

VUUPoint
BOARD HIGHLIGHTS
March 29, 2017

Friends of VUU,

Thanks go out to the many members who attended the congregational meeting last week. We had 92 members turn out to vote, approving the mortgage recast almost unanimously. This change will reduce our mortgage payments nearly \$10,000 a year, which will provide some necessary cash flow relief until we conduct a capital campaign to reduce the remaining principal.

For those of you who couldn't make the meeting, you will be happy to know that the president of Gateway Bank toured our campus and was extremely impressed with the condition of our property, especially the new roof and paint on the sanctuary and the sealed parking lot. He told Trustee DeeAnne McClenahan that we are doing the big things necessary to preserve the value of the property. (Kudos to Debbie Dinyes and the Facilities Committee, and gratitude to the many contributors who make this maintenance possible.)

The congregational meeting also included a discussion about our preparation for Reverend Andy's departure in July. Feedback from members was nearly unanimous in support of hiring an interim minister for one year, with the option to extend if necessary. We agreed to begin the search for a settled minister simultaneously, in the hope of having an outstanding senior minister by the fall of 2018. (This plan was subsequently approved by the board.)

To pay for the search and to sustain our operating budget, we asked the congregation for a substantial increase in pledge commitments. And (wow!), VUU members and friends came through with another \$20,000 last Sunday. Thank you!! Our goal is to raise another \$30,000 to maintain the high quality experience we have come to expect. So if you have not yet pledged or if you can manage a bump in your payment, please do so by contacting the office or going online to <http://www.vuu.org/pledge/>.

We are also holding an extra fundraiser this year, a rummage collection on Sunday, April 30. Please gather your unwanted furniture, books, tools, sports equipment and other items. You can bring the items to church that day and set them beside your car for pickup. If you have large items that you can't transport in your vehicle, we will work out arrangements for prior pickup.

Thanks, friends, for pulling together right now. This is such a challenging time with Andy's departure pending and our political climate so discouraging. Despite all that, everyone is truly "showing up" as a strong and committed congregation.

Yours in service,

Janice Miller

President

VUU Board of Trustees