



October 2011

Dear Members and Friends of Holladay United Church of Christ,

Holladay United Church of Christ's ("HUCC") annual fall stewardship campaign has begun and we invite you to make a personal pledge of financial support for the 2012 ministries of our church. The stewardship packet includes a letter from Pastor Erin, FAQ's, 2011 Pledge Steps and pledge card.

This year's stewardship theme is **Extravagant Giving: Living a Life of Generosity**. We have all experienced giving as part of a joyful life. Most of us have also witnessed, and have been the beneficiary of, extravagant giving—a gift that is well above what was expected and offered with an air of unfettered abundance. It is a joy to receive that sort of gift but it is even greater to become a person for whom giving is second nature. As part of the stewardship drive, we will be celebrating extravagant giving by seeking, and sharing, stories of such giving within and outside our community.

We are asking for your pledge of financial support. As you prayerfully consider your pledge, consider the many lives that HUCC enriches. Your financial support not only supports the rich worship life and faith formation of this community, but also the many organizations and people supported and served by this community such as Operation Sandwich, the Homeless Youth Resource Center and Stephen Ministries or the many support groups who use our building and enjoy the support of many members of our community.

We have included with this letter a "2011 Pledge Steps" chart showing some budget and historical giving information and some suggested steps in giving levels. Regardless of where you may have historically landed on the table, we ask that you consider moving at least one column forward in the coming year. *As members of the committee, we have committed to increasing a step level.* By all of us taking one step forward we will be able to meet our increased budget needs for 2012 and meet our goals of increasing both the amount of pledging units and the dollar amount of pledges.

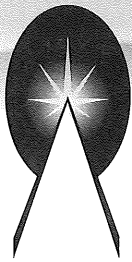
The Stewardship drive this year begins on Sunday October 30th and culminates with Consecration Sunday on November 20th. We ask you to turn in your pledge or complete it online at <http://www.holladayucc.org>. We invite you to consider the stewardship materials as you consider on how you will give to HUCC and find ways to extravagantly give and live a life of generosity.

With Jesus' Love,

The HUCC Stewardship Committee

Bryan Allen, Dennis Bayes, Alice Crankshaw, Lorrie Gaffney, Neil Sarin, Paul Jewell and Kevin Mock

God is still speaking,
UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST



Holladay United Church of Christ

October 25, 2011

Dear friends and members of Holladay UCC,

"You will be enriched in every way for your great generosity, which will produce thanksgiving to God through us" - 2 Corinthians 9:11

Extravagant Giving: Living a Life of Generosity. When I read these words I think of my grandmother Mimi Gilmore. She taught Sunday school for over 30 years. She wrote out her weekly check to the church every Sunday morning. She volunteered at the local hospice store. She threw all kinds of extravagant parties. When I was a little girl she would play with me for hours and when I was older she was eager to listen to my stories. She lived a life of generosity. And here's what I know about my grandmother: she was one of the happiest people I've known. Not happy in a sugar coated kind of happy, but in a deeply satisfied, intrinsic kind of happy.

Jesus teaches us that generosity is a way of life. It is a practice that enriches our lives. There is a joy that comes in giving to others. We find meaning in giving to something that matters to us. And yet, generosity does not necessarily come easily. We are immersed in a culture of fear and scarcity. We are bombarded by messages of doom and gloom. We are paralyzed by the overwhelming needs of so many in our world. That is why generosity takes practice and intention. We learn to grow, step by step, into the grace of giving, both as individuals and as a community. Most of us don't start at ten percent. Maybe we start at two percent. And year-by-year we make another step towards the goal of greater giving, not out of compulsion or obligation but out of the discovery that giving enriches our lives.

As we enter into the time of year when we receive pledges for next year's budget I hope Holladay UCC will be one of the recipients of your giving. Why? Because when we pledge to our local congregation, we provide food for those who hunger spiritually, emotionally and physically. We ensure that an open table of Communion is set each month, welcoming *all* to the body of Christ. We provide a building that hosts different groups from the community every day of the week. We ensure that our spirits may be fed by music and worship that transports our souls. We ensure that our children may be fed with the love of a community and the formative stories of the gospel.

