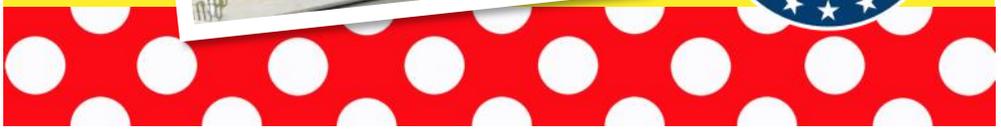


Eliot Stronger!



Canvass Timeline

Sunday April 8

Service at Kirkwood Community Center (KCC)

- 10:00 am** Child Care opens for children up to 4 years at Eliot Chapel
- 10:30 am** Activities open for children 1st to 6th grade at KCC
Congregation gathers at KCC
- 10:45 am** Service begins
- 11:45 am** We have all made our Pledges
Children join their families for lunch
- 12:00 Noon** Lunch and Dancing
- 1:00 pm** Ending
- 1:15 pm** Please pick-up children from Eliot Child Care

April 9 – April 21

Follow-up with those few who were not able to attend the Service at KCC

April 22

Announce final Canvass Results



Rev. Barbara

Thank you for your gift! You make Eliot stronger.

Because of you:

- ◆ We can bring the power and joy of music each week, from Handel's Messiah to rap and jazz.
- ◆ We can be the church when people need us most - in illness, stress and grief.
- ◆ We can be a strong voice for black lives, undocumented immigrants, the LGBTQ community and the environment.
- ◆ We serve the progressive community in an increasingly lonely time.
- ◆ We can empower youth.



Our vision is for a more connected Eliot that serves more people and is securing its future. To do this, we need to:

- ◆ Add a new membership coordinator to help strengthen people's connection to our community and expand the reach of Eliot's mission.
- ◆ Increase salaries and meet rising health insurance costs for our hard-working staff.
- ◆ Strengthen Eliot's future by adding to our building reserves.

Our goal for the 2018-19 church year is \$762,825. We ask that you consider adding 10% to your pledge. When you receive your pledge card, it will have a sticker with two amounts: your pledge last year, and what your pledge would be with a 10% increase. We've done the math for you!

If you haven't pledged before, there are guides to giving in this booklet to help you decide. Always begin by thinking about what Eliot means in your life and what kind of gift would be generous for you.



John and Bonnie Robinson Bonnie and I came to Eliot Chapel from two different religious backgrounds.

Eliot has provided us a place to weave together our spiritual journey through its dedication to action, peace and justice to community. Openness and acceptance are two of the qualities at Eliot that we find appealing. Acceptance of people from all backgrounds or beliefs makes the church inclusive as opposed to exclusive. In addition, we have enjoyed the opportunities for enrichment through the many social and spiritual circles offered. We have found Eliot a loving, caring, committed fellowship not just to the church but to the practice of social justice beyond the church walls. We feel the church community's greatest asset is demonstrating its dedication to reaching out to others in need. Everyone, from the pastor, the church staff, and the congregation, has been welcoming.

Cathy Converse I joined a covenant group right after I became a member of Eliot Chapel. I was looking for a way to meet other Eliot members and establish deeper connections with them. My covenant group has been a wonderful opportunity to share within a small group of supportive people as we move forward on our own paths to understanding and expressing what spirituality means to us. Being in a covenant group has enriched my experience as a member here. I love that this is a community that supports both the needs of members and of the community at large, and that is why I support Eliot Chapel.



Why Eliot?

David and Janis Cox At Eliot we found a rich source of like-minded friends. David has made strong connections through service on the Board and social justice projects, and most Mondays he plays golf with a group made up primarily of Eliot seniors. Although his time as treasurer was a difficult time of transition and healing at Eliot, along with challenges came deeper friendships and the satisfaction of accomplishment. He is currently on an Eliot team that mentors and supports newly released convicts, which has broadened his perspective of this marginalized community.

Through Women's Alliance Janis has found thought-provoking book discussions, exposure to interesting speakers and field trips to, often, fascinating local destinations. January marked the sixth year she has been a member of the Pastoral Care Team. This service has created a source of significant meaning via rich and rewarding relationships with Eliot members.



Susan Van Alstyne

Our Eliot experience has been family-centered and spiritually fulfilling since becoming members in 2014. The religious education team do a stellar job of fostering true community, guiding volunteer teachers, and modeling a culture of respect and inquisitiveness that serves as the ideal entrée into Unitarian Universalist principles. And as frequent RE teachers, these lessons also serve as good reminders for us! We've seen firsthand the positive impact that well-constructed and warmly taught lessons on complex topics, like death in RE or human sexuality in OWL, have had on our 7-year-old's nascent worldview. We're proud to support Eliot Chapel, a special community steeped in the caring values and probing mindset we wish to instill in our children.



Steven Bain Eliot Chapel, my spiritual home, provides for me what all homes should provide.

