



ANNUAL BUDGET DRIVE

Recently we heard this question: **Why are we visiting every member personally this year? Why not a series of potlucks or an all-congregation party as we have done at times in the past?** We thought you would want to know why.

Most of us love a get-together with food – and there's no shortage of potlucks, treats and celebrations centered on food throughout our congregational year. That's the norm.

However, experts on congregational giving (including our UUA consultant, Mark Ewert) recommend that a congregation do something special on a one-on-one basis during the annual budget campaign – if not every year, often.

Why? Having a one-on-one visit with another congregant offers you a very personal opportunity to voice your stories, thoughts and opinions in a comfortable setting and be heard. No static from someone else trying to speak at the same time! No distractions from conversations taking place across the table! Just a one-on-one chance to hear and be heard.

This special form of ministry is one of the most effective ways of building bonds among us. And it is the most effective form of conducting an Annual Budget Drive.

Also, we now are seeing both reconnecting members and new folks attending because in our congregation they have found something special.

We want to build on this momentum, creating an ever more vital congregation that can change both our own lives and the world around us.

Please say "yes" when your visiting steward invites to you visit with him or her.

Silent Announcements January 22, 2012

Dear Friends and Congregants,

A HUGE, HUGE THANKS to those who have agreed to attend visiting steward orientation on the weekend of January 27 – 29. (We still need a few more . . .)

These folks have committed to spend three hours of their time learning about making one-on-one stewardship visits from an expert, UUA Consultant Mark Ewert, who will be returning to Iowa that weekend to share his expertise with our stewards.

They have also committed to practicing their stewardship visit with another visiting steward as well as meeting with four congregational households.

Would you believe that it takes great courage for some of us to accept this very important job? Some of us are nervous about talking to people we don't know really well. And some of us are nervous about talking about money!

About talking to people you really don't know well: the stewardship visit is an opportunity to build connections in an informal way, outside of the normal interactions we all have in attending services and doing the work of the congregation.

About talking about money: although your visiting steward will bring your pledge card for you to complete, neither your steward nor you should be intimidated at all by the visit, because it's really about building connections and sharing values, not talking about money!

To use a metaphor from the physical world: we all require water to live. In fact we are made up mostly of water, which comes from the bonding of an oxygen atom with two hydrogen atoms. Without the bonds, there are two elements but no water. With the bonds, we have water – we thrive.

The important thing about your visit with your visiting steward is creating the bonds that make our congregation connected and impactful. When we meet, we are metaphorically taking oxygen and hydrogen and making new bonds, life-sustaining connections for our congregation's future.

Please when your visiting steward calls for an appointment, accept! Because the point of the visit is to meet with you, gain your insights, and use them to bond a stronger Unitarian Universalist Congregation of the Quad Cities – our congregation!

Thanks to all visiting stewards and congregational members and friends who participate in these visits and build our mutual bonds!

Mona, Amber and Barb