



building
MORE LOVE

Let's finish the
CVUUS ground floor
together!

Capital Campaign
Spring 2017



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For three decades, CVUUS has been my liberal religious community. The big word here is “community.” We are diverse individuals who share values and commitment to bettering our world. Bringing us together in community energizes and moves us, individually and collectively, toward our goals. Our Ground Floor will provide opportunities for such togetherness—in small group meetings, larger events, meals, community service and outreach, and a library of materials to help us explore our UU values. CVUUS has always taken bold steps to enhance our liberal religious presence in the Champlain Valley, and the ground floor project follows that bold tradition.

”

- Rich Wolfson, Founding Member

Building more love.

It's what we do here at CVUUS.

Together, in beloved community, we **build more love.**

It's in our spiritual DNA and in our mission statement, which reads, in part:

“We nurture and empower each other and all ages and our spiritual journeys, and we reach out to the larger communities in which we are a part.”

Together we are builders of love—striving to reach up and out to help others and ourselves, deepening connections between us—connections of service and commitment well beyond ourselves.

This brochure lays out the case for the next important step in our rich history of building love together—the Ground Floor Completion Project. It will answer questions and prompt others. We hope it will get you excited about this far-reaching opportunity for our existing congregation, for those who come to us in the future, and for the wider community. We hope you will want a role in this effort to **build more love!**





If you build castles in the air, your work need not be lost; that is where they should be. Now put the foundations under them.



- Henry David Thoreau

Seven years ago...

Building love starts with dreaming boldly. That's us too—bold dreamers.

Completing our breathtaking sanctuary seven years ago began with a bold dream that unleashed remarkable optimism, energy, and generosity. We built a home for ourselves and for future generations, completely in keeping with our mission and our UU heritage. It's a home for our open-minded spiritual community where all are treated with dignity, and liberal religious expression is promoted and cherished.

We did all we could do seven years ago. But we couldn't quite finish the job.

Our time to do just that is here. **Now.**

With your generous support, this capital campaign will help us make our amazing spiritual home more responsive to our mission and vision, and enable even more engagement with the larger community and world as we look to the future.

Together we are building more love!



What exactly is going to be done?

The project will complete the unfinished Ground Floor that currently exists below CVUUS Sanctuary, including:

- An elevator and finished stairs connecting the two floors
- A large kitchen suitable for preparing meals for at least 100 people
- A fellowship hall for congregational or community gatherings, religious exploration activities with our kids, meetings, receptions, performances, and other events
- A multi-purpose room and library, a flexible space for various functions and information services
- Bathrooms, showers, storage, sound-proofing and acoustical panels, mechanical and electrical systems, lighting, walkways, entranceway



How will this project help us?

Here are just a few of the ideas that, together, we have envisioned over the past few years of planning for this project. A finished and functional Ground Floor will:

- Help us use our beautiful building more fully, including for important community outreach and service.
- Help us serve each other better—strengthening our connections, as we share our gifts in activities and programs that don't fit or work well in our current spaces.
- Help us serve each other and others with delicious food prepared in a full-sized kitchen, by our many fine cooks, and those who aspire to learn from them.
- Provide a kitchen space for cooking and nutrition classes for social service agencies like Project HOPE.
- Encourage us to expand worship in exciting new ways, including having a larger and more welcoming venue for our Sunday post-service fellowship.
- Provide a less-formal space, and a refuge for many possible purposes: youth groups, seniors, an emergency shelter, or other community needs or events.
- Support gatherings of young families, providing a safe space for exuberant energy and creative play.
- Provide an important and safe meeting and library space, in these uncertain times, for us and for outside groups in the greater community.

How did we get here?

In 2009: We moved into our beautiful new sanctuary building, the product of a decade's worth of planning and fundraising, enabling the purchase of the southern-sloped site on which the building now stands. We knew from the start, though, that we would have to save the finishing of the lower level of the building for another day, though plumbing and windows for the space were roughed-in before the contractors left.



In 2014: A “Ground Floor Planning Team” began surveying the congregation and conducting discussions on our hopes and dreams for the space.

In 2015: The Ground Floor Design team began meeting early in the spring of 2015, and by our annual meeting that June, the team and the architects had produced schematic designs to present. The congregation voted to proceed with the building project, and with a capital campaign to make it possible. It's in our Five Year Plan!

In 2016: We conducted a 2-year budget canvass in order to make room for the capital campaign to take place in Spring 2017. We also made strides to improve connections among each other, congregational life, and outreach to the community.

A feasibility study in December 2016 confirmed that the energy and commitment exists in the congregation to tackle this project this year.

