

## Frequently Asked Questions about “Our Adventure”

The membership of Unity of Fort Myers approved the building of a new church home during the Annual Meeting on February 18, 2007. This will help us achieve our vision of “Embracing, Enlightening, Empowering our World.” Through our exciting capital campaign, Our Adventure, and the active involvement of the entire congregation, our dream will become a reality. We will create a legacy of love for many generations to come.

### OUR NEW BUILDING AND EXISTING PROPERTY

#### ***Why are we building a new sanctuary?***

Our spiritual community is bursting its seams and we anticipate additional growth in the future. Unity’s message of inclusiveness, oneness, compassion, and personal responsibility are needed in the world. We have a responsibility to serve those who are led by Spirit to embrace this way of life that is changing the world from the inside out.

#### ***Who will benefit from our new facilities?***

We will all benefit individually and as a whole. Our new church home will offer better facilities and greater opportunities to grow spiritually and share Unity teachings with the community at large. We will also be an example of excellence in the Unity Movement and leave a legacy of love for future generations.

#### ***What will our new church home be like?***

We will celebrate the Unity way of life in a 400 seat sanctuary with state of the art media and audio capabilities. The Higher Shelf, our bookstore, will be a part of the building as well as administrative offices that allow for growth in ministerial and support staff.



#### ***When are we planning to build?***

We will break ground after our current debt is retired and a construction loan is obtained. Our goal is to retire the debt in one year and raise sufficient funds to obtain a bank loan the second year.

#### ***Where will the new building be located?***

The new sanctuary will be close to Peace Lake where our labyrinth is currently located. The labyrinth will be moved to another location. The "Creating a Legacy of Love" sign is located near the entrance of the new building.

***What will happen to our current buildings?***

Our interim sanctuary will be renovated for use as a fellowship area with a kitchen and will house our Youth and Family Ministry. The future of the Chapel is yet to be determined. It could be remodeled for additional classroom space, leased to a compatible group, or replaced by a garden.

***What happens when we outgrow the proposed Sanctuary?***

We have ten acres of beautiful property, but according to the legal restrictions for parking and access, our proposed sanctuary seating is limited to 400. When our congregation outgrows this space we will consider offering two services again or explore other options for expansion.

**OUR FINANCIAL OBLIGATIONS**

***How much will the project cost?***

The estimated cost of our new church home is \$1 million. However, before funds can be dedicated for new construction, we need to retire our current debt. Our overall goal is to raise \$1.5 million.

***How can we raise this much money?***

We have launched an ambitious, exciting capital campaign, Our Adventure. It is a three-year project. Our goal will be met in phases.

- **Phase 1:** On March 25th we will receive commitments for our three year goal of \$1.5 million.
- **Phase 2:** Retire the debt of \$431,000 with funds received the first year of giving.
- **Phase 3:** Having retired the debt and with an additional income of \$500,000, we will approach a bank for a construction loan. When our \$1.5 million commitments have been received, we will be debt-free again.

A campaign such as this one challenges us to experience God as Source in new and exciting ways. The purpose of Our Adventure is not solely to raise money; it also stimulates our spiritual growth. Not only will the spiritual community we call Unity of Fort Myers be better able to achieve its mission as we gather in our new church home, each of us will benefit personally because we will know with great depth that God is our infinite supply and source.

***What kind of commitment will I be asked to make?***

This is our church home and each member of our congregation will be asked to make a generous commitment to our capital campaign, discovering creative ways to support the campaign above and beyond our weekly tithes and offerings. We will be guided to examine our beliefs and behaviors and learn how “radical generosity” deepens our faith and our experience of God as Source.

***What is “radical generosity” and why are we being asked to give at this level?***

Radical generosity is giving at a level above and beyond weekly tithes and offerings. We give radically in response to that still small voice that encourages us to step up and take a risk. Stretched beyond our comfort zone, we say “Yes” to this heart-felt degree of generosity so we can live in harmony with the truth that there is more than enough.

