



## James Reeb Unitarian Universalist Congregation

Dear Friend,

It is with great joy and deep faith in our community that we begin our 2017 budget drive. Our congregation is thriving during a time when interest in organized religion is declining across the nation. Our emphasis on love and relationship is a healing balm for all who come in our doors – and it holds the potential to be a saving grace in our wider community.

We are practicing radical hospitality, which is made up of deep welcoming, intentional relationship-building, and practical caring. We're taking care of each other through our Caring Tree, and discovering the blessings and challenges both in being cared for and in caring for each other during hardships. Our Covenant Groups offer a way for us to listen to each other and to voice our rich experiences and deep hopes – a way of building relationship that we don't often find elsewhere in our lives. Our youth, through the Our Whole Lives curriculum and the Coming of Age program, are navigating challenging transitions surrounded and supported by love and guidance. In our growing religious exploration program, we're learning how to extend our monthly themes into our children's classrooms so that formative conversations can be shared across generations. We're expanding how we do worship, as we come together as a community to be moved and inspired on Sunday mornings, and as we gather for more reflective time during our Wednesday evening Vespers services. We're engaging with our wider community – building and maintaining partnerships that bring both human connection and a focus on justice. And in all of our doing, we're grounding ourselves in love and covenant – because that's what it means to be in religious community.

As we reflect on what our congregation is and does, we're reminded of all it takes to sustain it. The work of your professional staff is crucial to our ministry to each other and our community. Your minister works closely with your board to create and fulfill goals in line with our mission; with your ministry teams and staff to support our programs; and with community partners to work for justice. Your music director works with our choir and others to support creative and inspiring worship. Your director of religious education works with the RE committee and volunteers to create and execute relevant programming for our children and youth. Your office administrator supports worship, communication, and the daily work of keeping our organization running smoothly. The programs and events we offer, and are consistently working to expand, give us great opportunities to learn, connect, and grow. We are on top of maintaining our building, and many groups and partners are using it to work toward their missions of justice in our community.

We are filled with joy and excitement at the financial health we have achieved together! We've achieved our budget drive goals for the last several years, and you have fulfilled your pledges. Every one of your financial contributions has put us in this healthy place, and we are grateful.

Our generosity has allowed us to stretch beyond our basic goals – to reach for more. We've been able to take advantage of some amazing opportunities this year; paying top-notch facilitators for our "Windows in Black History" series and our annual board retreat, sending a team to the Mosaic Makers Conference in August, and bringing Emma's Revolution for a concert and worship service, are a few examples.

We are in the midst of some amazing transformation – in a time in which flexibility and ability to roll with changes are crucial. We both believe we are in the right place at the right time, with the right people, to join the work of peace and justice in each of our lives and in our community. This is a challenging time for liberal people and organizations, and many of us are just beginning to understand the challenges faced by people and groups who have been living in oppressive conditions long before this time. Our faith tradition calls us to build communities of love and justice, for ourselves and for the world. That work begins with Reeb, and it requires that we dedicate some of our time, talent, and treasure to our congregation. We invite you to make a financial commitment to support the creation of the budget for the coming year, a budget that we hope will inspire us and support our visions of deeply moving worship and beautiful music, a continued strong social justice program, a well-paid staff, and a thriving RE program for children, youth, and adults. This budget, supported by your financial stewardship, will directly reflect our commitment to each other, social justice, our mission, and our name. We have included your financial commitment form in this mailing, and we hope you will spend some time considering your pledge, and be as generous as you are able.

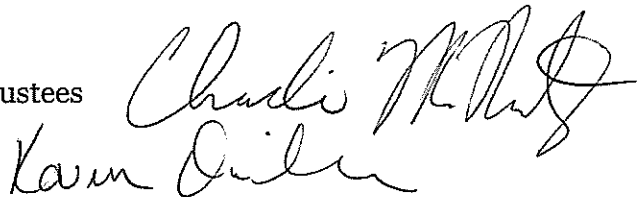
Charlie and Anna came to Reeb in 2011 longing for a community for their new-born daughter, only to discover that this beloved community would nourish a spiritual need in themselves that they weren't even aware existed. They increase their financial commitment each year, just as each year they and their family feel increasingly nurtured and held by JRUUC. The Quinlans came to Reeb so that Rev. Karen could serve as your minister, and Karen is thrilled at how she and Catherine have become part of the Reeb community. She is committed to continuing her financial support of our congregation in a way that reflects her family's support of our values and our work.

Thank you for your generosity!

With deep gratitude,

Charlie McNulty, President, Board of Trustees

The Rev. Karen Quinlan, Minister

Handwritten signatures of Charlie McNulty and Karen Quinlan. Charlie's signature is in cursive and appears to be 'Charlie McNulty'. Karen's signature is also in cursive and appears to be 'Karen Quinlan'.