Its members, friends, and ministers support me, not just with friendship and connection, which I feel when I come here and all the time, but also with a sense of solidarity in our mission. Solidarity, real brother- and sisterhood, gives me confidence to dig deeper into myself, to look higher for the good and my place in making it real; to stretch as I reach out to other people, to see if I can be of use or comfort.

I have been given a place of safety and calm.

After 30 years, Eliot still leads and teaches me in a spiritual journey that I know must never be finished for any human. I can see a future where working for better connections will always be nurtured here. I am home, and I have hope.



Why Eliot?

Peter Wilson In the fall of 2012, Madelyn and I decided to try Eliot Chapel. We walked into Adams Hall and on the wall was the Chapel's mission statement "....Act for Social Justice". I believe, as Martin Luther King, Jr. said that "Working for a more just world is essential to our realizing our humanity." I instinctively felt that I had found my home. And, in the last six years I've come to understand that working for a more just world is very much aligned to UU principles and to our each becoming more whole. When we came to Eliot, I had recently retired from a career which culminated in twelve years leading a consulting group that worked to advance racial justice in schools. Not long after Madelyn and I joined Eliot Rev. Barbara was installed as lead minister. Her leadership in racial justice and the extraordinary growth of Eliot's Social Justice in Advocacy work of the last five years has led Madelyn and me to significantly increase our financial commitment to Eliot. We urge you to do the same.



You might have questions

Q: Why is it Important to Pledge?

A: Our pledges allow Eliot to plan for the coming year, knowing how much money will be available permits funding as many of our needs and wishes as possible.

Q: Why can't I just put money in the collection plate on Sunday?

A: This kind of giving, while generous, isn't predictable. Not knowing what funds will be available will force very conservative planning and then possibly missed opportunities.

Q: Do I have to pledge to become a member? What if I cannot afford to pledge?

A: The Eliot By-Laws require that each voting member be "a financially contributing member of record" but the requirement to pledge can be waived at the discretion of the Lead Minister.

Q: How do I decide how much to pledge?

A: Think about how much Eliot means to you and your family. What would life be like if it weren't here? What dreams do you have for its future? There is some information on the congregation pledging patterns later in this booklet.

Q: Will my pledge be made public?

A: No, individual pledges are never published.

Q: What if I lose my job or have some other circumstance change this year?

A: Pledges can be adjusted as circumstances change. Please communicate with the Lead Minister, the Office Staff or the Board of Trustees.

We have answers.

Q & A

Q: I teach RE and volunteer for Room at the Inn. Can that count as my pledge?

A: No, your gifts of time and talent are very important and much appreciated, but unless Eliot has a strong financial base these volunteer opportunities might not be available.

Q: Do I have to pay my whole pledge all at once – or can spread it out over the year?

A: You can pay your pledge as you choose: weekly, monthly quarterly, annually.

Q: During the Supplemental Drive last fall, I checked the box on the Pledge Card to make mine a Sustaining Pledge. What does that really mean?

A: As a Sustaining Pledger you intend:

- ◆ to continue your pledge at the current level into the foreseeable future,
- ◆ to increase your pledge from time to time as your commitment to Eliot grows and your financial circumstances permit.

Q: Can I sign up for automatic withdrawal or use MC/Visa to pay my pledge?

A: Yes. Just go to the Eliot website at www.eliotchapel.org. Scroll down to find AccessEUC in the left sidebar. Check out the "How To Set Up Your Pledge by Automatic Withdrawal or by MC/Visa". If you have problems and need additional help, contact the Office Staff at 314-821-0911.

Q: How will I feel after I make my pledge?

A: Joyful!



From the Board



I've been a member here at Eliot Chapel since 2005 when our family first settled in the area. I had taken a civil service job at a Scott Air Force Base and lived with my family in Belleville, Illinois. As long-time UUers, we were looking for a UU home. Luckily, the area had four UU congregations we could choose to attend. We appropriately looked at First Church first, and then tried out Eliot Chapel. We immediately felt at home here. To borrow Cindy Lau's term, we found our tribe! It was due in big part to my wife and I both being musicians and

our love of music that particularly attracted us to Eliot, which I'm sure you all agree has one of the finest music programs within our religious association. Never mind that we had to travel about 50 minutes each way to worship at Eliot—it was worth it to be part of a group of people we very quickly called friends. Over the ensuing years, Eliot has faced some challenges, and I feel closer to many at Eliot for having faced those challenges together. Not only do I love Eliot and all it has to offer me on my spiritual journey, I need Eliot Chapel to survive. Without the connections I experience here, without the challenges urging me to become a better person, and without the protection Eliot provides in times of need, my life would be far less than what it is. Eliot Chapel makes me who I am. To support these vital efforts, I plan to give generously to Eliot Chapel during this year's funding campaign and I urge you to do the same. Together we are Eliot—and we are stronger.

Eliot Stronger!

David Cox
Chair, Board of Trustees
Eliot Unitarian Chapel

A LITTLE SOMETHING ON Eliot's Finances

Eliot's Operating Budget for this year, 2017-18, is **\$777,130**.

This excludes loan payments for the 222 Argonne property as that is funded separately.

