who are working as hard as you to see what you believe put into action. If you are continuing pledger, consider increasing the amount you pledge to the next level. If you find yourself in the Supporter category, aim for Visionary. Your pledge makes our mission possible.

What is Canvass?

Canvass is the annual process of reaching out to every household in our church community of members and friends and asking them for a pledge — a promise — of financial commitment of support. It is a time for sharing our fellowship and collecting suggestions for the future of the Aiken Unitarian Universalist Church.

Why Is Canvass Important?

Planning is vital to any healthy organization and requires a budget with a realistic estimate of income and expenses. Pledges are our largest source of income and provide the foundation for financial planning.

Who Pledges?

Members. Friends. Newcomers. Old-timers. Each and every one of us who is connected to the Aiken Unitarian Universalist Church can show our support of it's mission with a pledge.

What About the Sunday Offering?

The Sunday offering, as well as, fundraising and in-kind donations (furniture, supplies, etc.) are also important and much appreciated. However, they represent only a small fraction of our income. Pledges are the financial cornerstone of the church.

What About the Time I Contribute?

Your volunteer efforts are greatly appreciated.

They show you understand the value of the many things we do for each other and the larger world here at AUUC. We need your time, and also your money in order to meet our vision and grow here in Aiken.

Making Connections

Connecting this year's Canvass to previous events—writing and winning the Chalice Lighter's Grant for help with a 1/3 time minister and adding the classroom Annex means we are achieving our strategic planning goals, ahead of schedule! The new budget will account for the additional cost of having our own part time minister and get us started on saving for our future. We'll need to re-do our roof soon, update the HVAC and think toward possible expansion of our building. Make your pledge today toward fulfilling our mission of "working together to create a welcoming and inclusive community which supports spiritual growth, ethical living, and open-minded exploration of religion" here in Aiken.

Can I Change My Pledge?

Yes, a pledge is a promise not a contract. When circumstances change you can increase or decrease your pledge by notifying the Receiving Treasurer.





Suggested Fair Share Giving Guide

Just to be clear: We are suggesting that we each make a commitment to *move toward* our suggested financial fair share. It might be a three-year process or even a five-year process for some of us, but we advocate moving toward a fair-share financial commitment in a steady, intentional way. We are not suggesting that we locate our income on the guide and dramatically increase our annual financial commitment during the next annual budget drive.

| | <u>Supporter</u> | | | <u>Sustainer</u> | | | <u>Visionary</u> | | |
|---------------------|--|----------------|-----------------|---|----------------|-----------------|---|----------------|-----------------|
| | The church is a significant part of my life and promotes my spiritual growth | | | The church is central to my identity, and I am committed to sustaining our programs | | | I am committed to both the present and future growth of my church | | |
| <u>Gross Income</u> | <u>% of Income</u> | <u>Monthly</u> | <u>Annually</u> | <u>% of Income</u> | <u>Monthly</u> | <u>Annually</u> | <u>% of Income</u> | <u>Monthly</u> | <u>Annually</u> |
| \$ 10,000 | 2.0% | \$ 17 | \$ 200 | 3.0% | \$ 25 | \$ 300 | 5.0% | \$ 42 | \$ 500 |
| \$ 20,000 | 2.0% | \$ 33 | \$ 400 | 3.0% | \$ 50 | \$ 600 | 5.0% | \$ 83 | \$ 1,000 |
| \$ 40,000 | 3.0% | \$ 100 | \$ 1,200 | 4.0% | \$ 133 | \$ 1,600 | 5.0% | \$ 167 | \$ 2,000 |
| \$ 60,000 | 3.0% | \$ 150 | \$ 1,800 | 4.5% | \$ 225 | \$ 2,700 | 5.5% | \$ 275 | \$ 3,300 |
| \$ 80,000 | 3.0% | \$ 200 | \$ 2,400 | 4.5% | \$ 300 | \$ 3,600 | 6.0% | \$ 400 | \$ 4,800 |
| \$ 100,000 | 3.5% | \$ 292 | \$ 3,500 | 5.0% | \$ 417 | \$ 5,000 | 6.5% | \$ 542 | \$ 6,500 |
| \$ 125,000 | 3.5% | \$ 365 | \$ 4,375 | 5.0% | \$ 521 | \$ 6,250 | 6.5% | \$ 677 | \$ 8,125 |
| \$ 150,000 | 3.5% | \$ 438 | \$ 5,250 | 5.5% | \$ 688 | \$ 8,250 | 7.0% | \$ 875 | \$ 10,500 |





What's happening in Religious Exploration?

