

First Unitarian Church of Oakland Capital Campaign 2015

WELCOME to the 2015 Capital Campaign—a spiritual initiative to pay off the debt incurred in seismically retrofitting Hamilton Hall, our beloved sanctuary of hope for generations gone by and generations to come.

What an amazing legacy Hamilton Hall has sheltered, welcoming all who have sought a place to grow their spirit, to deepen their connection to the human family,



at the earthquake did to us.
Hamilton Hall, 1906 Earthquake Aftermath

and to join with others to create a better world. This building has witnessed so many life-changing moments—

child dedications and comings of age, ceremonies of commitment, and services memorializing those who have passed on. Personal transformation is inspired within its walls. Mutual social conscience is reinforced, and we are emboldened and energized to be our best selves beyond its walls.

For more than a century our building, designated on the National Register of Historic Places and as a California Historic Landmark, has been base for our liberal progressive ministries in Oakland’s urban center. In this sacred space, retrofitted for seismic safety following damage inflicted by the 1989 earthquake, we have been able to continue the tradition of vibrant ministry. Today the church is both beautiful and safe thanks to the modern earthquake retrofits at the combined cost of over \$7 million.

While we are grateful for the physical safety of our building, and while most construction costs have been

paid for by past fundraising, the debt for retrofitting weighs down our ability to support ever more robust ministries. The remaining debt is roughly three-quarters of a million dollars, and the mortgage includes a balloon payment that will come due in 2020. It is not only wise but necessary to make substantial prepayment on the principal. A major consideration is that funds from a previous campaign are depleted. Without an infusion of cash we must find room in our current budget for loan payments of \$5,000 per month. This would have disastrous consequences on our ability to maintain the ministries through which we serve our mission.



When this campaign succeeds and we have discovered our true wealth and applied it to reducing our debt, we will be able to apply resources to growing our ministries within and beyond our walls. We will grow our spirit of welcome and have a brighter and financially healthier future. This will allow us to have fertile ground to grow spiritual leaders for the soul work necessary for our church and the communities we live within. At the same time, the bonds of our community will be strengthened, and we can move ever closer to the realization of our vision of a radically inclusive beloved community.

OUR GOALS – GOOD, BETTER, BEST!
The credit extended to our congregation is an expression of the bank’s trust in us. In this campaign, we have identified three goals that would go a long way in making good in that trust and

FOUR SCENARIOS FOR THE 2015 CAPITAL CAMPAIGN					
	Monthly Payments 5/2015 - 4/2017	Principal Remaining 5/2017	Monthly Payments 5/2017 - 12/2019	Balloon Payment 1/1/2020	Total Interest Saved
If we do nothing, our DO NOTHING GOAL	\$5,002	\$708,000	\$5,002	\$637,000	\$0
<i>\$5,002 a month would have to be paid out of our operating budget. This amount is not budgeted and the funds would have to come from monies currently budgeted for staff and programs. There would still be a monstrous balloon payment due in 2020.</i>					
If we raise \$400,000, our VICTORY GOAL	\$16,669	\$411,000	\$2,894	\$370,000	\$60,000
<i>We could reduce our monthly payment to less than \$3,000 beginning in 2017 and lower our 2020 balloon payment by 42%. A conservative figure with a high probability of success.</i>					
If we raise \$550,000, our CHALLENGE GOAL	\$22,919	\$257,000	\$1,811	\$231,369	\$86,000
<i>We could reduce our monthly payment to less than \$2,000 beginning in 2017 and possibly absorb this in the operating budget. The 2020 balloon payment would be lowered by nearly 64%. A stretch for many, a possibility for most. The whole Megillah, assume everyone does their utmost.</i>					
If we raise \$775,000, our MIRACLE GOAL	\$32,292	\$21,000	\$0	\$0	\$129,000
<i>With an overall project savings of \$124,000, our obligation to the Community Bank of the Bay would be completed in 2017. Do you believe in miracles? You can help make a miracle happen!</i>					

Please note: Amounts shown are illustrative and may vary slightly from these calculations.

freeing the congregation from the weight of this debt over the next two years.

HOW CAN WE REACH OUR GOALS?
At our church, the means are an end in itself. How something is done is as important as what is ultimately accomplished. We are committed to a high vision of worship and service and the demonstration that people of faith can live together in equality, justice, and freedom from racial, economic, and all manner of oppressions. We are conducting this campaign in a manner consistent with our identity as a spiritually alive and justice-seeking people and practice listening, openness, transparency, and inclusion alongside our Unitarian Universalist principles.

We understand that we all come with varying abilities to financially support the ministries of this church. Financial gifts of every size are worthy, welcome, and needed. We all have the capacity to open our hearts and participate with fierce generosity. We value each person’s consideration and contribution, and we seek 100% participation in this process. When we have expanded our spiritual practice and each shared generously, we surely also will reach our financial goal. Early pledge payments, such as those offered on our “First Gifts Sunday” May 10th, will give us more money to more quickly pay down the principal of our mortgage. We encourage each person to take a moment to search your hearts, minds, and dreams to follow this simple, intentional reflection on generosity.

CONSIDER THREE THINGS:

- What our church means to you—the gifts it has provided and your hopes for its future.
- How our church community manifests the value of these gifts and hopes through the time, talent, and treasure our individual circumstances allow.
- How your personal spiritual practice of generosity and giving will ensure the ongoing preservation of our sanctuary of hope for generations.



SAY YES! A magnificent building has been entrusted to us by the dedication and vision of those who came before us. May we now give as we have received, so that the sacred work we share may flourish and this fountain of human aspiration may be preserved as a sanctuary of hope for generations to come.

Radical welcome, YES! Multicultural, multiracial, multigenerational, YES! Anti-oppressive religious community, YES! These are our sacred and inspirational touchstones—transforming lives yesterday, today, and tomorrow—within, among, and beyond these walls.



WITH DEEPEST GRATITUDE

We thank the Capital Campaign Leadership Team for all the work they have done and will continue to do in this effort: Mary Carbone, Chris Sutherland, and Julie Baeder (engagement & gifts); Jenn Beach (marketing); Jodie Mathies and Jane Voytek (events); Suzanne Van Houten, Andy Lee, and Nori Grossmann (spiritual encouragement); and Micheas Herman (records & mailings).

We thank the Journey Toward Wholeness transformation team for their guidance, especially the advice of Rev. Kurt Kuhwald and Dennis Rowcliffe. We greatly appreciate the support shown by our professional ministers, Rev. Jacqueline Duhart and Rev. Ed Brock, and the Executive Team and staff of the church: Jodie Mathies, Molly Hermes, Linda Hodges, Laila Ibrahim, Stefan Schneider, and Frank Tobor, as well as the kind sharing of expertise by Gail and Bob Schulz and Rev. George “Bud” Swank.

Yours in Faith,

Noemi de Guzman & Dick Bailey, co-chairs



PRESERVING A SANCTUARY OF HOPE FOR GENERATIONS

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