That is a lot of money but spending it allows a lot of things to happen.

- Fifty-two weeks of Sunday Services attend by an average of more than 300 people

- An RE Program serving over 200 children and youth
- Extremely active Junior and Senior High Youth Groups

- At least 17 Covenant Groups meeting regularly

- Pastoral Care for those who need it, some beyond our congregation

- Spectacular music from four Choirs and other talented Musicians

- A Social Justice Effort that we can be very proud of

- Hosting homeless families at Room at the Inn (we host more times each month than any other congregation)

- Adult Education Forums, Classes and Events

- Special Programs including films and lectures on currently important topics

- Support Groups

- Women's Retreat

- Men's Advance

- Connection to and support of the larger Unitarian Universalist Association

You can probably add to the list. If you are at the Chapel during any day or evening there will almost always be something happening and usually not just the one you are coming to attend. It keeps our staff busy scheduling, setting-up, and getting ready for the next event.

There is a lot going on and all of us are happy to be a part of some of it.

How All of This Activity Is Supported

The most important thing is our Annual Pledge Canvass. Expected Pledge Revenue for this current church year, 2017-18, **683,075**. The total of all pledges is actually a little higher because the budget process allows for a shortfall that might come from people moving away or having problems.

Pledge Revenue is about **88%** of the **\$777,130** current Operating Budget. Basically our pledges are the foundation that makes everything possible.



So here is some information on pledges:

There are currently **367** Pledging Units.

The average pledge is approximately **\$1,900** per year. The table below shows a breakdown of pledges.

Pledge Range	Current number of Pledging Units
Above \$10,000	7
\$7,000 to \$9,999	12
\$4,500 to \$6,999	31
\$2,400 to \$3,999	41
\$1,200 to \$2,399	86
\$ 601 to \$1,199	74
\$600 and below	116

As you think about your pledge to the Chapel for the 2018-19 Church Year, you can see from the table above where your pledge fits in with others at Eliot. Maybe you had not realized the level of commitment many make to support this beloved community and all the things we are able to do together. Would it be possible to move your pledge up to or closer to the next level? Maybe if you have not pledged previously you can now see how many small pledges added together can make a difference.

In the end the pledge you make is the one that is just right for you. Please make a pledge that considers your love for Eliot and your financial ability.

THE BROADER WORLD OF Unitarian Universalism



Our Chapel's involvement with the Unitarian Universalists Association of Congregations (UUA) has changed a lot over the last several decades. Some of us can remember a time when Eliot was a member of UUA and little more. Now UUA congregations throughout the country are served by past intern minister who served here and by members of our congregation who have studied for the ministry. Our Junior and Senior High youth are deeply involved in Regional and National UUA activities. At the last UUA General Assembly the Eliot contingent was the largest of any congregation represented.



We called on the UUA when we were searching for a new minister and aren't we glad for the help and the result. We are able to take advantage of the Religious Education materials available from UUA. Our ministers, professional staff and Board of Trustees rely on timely, expert assistance from our regional and national UUA offices. Our Endowment and other corpus Funds are invested with the Unitarian Universalist Common Endowment Fund. And of course, the current UUA President is a daughter of this congregation.

As our UUA President, Susan Frederick- Gray said from our pulpit

"This is no time for a casual faith. As Unitarian Universalists, we are first and foremost religious communities, religious communities that practice love as our foundation – and we are living in times of heartbreak, violence, struggle, and pain. In this time, we need communities that remind us of our humanity"



At this time in our nation, we need voices like the UUA to provide support for our voice as we work to live up to our Vision:

**Creating a just world
through vibrant,
beloved community**

**WE WILL BE
Eliot Stronger**

Eliot Stronger!

In thinking about our Canvass this year your Stewardship and Finance Team was sure we wanted to do something different. We also wanted to make the canvass fun. We think we have done both. We hope to have the whole canvass completed on one Joyful Sunday Morning and have a great time doing it. When was the last time we were all together in a single service? When was the last time we had a Swing Band on Sunday morning? We are hoping for an overflow crowd on April 8.

When we make our pledges together on April 8, we will be setting the foundation to make Eliot Stronger. We all know that money alone is not what makes us stronger. It is the dedicated work of our ministers and staff. It is the service work and social justice work through our volunteer efforts that affect lives outside our community as well as our own. It is the efforts of individual members of our congregation working together to give life to our Vision: Creating a just world through vibrant, beloved community.

However, without a strong financial base we will not be able to have the awesome staff that supports and inspires the work we want to do together. Without sufficient resources we will not be able to appropriately maintain our buildings, facilities and properties and keep them available seven days a week all year long.

We on the S & F Team have made our pledges for 2018-19. We know you will soon be ready to make yours. Please know that every pledge is important and appreciated.

When we give to Eliot we are really giving to ourselves. And we get back more than we give.

Stewardship and Finance Team

Gary Gray

Jim Lyon

Carol Moreland



Bread Service 2017, Eliot Unitarian Chapel

Photo by Ken Denson