Arthur Ashe once said "From what we get, we can make a living; what we give, however, makes a life." Let's practice extravagant generosity as a congregation. Let's make generosity the way of our life together.

With gratitude,

Rev. Erin Gilmore

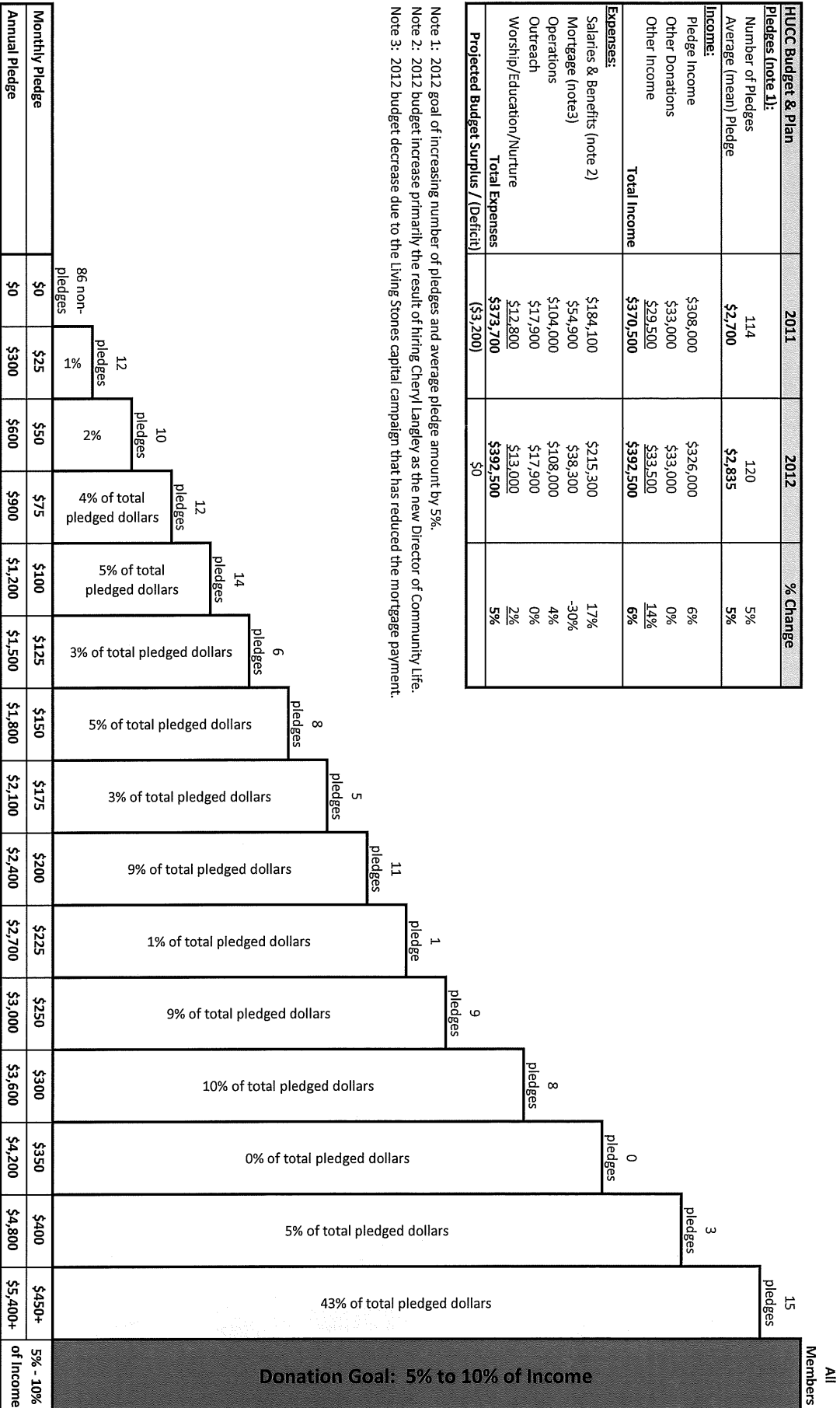
Holladay United Church of Christ 2011 Pledge Steps

