

Unitarian□Universalist Church Of Nashua, NH

## **Stewardship Committee's Report to the Congregation**

*June 12, 2014*

### Summary

The Stewardship Committee would like to report that we have received pledges totaling \$234,623 for the 2014-15 church year. While this amount is about \$5,000 short of our goal, it is roughly \$5,000 more than had been pledged by this time last year. Further, if past history is any indication, we expect we will eventually achieve our goal as a few more pledges trickle in.

As we examine the numbers, we find much to celebrate. Almost twice as many pledge units\* were able to increase their pledge this year as reduced their pledge. Further, the average increase in a given pledge was more than the average decrease. Still, there are challenges. With only 135-145 pledging units in any given year, our pledge receipts are susceptible to even small changes when member's needs and circumstances change.

### Looking Ahead

Over the past few years the Stewardship Committee has made a concerted effort to remind everyone that stewardship is a year-round endeavor. We've stepped up our communication efforts throughout the year and tried to make it clear to everyone how important stewardship is to the health of our congregation.

As we look to the future, we are mindful of several things.

1. We need to continue to strengthen our financial commitments to this church. Our average pledge and share of the operating budget supported by pledges is still low compared to other congregations and most "official" measures of congregational health.
2. We need to expand our pledge base. We cannot rely on growth and new members to balance our books, but neither can we ignore the challenges of our current size.

### A Big Thank You!

No Stewardship report would be complete without a heartfelt thank you to each and every member for their energy, their passion, and their support throughout the year, both financial and otherwise. Stewardship is more than monetary support and we see signs of your dedicated involvement everywhere. From committee work to social justice, we have a long history of active engagement and this year was no different.

As Kate & I complete our three years as your Stewardship Co-Chairs, we cannot express how deeply we appreciate your support. It has been an honor to be your representatives. Your love of this church and your dedication to its mission are ever-present.

Respectfully submitted,  
*Kate Messner & David Hudson*

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\* We count couples and families as a single pledge "unit."