



BREAKTHROUGH!

"As we sow in mind, so shall we reap in manifestation."

— Charles Fillmore , co-founder of the Unity movement



“I came that
they may have life,
and have it abundantly.”

— Jesus in John 10:10



BREAKTHROUGH!



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Dear Friends,

How blessed we are at Unity Renaissance! So many people today are feeling lost and alone, longing for community, searching for a spiritual home. I rejoice that every week someone walks into Unity Renaissance and feels what I felt the first time I went to Unity: “Wow! I never knew other people thought this way too!”

This is a special place, and we have a unique destiny to fulfill. Spirit is calling us to be a welcoming, accepting, supportive community that helps people transform their lives and transform the world.

Spirit is also calling us to a higher sense of self-worth. When I look out on Sunday at all of you so earnest and genuine, I am flooded with love and gratitude. And I think: You deserve a wonderful place to worship! You deserve to be able to hear and see clearly from anywhere in the sanctuary. You deserve to sit in comfortable chairs. After the service, you deserve to be able to sit down and break bread with friends rather than standing up in the Narthex. If you are in need of support, you deserve a quiet place for private prayer.

Our children deserve a place to play, and classrooms that aren’t stuffed with items we have no place else to store. We deserve a fully functioning kitchen to serve ourselves and the community. Congregants in wheelchairs deserve to be able to use the bathrooms here. Staff members deserve adequate office space and proper equipment.

We are worthy of an outdoor sign that tells the community what’s happening here. And if you’re out of town, you deserve to be able to watch the Sunday service online.

These are not extravagant wishes—they are basic needs. These improvements are foundational for adequately serving the community both inside and outside our sanctuary walls.

The capital campaign that will run from Oct. 25-Nov. 22 is called “BREAKTHROUGH!” for one simple reason: Reaching our potential requires a breakthrough in consciousness. It requires a breakthrough in faith, commitment, generosity — and our own sense of self-worth.

Eventually you will be asked to consider a level of financial giving that feels right to you. If, like me, you initially feel daunted and afraid, know that no one is going to force or pressure you to do anything you don’t want to do. Just stay open to possibilities, and let Spirit guide you. That’s what I did, and I was amazed at the ideas and options that appeared! Now I am excited about my gift and eager to give it.

Unity Renaissance is poised for a breakthrough. Are you ready? I am! Let’s say “Yes!” to what Spirit is calling us to do. Let’s take Unity Renaissance to its next level of sacred service. These things we can do, and greater things still!

With love and gratitude,

Rev. Paula

From Dreams to Reality

Unity Renaissance has been manifesting miracles since it first began. Some 27 years ago, Rev. Judy Meyer held a vision for our spiritual community and later, the building it was to occupy. The congregation had no funding to build that building, but through Rev. Judy's leadership, they had faith – enough faith to move mountains.

On the day our current building was dedicated, a double rainbow appeared in the sky, doves circled overhead, and everyone knew we were in our right and perfect place on Eden Way.

Our founding members were Spirit-led and faith-filled. They showed us what is possible when we turn to God for inspiration, attune to what is ours to do, and step out in faith to make it happen.

Leaky Roof as Catalyst

Fast forward to 2014, when Divine direction came in the form of – a leaky roof!

The Unity Renaissance Board of Trustees had considered a capital campaign in the early 2000s to expand our facility and fulfill the long-term vision for our church. However, due to minister turnover and the Great Recession in the latter half of that decade, that dream was put on hold – until, that is, the roof began to leak.

A 10-year roof that had been stretched to last more than 20 years began to leak in heavy rains. Staff placed trash baskets around the building to catch the water. At the same time, the air conditioning and heating system began to fail.

The 2014 Board of Trustees discussed what it would cost to repair the roof and install a new HVAC system, and how to pay for it. During the discussion, additional needs were listed: larger classrooms, more bathrooms (including handicapped-accessible), a larger functional kitchen, adequate and reliable sound and lighting in the sanctuary, better seating, a playground for the children, space for mid-sized gatherings (more than 25 but less than 150), a soundproofed chapel, equipment for livestreaming services, an electronic outdoor sign, and adequate space for the music and sound teams.

