



Welcome!

This is an exciting time for Sunnyhill, and we're here to answer your questions about the *2024 Be the Future Capital Campaign*. A pledge is how each one of us can build a piece of ourselves into Sunnyhill's future and ensure a thriving community for generations to come.

### **Why? To Further Sunnyhill's Mission**

Sunnyhill is committed to fostering intellectual and spiritual growth within a liberal religious setting. Our mission is to build a just and compassionate community within and beyond our church.

The capital campaign will further Sunnyhill's mission through three goals:

- **Create Safe, Welcoming Classrooms:** Develop nurturing spaces for the religious education of children and adults.
- **Enhance Community Space:** Expand and modernize our kitchen and gathering areas to better accommodate congregational and community events.
- **Reduce Debt:** Pay down existing debt to free up annual funds to support programming and staff.

### **Why Now? We Have the People**

Growth in membership since the 2012 capital campaign means Sunnyhill is in a prime position to undertake a capital campaign. We are the largest Unitarian Universalist congregation in the greater Pittsburgh area, with 320 adult members and another 120 children enrolled in religious education. Our growth and commitment to quality programming demonstrate our capacity to support and achieve the goals of the capital campaign.

### **A History of Renovation and Expansion**

Founded in 1965 by a passionate group of engineers, teachers, professors, and parents, Sunnyhill quickly grew, reflecting our congregation's dedication and commitment. We settled into our current location, a cottage-style mansion in Mt. Lebanon, in 1971. As we expanded over the decades, so did our home, including significant renovations and new construction in 1994-1995 and 2016-2017.

### **We're Bursting at the Seams**

Despite previous renovations, our current home is no longer sufficient to meet our needs.

- **Classroom Space:** The number and size of our classrooms are inadequate. Our religious education spaces are overcrowded and do not meet modern health, accessibility, and safety guidelines.
- **Community Gathering Space:** We need a larger, more modern Fellowship Hall to host events.
- **Kitchen Facilities:** Our kitchen, last remodeled in 1995, is outdated and too small.
- **Building Deterioration:** Parts of our historical building, especially the garage and kitchen foundation and the Rainbow Room, are deteriorating and need significant repairs.

## **The Solution**

To address our critical need for a more modern and safe facility, we propose a capital campaign to:

- Increase the size of Fellowship Hall, add classrooms, and modernize the kitchen.
- Become fully accessible with the addition of an elevator to access the bottom floor.
- Upgrade the HVAC system to meet air exchange and circulation guidelines and reduce our carbon footprint in support of the Green Sanctuary initiative.

## **Looking Beyond Our Walls**

Sunnyhill is committed to serving the larger community, including partnerships with SHIM (South Hills Interfaith Movement) and PIIN (Pennsylvania Interfaith Impact Network). We sponsor Mt. Lebanon's Lebo Pride and Juneteenth celebrations, participate in Mt. Lebanon's Earth Day celebration, and support the Mt. Lebanon Nature Conservancy. We march in the Pittsburgh Pride parade. Members are working to further gun control initiatives, effect change at the Pittsburgh Jail, and encourage all citizens to vote. Our outreach and programming efforts have contributed significantly to our membership growth and community presence. The capital campaign will allow Sunnyhill to expand its presence in the larger community.

## **Your Pledge**

The capital campaign's goal is to have all pledge commitments by December 31, 2024, so we can begin planning. When we know the total pledged amount, we will know what to commit to paying down debt, new construction, and renovation.

While it is ideal to have all pledged amounts by March 2027, payments can extend through the end of 2027. For many, making payments over time allows us to maximize our contribution. We will be contributing to the capital campaign while we are pledging funds for our annual operating expenses, and a series of payments can make giving more manageable.

Sunnyhill members, who are professional financial planners, have agreed to answer any questions you might have about structuring your pledge and payments. Please reach out to Trina Brown and Tyson Sears directly at [fpcc@sunnyhill.org](mailto:fpcc@sunnyhill.org).

## **Be the Future**

By investing in the *2024 Be the Future Capital Campaign*, we can create a safe, welcoming, and nurturing environment for our congregation and community, ensuring that Sunnyhill continues to thrive and fulfill its mission.

Together, we can build a future that honors our past and meets the needs of our growing congregation.

Together, we can Be the Future.

Sincerely,

Roxy MtJoy & Ed Johnston  
Co-chairs, *2024 Be the Future Capital Campaign*