

Dear members and friends of First UU Church,

We have exciting news to share! Over the last two and a half years, we have engaged in important conversations as a church about the future of our building and grounds through surveys, forums, and deep analysis from the Building Our Future team. These conversations will continue, as planned, in the coming weeks and months.

In response to our possibilities, anonymous donors have come forward with a generous contingent gift of 10 acres of land in northeast Rochester upon which we could build a new church! Your board received their letter and gratefully acknowledged the offer. The donors and the Board are clear that full acceptance of this gift is contingent upon the congregation's discernment and ultimate vote on whether or not to (1) move to a new location and (2) whether to accept this specific gift of land.

The benefits of this gift at this time are multiple: *it allows for broader imagination in our discernment process by eliminating a potential logistical and financial hurdle; it reminds us that unexpected and generous gifts can and do emerge from within the congregation; it encourages us all to consider what we may have to give with similar generosity; it helps us explore possibilities in a more tangible way.*

Friends, this is a significant potential gift, rooted in democratic openness and deep generosity in that the donors intend to give a gift of similar value if the congregation finds better options for land. The Building Our Future team is aware of the land and believes it holds great potential. The team will gather further analysis on the details of the property even as they continue broader exploration.

We hope you join us in deepening conversations in the coming weeks and months. Below are important ways to get involved in the conversation, and be part of building our future together:

Forums: Wednesday, Feb. 17th at 6:30pm or Sunday, February 21st at 11:30am online

Special Consultation: Week of May 10th – 16th: “Next Steps” consultation with Rachel Maxwell of *Stewardship For Us*, our main UU-based consultant for this process going forward, including forums and a final presentation.

Updates: Find meeting information, the donor letter, and updates at our website:
www.uurochmn.org/buildingourfuture

We know that our process of reflection will lead us to a mission-focused future, nurturing spirituality and practicing justice. Please don't hesitate to reach out to us with questions. We are so grateful for the generosity of these donors and the encouragement it gives us in our way forward.

In gratitude,

Rev. Luke Stevens-Royer, Minister

Ann Hutton, Board President