New Horizons Pledge Campaign Update
from the Old Ship Finance Committee

Last week we introduced the 2022/23 Pledge Campaign with an overview of our goals and information on how to make a pledge. If you missed it, you can find all the info on the Old Ship website here.

This week and next, we will dive into details, to explain why we are asking you to make a 20% increase in your pledge amount. The theme of New Horizons reflects the exciting changes that Old Ship will navigate in the next year: an Interim Minister, new Director of Religious Education, a new Parish House, and a focus on “Widening Our Circle.” The annual budget takes a 360 degree look at all the possible horizons. In 2022-23, we project approximately $75,000 in new expenditures, in three main budget areas.

First, Salaries.
This one is easy to understand: we suggest a 5% increase in salary for our dedicated staff, to catch up and keep pace with inflation. This totals about $9500.

The second is new, but long overdue: a Parish House Maintenance Fund. UUA guidelines recommend budgeting 20% for buildings and grounds, 20% for outreach, and 60% for program. On our typical budget, that equals about $80,000 annually to cover maintenance and repair of the Parish House and the Meeting House. In countless years past, we have budgeted and spent under $20,000, and have covered emergency expenses for the Parish House as they arise – usually with gifts from angels among us. As we all can see, this policy has led the Parish House to deteriorate due to neglect.

In addition to funding the typical annual maintenance in the budget, we
propose seeding a Parish House Maintenance Fund with $28,000 this year. This would be a dedicated fund, for the purpose of maintaining and repairing the Parish House. So, this year we would use it if a major repair was needed to keep us functioning while we try to sell the Parish House. Any money we did NOT spend would remain in the fund, which would accumulate for future use, wherever our Parish House might be. We have talked about the need for such a fund for years – there is no time like the present to make it happen.

You might ask why we should give so much to buildings, when it’s our programming – worship services, religious education and lifelong learning, music, community events – that provides our spiritual nourishment and deep sense of community. Well, here in New England we need a building in which to gather, to carry out that program. We are dedicated stewards of our spiritual home, the Meeting House, AND we use the Parish House as our center for communal activity. Both “homes” serve our mission as UUs - we need to maintain them with care.

Next week: a new approach to Religious Education.
In next week’s update, the R.E. Committee will help us delve into plans for Religious Education, and how it impacts the budget. Briefly: the increase of $27,600 in 2022/23 brings the RE budget back into alignment with a typical year in the past. This is an exciting new horizon!

Please feel free to contact a member of the Finance Committee with any questions about the budget, the pledge process, or Old Ship’s finances in general.
We look forward to receiving your pledge – by February 15 if possible – so that we can build a budget based on realistic expectations. Look for an update on Campaign Progress, next week. New Horizons await!

The Old Ship Finance Committee
Janet Asnes
Jack Gomez, Treasurer
Elizabeth Murry
Ron Pollara
Nina Wellford

How do I make a pledge?
The Old Ship website provides useful pledge information. After you have decided what you would like to give to support the work of Old Ship during FY 2022/23 (July 1, 2022- June 30, 2023), either

- **Pledge Online:** Go to [https://oldshipchurch.breezechms.com/form/21-22pledge19](https://oldshipchurch.breezechms.com/form/21-22pledge19)
- **Call Lisa Beck at the office (781-749-1679) to pledge in person or request a pledge card**