

**Bethlehem United Church of Christ**



*A Legacy for the Future.....*

**Draft # 1 (February 1, 2014)**



## **Table of Contents**

- **Bethlehem UCC – The Legacy and You**
- **The Future of BUCC**
- **The Role of the Planned giving Committee**
- **The Role of the Pastor in Planned Giving Ministry**
- **Recognition of Gifts**
- **Planned Giving Programs**
  - **Section I - Introduction to Planned Giving**
  - **Section II - Congregational Planned Giving Ministry**
  - **Section III - Donors and Prospects**
  - **Section IV - An Overview of Congregational Endowments**
  - **Section V - Three Educational Models**
  - **Section VI - Life Income and Other Gifts**
  - **Section VII – Resources**
- **Action Plan**

## **Bethlehem United Church of Christ – The Legacy and You**

Bethlehem Church has existed in the Ann Arbor area for over 180 years. That is a Legacy in itself and a testament to the dedication, commitment and Christian faith of you and your family as members of this Church. Bethlehem UCC has been continually present during the birth of your children, the memorial of beloved family members, baptisms, graduations, confirmations and community outreach. The inspirational messages from pastoral staff, special holiday services and musical excellence have been a constant presence in our worship services.

The vision of Bethlehem UCC reflects our commitment to the Lord and is outlined in the following words from our Church Mission statement:

### **MISSIONS AND COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT**

Bethlehem UCC is a downtown faith community. Our members are involved in hundreds of community service activities. As a congregation, there are several ways we get “hands on” involved in serving our community. Opportunities to serve include:

#### **HABITAT FOR HUMANITY**

Both locally and by going on one of our Habitat Outreach Trips (which usually occurs in June), a person can get involved in many ways in Habitat for Humanity—from the ground up in helping to build home for persons in need.

#### **CROP WALK**

Each fall (usually in October) the CROP Walk, a Church World Service Hunger Walk, occurs in Ann Arbor. Walkers secure pledges to raise money for hungry people both locally and globally.

#### **MAKING STRIDES WALK**

Also in October is the Making Strides Walk. Many of our members participate in this walk to raise funds to find a cure for Breast Cancer. In fact in 2006 one of our members was the top individual fund raiser for the Ann Arbor walk.

#### **ROTATING CHURCH SHELTER PROGRAM**

Each winter, our church participates in this program, and members of our congregation host several homeless men each evening for two weeks to stay overnight in the warmth of our building.

### **CHRISTMAS FOOD BASKET PROJECT**

Each December, we collect monies and food for food basket support for those agencies who distribute them each Christmas season. There also is the opportunity to help organize the baskets at the agencies involved.

### **OTHER PROJECTS**

Many of our groups offer other ways to be involved in helping projects. Activities for groups like Ronald McDonald House, Alpha House, House by the Side of the Road, Peace Neighborhood Center and others are part of our mission outreach.

Your tithes and offerings have helped sustain the ongoing operations and Christian faith-based services of this Church on a day-to-day basis. The question before us as church members is how do we continue the work of Bethlehem well into the future? In other words:

**“The Legacy of Bethlehem United Church of Christ begins with You.”**

## **The Future of BUCC**

To continue our ministry in Ann Arbor we need to plan with a view for a more long-term future. While our budget planning and operating processes look from year-to-year, the growth and health of Bethlehem will be sustained with the development of a more comprehensive look of 10, 20, and even 50 years forward. The next sections of this document are extracted from the National UCC website on planned giving and are offered as a guide in the future development plan for Bethlehem United Church of Christ-Ann Arbor as we prayerfully consider our long-term future.

<http://www.ucc.org/giving/local-church-planned-giving.html>

## **Planned Giving Action Plan**

The development of a Planned Giving Action Plan includes the following suggested steps/initiatives:

- Establishment of Planned Giving Committee (nominations/volunteers)
- Planned Giving Committee goals and objectives
- Development of Timeline
- Congregational Communication Plan
- Legal Consultation

Conclusion: This endeavor will be time consuming and arduous, but with the help of God, our pastoral staff, the Church Council and the congregation, all things are possible.

**For additional reference, sample forms are available for review at:**

**<http://www.ucc.org/giving/local-church-planned-giving.html>**

Friends,

Here is Draft #1 of materials I have collected to begin planning for a new Planned Giving program at BUCC. I know it is very lengthy, but I wanted to provide a resource that is comprehensive and thorough. I'm confident we can revise it to meet our needs.

Gary Maki

Feb, 1, 2014