

FUNDRAISING POLICY

First UCC, Northfield

FOUNDATIONAL BELIEFS, VALUES, AND OVERARCHING PRINCIPLES

- As people of faith, we believe we are called to generosity.
- The members of our congregation give generously to our congregation and to OCWM, in addition to other organizations and causes.
- Some church members look to the church for information on current needs (local or global), and for guidance on worthy causes and organizations.
- The church does not need to serve as a siphon for charitable giving, but giving together can increase our impact and unify our efforts.
- We do want to support special projects, especially those that unite first UCC members through a variety of participation options (volunteer, financial support, etc.)
- In addition to our huge support of OCWM through our pledges, we also collect four offerings each year for the UCC, roughly one per quarter.
- We do not want to “nickel and dime” our people, which can lead to fundraising fatigue and lower giving.

POLICIES

- Groups within the church should not consider fundraising options that are traditionally done by schools and sports teams. One exception might be fundraising meals (e.g., french toast breakfast to support the softball team)
- When emergency national or global disaster relief assistance is needed, we will most often direct our people to national organizations, including the UCC, rather than take up our own collection. Requests for exceptions can be made to Council.
- Many local or state charitable needs are best handled by informing congregants of the need, rather than us collecting for that particular need. Requests for exceptions can be made to the Council.
- The Council will consider requests for special offerings or fundraising efforts. Questions that go into the decision will include:
 - Is addressing this need consistent with our church priorities?
 - Where does the church budget currently stand? Have we met our stewardship goals?
 - Is the request project-focused?
 - Are there a variety of ways to participate (give money, donate items, volunteer hours, etc.)?
 - Is this something we all can rally behind with multiple church members involved thereby serving as a unifying force?
 - Should this be a budgeted item?
- The above questions are not intended to be a rubric, or a list of questions that must be answered in the affirmative. These are general guidelines for consideration.

CHARITABLE GIVING POLICY

Requests for cash donations from church funds will be considered based on the above policies with requests up to \$1000 being decided by the Senior Minister and requests over \$1000 being decided by the Council.