Radical generosity stretches us beyond our comfort zone so we can live in harmony with the truth of our being and the belief that God is Source.

Radical generosity is a transforming adventure in faith. It challenges us to put our belief in God as Source into practice. With expanded awareness we are free to embrace a new way of being, one that empowers us to reassess our lifestyle, rearrange priorities, and reallocate resources. Then we can joyfully and gratefully experience a depth of faith and giving that opens the door to abundance.

***What happens if I am unable to fulfill my pledge?***

We know that everyone who makes a commitment will do so with guidance from God. We also believe that with faith and trust in God as Source, we will all be able to follow-through on our pledges. While the economic climate on earth may be limited, the climate in the kingdom of heaven is promising. However, should you feel that you are unable to fulfill your commitment, a member of the Adventure team will offer assistance as you explore ways to manifest your heart's desires.

**OUR CAPITAL CAMPAIGN – OUR ADVENTURE**

***Why are we having a capital campaign?***

When the desire to build a new church home became evident, we talked to other churches that recently built new facilities. Without exception, they indicated that professional help was necessary to be successful with a project of this scope. Therefore, we contracted with Generis, a consulting firm with an excellent track record, and began working with our strategist, Tom Melzoni.

Another critical component of successful campaigns is the recruitment of an excellent leadership team. Our Adventure Team includes many talented, dedicated volunteers from our congregation who are responsible for planning and implementing a wide variety of activities to help us achieve our goal. We are benefiting from the structure and organization the campaign process provides and through the synergy of our teams’ combined efforts. Together, we are making our vision of a new church home a reality.

***Who is leading the campaign?***

Our minister, Rev. Jim Rosemergy is leading our campaign and has recruited a top-notch Steering Committee. Each director on the Committee is working with an excellent volunteer team to create campaign materials and implement activities to help us achieve our goals.

The Steering Committee includes:

- Executive Director – Deb Hussey
- Campaign Manager – Margie Lange
- Major Gifts Director – Christina Bowman and Jon Payne
- Leadership Director – Carla Palmer
- Administrative Director – Nancy Rosemergy
- Communications Director – Dr. Pamela Gerali
- Major Events Director – Angela Esteves
- Spiritual Awareness/Prayer Director – Jim Palmer
- Children/Student Directors – Ellen Barron & Belinda Eckard

A volunteer team is working with each director to create campaign materials and implement activities to help us achieve our goals.

***What are the major campaign dates?***

On January 8, 2012, we launched our 12 week campaign. We “Let the Adventure Begin” with a special message from Jim, introduction of the Steering Committee, announcement of our campaign slogan, and the premiere of our new poem/prayer and song, “Our Legacy of Love.” We also unveiled our new sign near the building site.



During February we will host Major Gift Gatherings and in February and March everyone will be invited to attend one of four Congregational Gatherings. In mid-March the Adventure and Board leadership will gather and on March 18<sup>th</sup> campaign totals will be announced for our leadership. The Adventure will culminate in an exciting event on March 25<sup>th</sup>, Commitment Sunday. You will not want to miss this amazing celebration! Donations will be made throughout the next three years beginning Sunday, April 8<sup>th</sup>.

***How can I get involved in The Adventure?***

Join a team! Everyone is encouraged to actively participate in the capital campaign. Our efforts will thrive and be successful only if everyone steps up, sharing their time, talent and treasures. We also encourage everyone to affirm and hold gently in mind and heart our new church home affirmation every day: *I co-create with God, a new church home whose foundation is truth, whose light is wisdom, and whose warmth is love. And so it is!*

***How will we be kept informed of the campaign process and contributions?***

You will receive newsletters via email and updates from the platform on a regular basis. Information will also be provided on the “Our Adventure” webpage and FaceBook. A Listening Post will be established where Adventure volunteers will be available before and after services to answer your questions about our campaign and building project.

1/24/12