By Angie Drake, RE Committee Chair



Conferences at The Mountain:

Our AUUC Youth group attended the Fall Con at The Mountain and came back to share their experience with the congregation by leading

their own Sunday service.

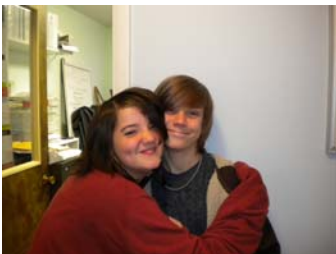
Our Middle School class is slated to attend the Junior High



Winter Con the third weekend of March.

These conference programs are invaluable to retaining our kids in Unitarian Universalism. The activities and themes presented at cons reinforce our

commitment to UU principles. We would do well to continue and expand the number of RE kids going to conferences at the Mountain.



Safety:

We have gone to great lengths to protect the safety of the children in our care. We added doors with windows in the Annex and instituted the policy of requiring at least two

adults in the building when children are present.

We have begun performing background checks on our RE teachers. Luckily, they are all beyond reproach!



Growth:

Our pool of teachers this year virtually doubled! (See our roster to the right) Our youth program is developing life force of its own. It's a cohesive group that has integrated

n nicely with the congregation at large. Their advisors deserve much praise, and the kids themselves are a marvel... Do have a chat with them over coffee and snacks! Enroll-

ment is up...We have anywhere from 15 to 20 kids in our program each Sunday.

Service to the Community:

The Youth Group has volunteered at the Soup Kitchen as St. Thaddeus and each have grown as individuals in the process. They have more plans to volunteer in our community in the future.

Advantages for RE teachers:

The advantages to teaching in RE are innumerable, but here are just a few. First, you examine and enlarge your own faith when using a UU curriculum. Second, you renew your love of humanity when you hear the well reasoned and honest responses from our UU kids. And third, you can request a recording of the service you missed while you were teaching so you don't miss out on a thing. It is a joy and a privilege to be a part of this program!

Please pat these folks on the back next time you see them. They are doing such good work with our kids!

| | |
|-------------------------|---|
| Primary (PreK-Grade 1) | Lisa Linter Marnie Hall Brian Adams |
| Elementary (Grades 2-5) | Neil Miller Angela Drake |
| Middle (Grades 6-8) | Michael Kaney Sally Evans Patrick Krohn |
| Youth (grades 9-12) | Mabry MacGregor Marcy Vernon |

Currently teachers rotate Sundays so that they are able to attend service.

Contact Angela Drake if you would like to join the rotation...It is important work we do in this congregation, and our students need to know that you find them to be important, too.



Budget Comparison

Five Year Projected Budget for AUUC

| INCOME | FY09-10 | FY10-11 | FY 11-12 | FY12-13 | FY13-14 |
|--|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Membership | 66 | 73 | 80 | 88 | 97 |
| Pledges | \$ 42,344 | \$ 49,925 | \$ 59,163 | \$ 69,978 | \$ 83,018 |
| Cash | \$ 4,800 | \$ 3,500 | \$ 3,850 | \$ 4,235 | \$ 4,659 |
| Fundraising | \$ 1,440 | \$ 1,500 | \$ 1,800 | \$ 2,200 | \$ 2,500 |
| Less 25% Cash to Outreach | \$ (1,200) | \$ (875) | \$ (963) | \$ (1,059) | \$ (1,165) |
| Chalice Lighter grant | \$ 4,330 | \$ 12,536 | \$ 6,563 | \$ 4,571 | \$ 0.00 |
| TOTAL INCOME | \$ 51,714 | \$66,586 | \$70,414 | \$79,925 | \$89,012 |
| EXPENSES | | | | | |
| 1) Denominational Support | \$ 4,500 | \$ 5,200 | \$ 6,375 | \$ 7,650 | \$ 8,550 |
| 2) Lifelong Spiritual Growth and Learning | \$ 21,000 | \$ 31,450 | \$ 32,543 | \$ 33,675 | \$ 40,207 |
| 3) Membership Growth and Support | \$ 24,214 | \$ 25,436 | \$ 26,496 | \$ 27,320 | \$ 28,185 |
| 4) Organizational Health and Development | \$ 2,000 | \$ 4,500 | \$ 5,000 | \$ 5,500 | \$ 6,000 |
| Total Expenses | \$ 51,714 | \$ 66,586 | \$ 70,414 | \$ 74,145 | \$ 82,942 |
| SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$ 5,780 | \$ 6,070 |

AUUC Board Members 2009-2010





Budget Comparison, continued

Budget Categories Defined

Denominational Support:

Fair Share dues to national UUA and regional TJ District

Lifelong Spiritual Growth and Learning:

