

The Stewardship Committee is responsible for the annual pledge campaign and fundraising. The Stewardship Campaign is held every year in the February/March time-frame so that the UUG Board can complete the budget process for the next fiscal year. The pledge campaign was successful in that the average pledge has increased slightly, however, with the death of one of our founding members, Bruce Boenau, the campaign resulted in a bit less funding than previous years. We are always looking for creative ways to make the campaign "fun" and encourage members/friends to increase their financial commitment to UUG – it's a fine line to walk.

Stewardship currently has 3 ways of fundraising; the annual auction, holiday memory candles, and grocery cards.

The 2019 auction was a great success, raising over \$9000, exceeding all of our goals. That is the good news. The bad news is that the auction takes an enormous commitment of time and work for a minimum of 3 people. Janice and Michele have chaired the auction for several years and they need a break. At this point, no one has stepped up to take responsibility for the 2020 auction. Linda Noble and Mae Miller have volunteered to help with tasks but neither wants to "head up" the auction.

The candle project has also been successful and we hope to expand on that this year. Susan Swope and the worship committee have been very helpful in this endeavor.

The grocery card program generates some funds but constantly needs to be promoted. Everyone buys groceries and we offer Kennie's, Weis, and Giant cards but few people take advantage of this opportunity. Janice has recently been promoting cards on a weekly basis during the service and that has seen positive results. We are open to any ideas on how to better promote this program - there is no extra cost involved to purchasing the gift cards and UUG receives \$5.00 for every \$100 card sold.

Stewardship is open to new ideas for fundraising - let us know if you have some creative solutions. In the past we tried a fall craft show teaming with UCC and we also had a rummage sale. Both efforts took more efforts than the revenue they produced. We are also looking for opportunities to make money outside of UUG – let us know if you have any ideas.

Rather than monthly meetings, Stewardship operates on a "project" orientation. We think it's a bit more fun and more people are willing to work on a "project" than join a committee.

There are so many folks who have helped with Stewardship and we are so appreciative of everyone's dedication. Special thanks to Lydia Obrist and Rich Jackson who handle the pledge campaign; Janice Rhoads, Michele Jewell, Ron Gilbert, and Eleanor Pella who were the prime drivers of the auction; Susan Swope for the candle project; and Janice, Pru, and Kris E for handling the grocery cards.

**Board request:** Up to \$300 to buy new microwave