To members, friends, and newcomers of this vibrant congregation:

I have had the honor of serving as the Chair of your Board of Trustees since last May. *In many ways, this is a pivotal and deeply meaningful time for our church.*

Whether you have recently found us or have been part of the community for a while, our church is something special. When I have needed support, inspiration, or a way to focus energy into positive change, this church community has been there.

First, a few thoughts about how we have been doing truly inspired and inspiring work. Because of your generosity, we have been improving our beloved church home, supporting our highly talented staff, taking care of our increased membership, and boldly engaging in action that is aligned with our Unitarian Universalist values.
Some examples include:

- Reverend Caplow and the church receiving the President’s Award from the local NAACP chapter in recognition of “financial support and for laying the foundation for alleviating racism in Champaign County”.
- Mobility, hearing, learning, and other accessibility improvements throughout the church, including total renovation of two downstairs restrooms, an overdue replacement of our security system, updating Religious Education classroom spaces and materials, addition of the Fireplace Meeting Room, and more.
- Our greatly expanded Adult Religious Education offerings, as well as the ever-essential Our Whole Lives (OWL) comprehensive sexuality education classes, now including K-1 OWL.
- Our successful partnership with the First Followers to establish a much-needed transition house in our community to help people recently released from incarceration.

And we continue to dream big. One of our next big leaps is to hire an Associate Minister for Congregational Life in the Fall of 2020, to support pastoral care, leadership development, committees and programs in this growing church.

Now, my request. Please pledge at whatever level you are able. Your generous pledge makes this church community possible and can make our bold plans a reality. And the earlier you pledge, the better we can plan. Remember, we are self-sustaining, and pledges from our brief Generosity campaign provide the large majority of funds needed for all we hope to do from July 1, 2020 onward. Those who raise their pledge by 15% or more this year or who make a targeted, one-time contribution toward the Ministerial set-aside fund to bring an Associate Minister here will become part of our Leadership Circle. Let’s keep on dreaming big, and “Let’s Leap… TOGETHER!”

I am ever grateful for this church community and how it works to make the world a more just, inspiring, and peaceful place. Thank you for your support!

Yours in service and deep gratitude,

Randy Locke
Chair, UUCUC Board of Trustees