NOW: Together let's finish what we started!

Let the campaign begin!

“Our growth and dedication have brought us to the presence we currently have in the greater community. Our building will be utilized even more as we move into the future. The ground floor finishing project will provide increased opportunity to share beyond our own use. I’m always joyous whenever our space is seen and appreciated by others. It is so very special, and welcoming. It continues to amaze me as to the blessing that exists by its presence, and how it is the structural reality of our accomplishments and dedication.”

–Marnie Wood

Following the very positive results of our feasibility study in December, we have decided to proceed with our capital campaign.

- Our capital campaign will run from February to May 2017.
- Pledges may be fulfilled over three years (2017-2019).
- The results from the capital campaign will be reviewed at the CVUUS Annual Meeting this June and a vote taken then on the next steps for the project.
- Assuming congregational approval, the first step in the process would be to put together detailed final designs during which there will be opportunities for further congregational input.
- Requests for proposal and contractor selection would likely occur in late fall 2017, with construction taking place between January and August 2018.

“Finishing the ‘UnderCroft’ of CVUUS means a lot to me. Friends and Cosmic Sons & Daughters of mine have inquired about weddings and musical performances in the new, green, musically sympatico space. I can imagine all kinds of event-celebrations, receptions, dinners, and meetings on a regular basis for members as well as community participants happening there. I think our meeting place should be a meaningful and powerful center in our community for those who have no voice or political presence and need to feel safe and welcome among us. I will be very glad to contribute to such a nurturing environment.”

–François Clemmons

How Can You Help?

- Every CVUUS member and friend is an essential participant in our campaign.
- You can attend informational meetings about the project whenever they happen.
- Share with people in the larger community who might be interested in using the space what we are doing.
- You can offer your time and talent to the campaign by volunteering and participating on one of the campaign teams.
- Each member of our congregation (and many of our regular “friends”) will be visited by a campaign volunteer, who will discuss the project with you and ask for a commitment to this campaign—which can be paid over a three-year period.
- Every gift matters and contributions are needed at all levels. Every pledge brings us closer to our goal.
- Gifts of appreciated securities or other valuable assets can be accepted as part of this campaign (see related brochure for more details).
- ***And most importantly, you can help by generously giving until it feels great!***



What are our goals for the campaign?

We have both a participation goal and a financial goal for the campaign. Because we believe the uses of the Ground Floor space will benefit everyone at CVUUS, we hope that everyone will make a contribution to the project. We also encourage additional contributions of time and energy. ***Every gift at every level adds to the possibilities of this space and will be celebrated.***

The chart below shows one possible example of the various levels of giving, and the approximate number of gifts at each level that we will need to reach our ambitious financial goal. As you can see, every contribution at every level is critical if we are to reach our goal.

Our Capital Campaign Gift Goals | Core Project*

Gift Range	# of Gifts	Total Assumed from Range
\$100,001 and higher	1	\$110,000
\$70,001-\$100,000	1	\$80,000
\$50,001-\$70,000	1	\$55,000
\$25,001-\$50,000	4	\$115,000
\$15,001-\$25,000	6	\$100,000
\$10,001-\$15,000	7	\$75,000
\$7,501-\$10,000	10	\$75,000
\$5,001-\$7,500	15	\$75,000
\$3,001-\$5,000	25	\$85,000
Up to \$3,000	Many	\$80,000
All		\$850,000*

* Add \$103,100 for Desirable Elements stretch goal

As you determine your own joyful gift, we hope you will spend time imagining the potential of this new space. How might we all put it to good use, time after time, to expand loving community locally, and throughout the world?

Is this the first time you've given to a capital campaign? It's a different kind of giving and believing, with an eye on the future. Please contact Reverend Barnaby if you'd like to talk confidentially with someone, as you consider what feels right for you.

Together we can do this!



Thank you for taking the time to consider your support for the ground floor project, and the capital campaign that will get us there.

Together we do great things. We always have at CVUUS. We dream big and reach high to meet our mission and vision together.

The potential of this Ground Floor Project to dramatically enrich the quality of our communal spiritual experience, both in and out of CVUUS, is huge.

As we know from our first capital campaign ten years ago, the practice of stewardship is a powerfully joyful and spiritual one. It brings us together.

Now imagine how a new ground floor space will make that bond even stronger.

Together we can build more love!

“As a young family, we feel the new space will help us feel better connected with everyone--having an informal gathering space will make our house of worship feel all the more like a ‘home.’”

- Nita Hanson, David Martin and Thomas