HUCC Budget & Plan	2011	2012	% Change
Pledges (note 1):			
Number of Pledges	114	120	5%
Average (mean) Pledge	\$2,700	\$2,835	5%
Income:			
Pledge Income	\$308,000	\$326,000	6%
Other Donations	\$33,000	\$33,000	0%
Other Income	\$29,500	\$33,500	14%
Total Income	\$370,500	\$392,500	6%
Expenses:			
Salaries & Benefits (note 2)	\$184,100	\$215,300	17%
Mortgage (notes)	\$54,900	\$38,300	-30%
Operations	\$104,000	\$108,000	4%
Outreach	\$17,900	\$17,900	0%
Worship/Education/Nurture	\$12,800	\$13,000	2%
Total Expenses	\$373,700	\$392,500	5%
Projected Budget Surplus / (Deficit)	(\$3,200)	\$0	

Note 1: 2012 goal of increasing number of pledges and average pledge amount by 5%.

Note 2: 2012 budget increase primarily the result of hiring Cheryl Langley as the new Director of Community Life.

Note 3: 2012 budget decrease due to the Living Stones capital campaign that has reduced the mortgage payment.



Holladay United Church of Christ
2012 Pledge Drive
Frequently Asked Questions

1. I donate on a regular basis. Why is it important that I pledge?

Answer: All donations are appreciated; however, pledges are important to permit HUCC to budget each year. HUCC plans a balanced budget each year, and we use pledges for estimating revenue. With greater contributions, HUCC can add programs, staff or services for our members and the community. If pledges are low, HUCC may be forced to reduce programs, staff or services.

2. Does HUCC receive financial support from a national or regional church?

Answer: No. The national and regional United Church of Christ organizations provide certain non-financial resource to HUCC but no financial support. HUCC pays a small amount (about 4% of its budget) to the national, conference or state United Church of Christ organization to support their operations.

3. How much should I pledge? Is there a specific required or recommended percentage of income?

Answer: We ask members and other supporters to be generous with their pledges, taking into account the value of HUCC and the importance of its mission. There is no required percentage of income; however, for this coming year, we have provided a table entitled "2011 Pledge Steps " in the packets that were mailed out (and at the end of these FAQ on HUCC's website). For 2012, we are asking pledgors to consider making a monthly pledge that is in the column above the monthly pledge made in 2011, with a goal of eventually pledging 5-10% of income.

4. If I want to pledge, how do I do it?

Answer: There are several ways to pledge, including the following:

- **Place Pledge Card in Offering Plate.** Complete a pledge card or an electronic authorization form and place it in the offering plate during Sunday service (or hand it to our Financial Secretary Tom Sturgeon or our Treasurer Barb Cherrington).
- **Mail in Your Pledge Card.** Complete a pledge card or electronic authorization form, place it in the envelope provided and mail it to **Holladay United Church of Christ** at 2631 East Murray Holladay Rd., Holladay, UT 84117, Attn Financial Secretary.
- **Pledge and Make Donations Online.** You can go to our website at <http://www.holladayucc.org>. If you click in the "Giving" tab, you will be linked to a confidential electronic giving portal. To pledge and authorize monthly or weekly charges to your credit card, debit card or bank account, set up a profile and follow the prompts.

5. I pledged last year. Do I need to pledge again, or will you just assume that I will continue to donate the same amount?

Answer: You need to renew and update your pledge annually. If you are currently donating by recurring debit, charge or withdrawal, that will continue at the same level until you make a change. Nevertheless, we ask that you complete a pledge card, or update your donation online, so that we may know that you have made a pledging decision for 2012.

6. I previously filled out an electronic authorization form (paper or online) for a periodic debit/charge/withdrawal. Do I need to do it again or change it?

