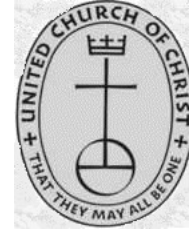




UNION CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
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PRESS RELEASE

for immediate release

Attached Photo:

Capital Campaign Co-chair Philip Grisafi, Rev. Polly Shamy, and Co-chair Carele Mayer

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UNION CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH LAUNCHES CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

PETERBOROUGH, NH – Like most aging landmarks, the historic Union Congregational Church, built in 1839, requires continuous upkeep in order to meet the evolving needs of its members and the many other individuals and organizations who regularly use the building. The front steps and foundation walls are cracked and crumbling. Gaps in windows and doors undermine energy efficiency. Obsolete asbestos insulation must be removed from the basement. Smoke detection and sounds systems are dated. The roof will need to be replaced within the next 5-10 years. And the list goes on.

As an expression faith, members of Union Congregational Church voted to proceed with a \$450,000 capital campaign during a special meeting held on Sunday, June 25th. The theme for the campaign is *Opening Doors to the Future*. Efforts are already underway to solicit pledges over a three-year period through leadership and family contributions as well as planned gifts. Fundraising consultants Margery Williams and her associate, Jennifer Williams Davis, of Lunenburg, MA, have been engaged to help the church reach a successful conclusion of its capital campaign by this fall.

According to committee co-chairs Philip Grisafi and Carele Mayer, both of Greenfield, the funds will be spent in three phases. Phase One will address a number of safety and security issues identified at the church and parsonage and will improve energy efficiency

of the buildings. The total cost for the repairs and contingency expenses is estimated to be in excess of \$225,000. In order to begin projects that require immediate attention, members authorized the church council to borrow \$100,000 from the endowment fund. The second phase will involve creating a vision and values statement to focus the church's attention on its future needs and goals. The church is exploring potential grant sources to cover costs for strategic planning and technical assistance required for subsequent projects. The balance of the capital campaign funds raised will be spent during Phase Three. These projects will enhance the functionality of the building; address long-range capital expenses; and enable the church to expand its overall mission.

In addition to being a historical landmark and a place of worship, the building is regularly used by a number of community organizations including: Alcoholics Anonymous for weekly meetings; American Red Cross for blood drives; Home Healthcare, Hospice and Community Services (HCS) for blood pressure clinics; Monadnock Chorus for rehearsals; Peterborough Folk Music Society for concerts; and Peterborough Jazzercise for fitness classes. The church also hosts a number of ongoing activities such as free community suppers and adult education programs.

“We are at the beginning,” states Rev. Polly Shamy. “With God’s ever present support, faith, and the commitment of all of us, we will meet this exciting challenge and move forward for the betterment of our church, the community, and God’s world.”

Union Congregational Church is a member of the United Church of Christ (UCC), and dates back to 1749. For further information, please visit the church’s website, www.ucepboro.com, or call 603-924-3272.

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