

## **UUCGT Annual Meeting June 5, 2016 (Do Something!)**

**In this past fiscal year, some of our more prominent members have died and others are unable to continue contributing their financial support. These generous individuals have left a hole in our budget. Other members have not returned their pledge cards or have cut their pledges for the 2016-17 fiscal year. This likely is not the whole story, but it's enough to convince me to make an appeal to all persons who are committed to our community.**

**The current shortfall in the 2016-17 proposed budget will cut the salary and benefits of each member of our professional staff by at least 14 to 22%. They are being asked to make financial sacrifices so that we can use and enjoy our facility with their anticipated family income. This is not a recommended strategy to build staff morale and/or loyalty. Each staff member brings a very strong commitment to serve our congregation. I am certain they are disappointed with our ability to meet our commitments to them.**

**Obviously, there are a number of other subtractions that reveal weaknesses in the proposed budget. I believe that it is crucial to accept the responsibility for making our 2016-17 budget whole again. Simple arithmetic reveals that in order to fully function as an institution, our costs are approximately \$5000 per week. This number is reality for all of us. We are faced with a \$74,000 deficit, which is nearly 25% of our budget, and that's the MAGIC NUMBER. This appeal is directed to any and all of our members and friends, for all who love our community and have the ability to consider increasing their support. I would suggest that we concentrate on improving the wage and benefit section of the budget by whatever amount we can muster, hopefully somewhere in the \$40,000 range. That amount can be accomplished. If not now, when?**

**Supplemental Pledge Forms are being circulated! Please join Penny and me in this effort to support our professional staff! It is clear that many members have maxed out. Please join us to do what you can!**

**Sincerely,**

**John Ort**