Answer: Once you authorize a recurring charge/debit/withdrawal, it will continue until you change it (or your credit/debit card expires). If you do nothing, the same recurring donation will automatically continue. If you want to increase or decrease the amount of the recurring donation, or make another change, you must fill out a new authorization form or make the change online. *[continued on backside]*

7. When I go to the "Giving" link on www.holladayucc.org and then click "Electronic Giving", I get an Online Donation Screen with a number of options. Which do I select?

Answer: For recurring donations, you must create a profile. The Online Donation page permits you to make one-time donations without setting up a profile; however, we recommend creating a profile to be able to track donations.

8. Can others see my pledge amounts, or is it confidential?

Answer: The amount of your pledge is confidential and is viewed only by the HUCC Financial Secretary, Treasurer and Stewardship Chair at HUCC. It is not available to others, including our Pastor or church leadership. As part of their follow up efforts, the members of the Stewardship Committee will know who has pledged or not; however, they will not know the amount of such pledges.

9. How does HUCC spend its budget?

Answer: Our annual budget is available to our members and supporters and is approved by the members at a congregational meeting. Copies are available from the office upon request. In general categories, HUCC 2011 budgeted expenses were as follows (on a percentage basis):

- Worship and Ministry 45%
- Building & Grounds 35%
- Office & Office Staff 15%
- Contributions to Greater UCC 4%
- Service/Nurturing 1%

10. Is my pledge an enforceable contract? What if I am uncertain about the future and am reluctant to pledge?

Answer: Your pledge is not an enforceable contract. Although we ask that all pledges be a reflection of a real intent to donate, if you have a change in circumstance, you can change your pledge at any time during the year by submitting a revised pledge card or electronic authorization.

11. Can I prepay my pledge (i.e. donate money on December 30, 2011 for tax or other reasons but have it apply toward next year)?

Answer: Yes, but please submit a note with your donation, directing us to apply it toward the 2012 budget.

12. Does the amount of my pledge or donation affect my standing at HUCC?

Answer: No. HUCC is an open and affirming church, and neither membership nor opportunities to serve are conditioned upon your pledging a certain amount or at all.

13. When the offering plate is passed around, I notice that many active members don't put anything in. Why?

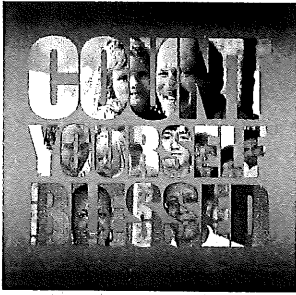
Answer: There are many ways to pledge and donate. Increasingly, many of our members are pledging and donating electronically, so there is no need to place a check or money in the offering plate. Others may donate only periodically. A majority of our active members pledge and donate on a regular basis.

14. When does the pledge drive end?

Answer: The formal pledge drive ends on Sunday, November 20th. We may, however, make follow up phone calls after that time.

15. Can I donate property than cash, such as stock?

Answer: You may donate any property provided it is readily marketable (such as publicly traded stock). We cannot accept property that is not saleable. If you desire to donate stock or other property, please contact the Financial Secretary Tom Sturgeon.



FOR CHURCH RECORDS

Envelope # _____
(for office use)

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

I plan to give beginning _____ \$ _____ each week
(date and year) month
for an annual total of \$ _____.

I understand that this commitment can be changed at any time by giving notice to the appropriate church officer.

I would like to talk with someone about including the church or church-related institution in my will.

Signed: _____ Date: _____

UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST

Published with support from Our Church's Wider Mission by the Stewardship and Church Finances Ministry for use in local churches of the United Church of Christ.

SCN1101

For Your Records

Date: _____

With others in my congregation,
I commit myself to give in proportion
to what I have for the ministries of the
church and the proclamation of the good
news of Jesus Christ.

I plan to give _____ beginning _____
(date and year)

Each week month

Annual Total _____

God is still speaking,
UNITED CHURCH
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