Worship and Music, Religious Exploration for children and adults, Minister

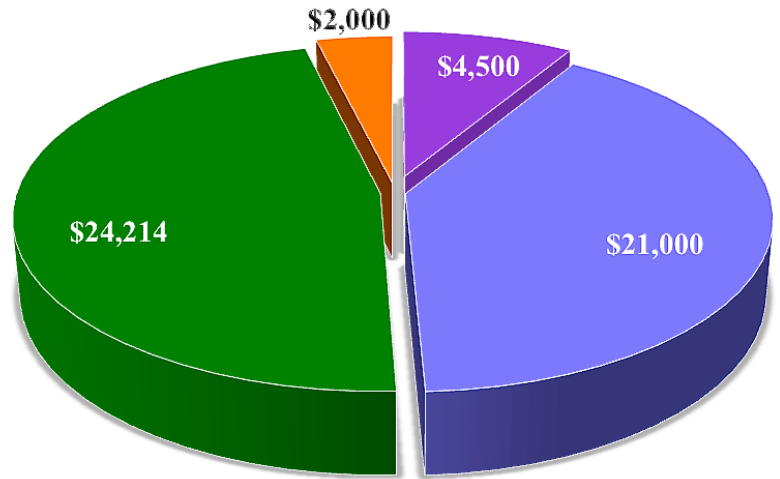
Membership Growth and Support:

Membership, Communications, Social Justice, Building Maintenance, Insurance, Mortgage, Utilities

Organizational Health and Development:

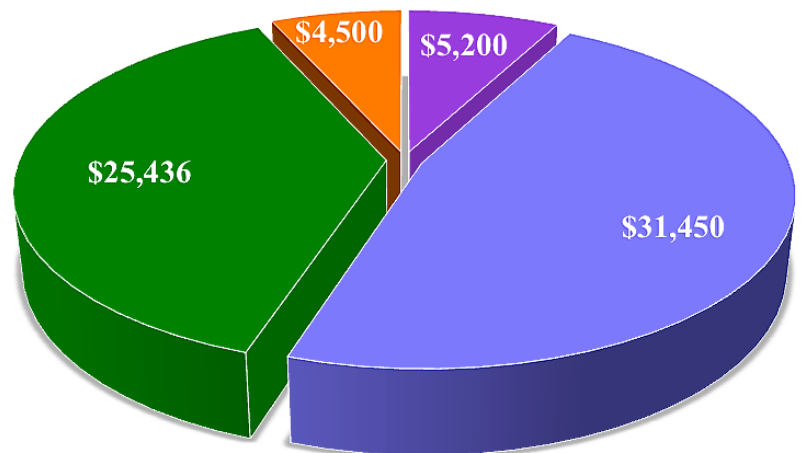
Conferences and Retreats for leaders, Mountain Scholarships for Religious Exploration participants, General Assembly travel assistance

FY2009-10
\$51,714



- Denominational Support
- Lifelong Spiritual Growth and Learning
- Membership Growth Support
- Organizational Health and Development

FY2010-11
\$66,586

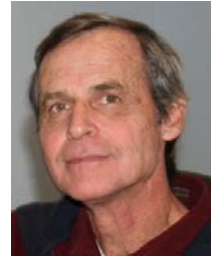


- Denominational Support
- Lifelong Spiritual Growth and Learning
- Membership Growth Support
- Organizational Health and Development



A Letter from our President-Elect

In just a short while I'll be stepping into the presidency of the Aiken UU Church. Thank you for trusting me with these big shoes to fill, because this is an historic moment in time for us. The hard work, dedication, vision, and support of a lot of phenomenal people has put us right where we need to be, right when we need to be there.



Consider:

- We have a vibrant and growing R.E. program, and a number of children and youth which many larger churches would envy.
- We have a membership which brings us skills, experience, accomplishments, and education from every walk of life and every religious and philosophical tradition - and we are building a strong and caring community inside our modest home.
- We are on track to have a professional minister for the first time ever: a step which will help us put the heart in this community which our heads and hands have worked so hard to build.
- We are UU's. In this time of extreme polarization in our society; In this time when many congregations seem to be building walls instead of bridges; In this time of uncertainty for our people and our planet: The UU voice of love, respect, tolerance, and dignity must be heard. If we fearlessly walk our talk, I think we will be astounded at how many friends we will find, both among individuals looking for a home, and among other churches whose members want the true spirit of their own faiths to shine through.

Please respond to canvass. A lot or a little - whatever your situation permits. Get in the game. Get on the team. Everybody gets to play!

In the spirit of Life,

Sam Dack

