

# Go the Distance

## From Your Minister

As I have attended the informational events in this campaign process (and probably added a pound or two thanks to the succulent dishes that our dinner hosts prepared), I have emerged with a renewed commitment to the exciting future that awaits our church. Admittedly, it is a challenge raising funds in this economic environment for a yet to be revealed future site for Unity Church of Crystal Lake, but your Board and I are convinced that there are more than enough people in our community who have really understood and absorbed the Unity message to lead us to our goal.

This final newsletter, before you receive the campaign brochure and commitment card, addresses some additional questions that have arisen from the informational events. We have not shied away from the tough questions. As a matter of fact, we have invited them. Our primary goal in this "Go the Distance" campaign is to make sure that every conceivable concern about our expansion plans and this fundraising effort would be addressed before we actually asked you for your gift.

We believe we have done that. If not, please ask your questions during the remaining informational events or pose your query to one of the campaign Ambassadors when they call you in the week prior to Commitment Sunday on December 7.

No doubt, this is a time in our nation's history when the news of the day is typically rife with stories and negativities that contribute to financial uncertainties in many of our minds. I am also aware that there are some in our congregation who are being adversely affected by the current financial state of affairs. Yet, here we are in the beginning stages of a capital campaign. And so the question for each of us becomes, "What is mine to do?"

At this time I'll ask you to reflect on the six-and-a-half years of teachings I have shared with this congregation and invite each of you to take time to prayerfully consider your response. I suggest that your decision take into account your family's and your church's well-being and future. In doing so, I am asking you and your family to consider a life changing gift to ensure that the blessings that you have received from Unity Church of Crystal Lake will be passed on to future generations.

In any case, please hold our church in your positive thoughts and affirmative prayers. As we all know, this is where the miracles take shape.

*In Christ*

**Rev. Tom**



# Commitment Sunday

## December 7, 2008

### Unity Church of Crystal Lake Campaign Prayer

Divine Spirit of Love, I join my Unity family in welcoming our ideal spiritual home. We are blessed as we continue to create a community of love and peace. We gratefully accept this gift in divine service to all.

*Amen*

# Questions and Answers from the Informational Events



## What are we being asked to give to the capital campaign?

We are following the same format that many other Unity churches in similar campaigns have followed. Our members and supporters will be mailed a pledge card and brochure around the end of November. They will be asked to consider making a three year commitment of 5% of their income each year for the next three years or a gift of 5% of their assets. For some, this will be quite a stretch. Others will be able to do more. We are simply asking everyone to use the 5% as a benchmark and pray about their commitment to the future of our church.

## How will we decide where we will relocate?

A "Site and Structure" team has been constituted and it will explore a variety of options. When a suitable location is found, members of the congregation will be invited to visit the site. The final decision to purchase the building would occur at a special meeting of active members who would vote on the proposed new location.

## How will we be able to pay our pledges over the next three years?

Every member and friend will receive a pledge card in late November on which they can indicate how they intend to fulfill their commitment. It can be paid annually, quarterly, monthly, weekly, or in the form of a one time gift.

## Can I make a gift of stock or a mutual fund or other appreciated assets?

Yes, and this is an excellent way to help Unity of Crystal Lake and at the same time avoid paying any capital gains taxes. You can also claim the full amount (if it is no more than 50% of your Adjusted Gross Income) of the value of the gift as a tax deduction on your federal and state income tax returns.



## Unity Church of Crystal Lake Mission Statement

To support, nurture, and celebrate our oneness with God, who "I AM" as a spiritual being, and who "WE ARE" as a family and community

## Who will know the amount that each person pledges?

The same people who know the amounts that members currently donate to the church. The office staff (Tricia Alexander and Roger Sherman) and Rev. Tom.

## Will the new church have audio-visual equipment?

Yes. It is Rev. Tom's hope to be able to provide state of the art equipment at the new church to enhance the services and engage more people in the Unity experience.

## How will campaign updates take place after Commitment Sunday?

Regular announcements will be made from the platform each Sunday until the end of January and additional newsletters will communicate the progress of the campaign. After that, the Follow Up Team will make sure that the congregation is well informed over the three year period.

## How do I consider giving 5% of my income to the campaign when I am struggling now?

The final decision to give is a very personal one. Rev. Tom encourages us to take some quiet time and base that decision on prayer and a deep connection to our sacred Self. Knowing that a giving consciousness is an essential part of the spiritual journey, he also encourages us to give what we can, when we can and to stretch ourselves at least a little bit.

**Prayer Vigil**  
**November 29 & 30**  
10 AM on Saturday to 10 AM on Sunday  
in the Church Sanctuary  
One hour prayer sessions and Visioning