Divine Timing

The congregation had rallied to successfully pay off our mortgage ahead of time, the economy was improving, the church was growing and Rev. Paula was stirring up new energy among congregants. The time was not only right for us to take action – it was imperative. It was time to act to provide a sacred, adequately equipped facility for current and future congregants.

With due diligence, the Board contacted several qualified capital campaign consulting firms for churches and asked for their input. As these consultants reviewed our growth, our lack of debt, our paid-off building, our liquid assets, the health and enthusiasm of the congregation, and the pressing needs for facility improvements, all said: Yes! You have all the ingredients for a successful capital campaign. Go for it!

The Board conducted interviews and checked references, and contracted with Horizons Stewardship to guide us through a generosity campaign to raise consciousness AND raise building improvement funds.

Time For a 'BREAKTHROUGH!'

Our capital campaign consultant Tom Melzoni conducted a survey and thorough analysis of our congregational giving, and concluded: A highly successful capital campaign would bring in \$600,000. After conducting a design workshop with our congregants and architects, we determined that raising this amount would allow us to address immediate needs including:

What We Could Create for \$600,000

- **Phase Zero:** Paying off the roof and HVAC system, upgrading the sanctuary with proper seating, lighting, wiring, sound, ceiling and visibility, and a proper outdoor sign.
- **Modified Phase One A:** If we modify the architect's plans, we could opt for a smaller, single-story Education Wing, eliminating the second floor that had been planned for a youth center. This would address the most urgent immediate need outside of the sanctuary: adequate classroom space for adult education, youth education, and secondary gathering areas for in-house use or rental to other groups.

We would rejoice in raising \$600,000 – the most our church has ever raised! At the same time, we are willing to let Spirit guide us in demonstrating "the art of the possible." With that in mind, here are other scenarios:

What We Could Create for \$1 Million

- **Phase Zero:** Paying off the roof and HVAC system, upgrading the sanctuary with proper seating, lighting, wiring, sound, ceiling and visibility, and a proper outdoor sign.
- **Phase One A(1):** Our Education Wing (first floor) could be built to the full size and specifications as outlined by the architect;
- **Phase One A(2):** Second floor Education Wing [shell] to be finished at a later date for our youth and for larger gatherings.

What We Could Create for \$1.3 Million:

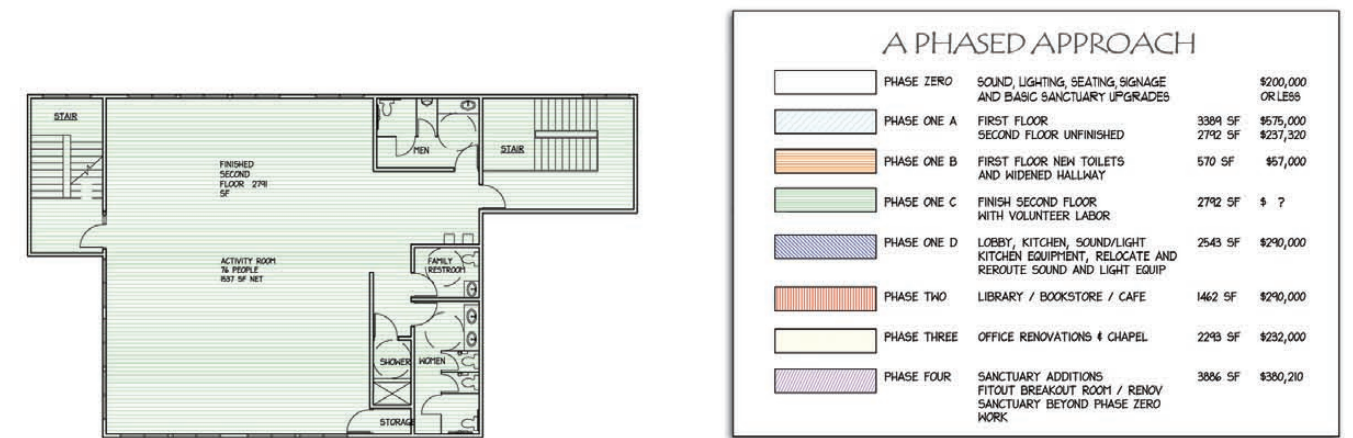
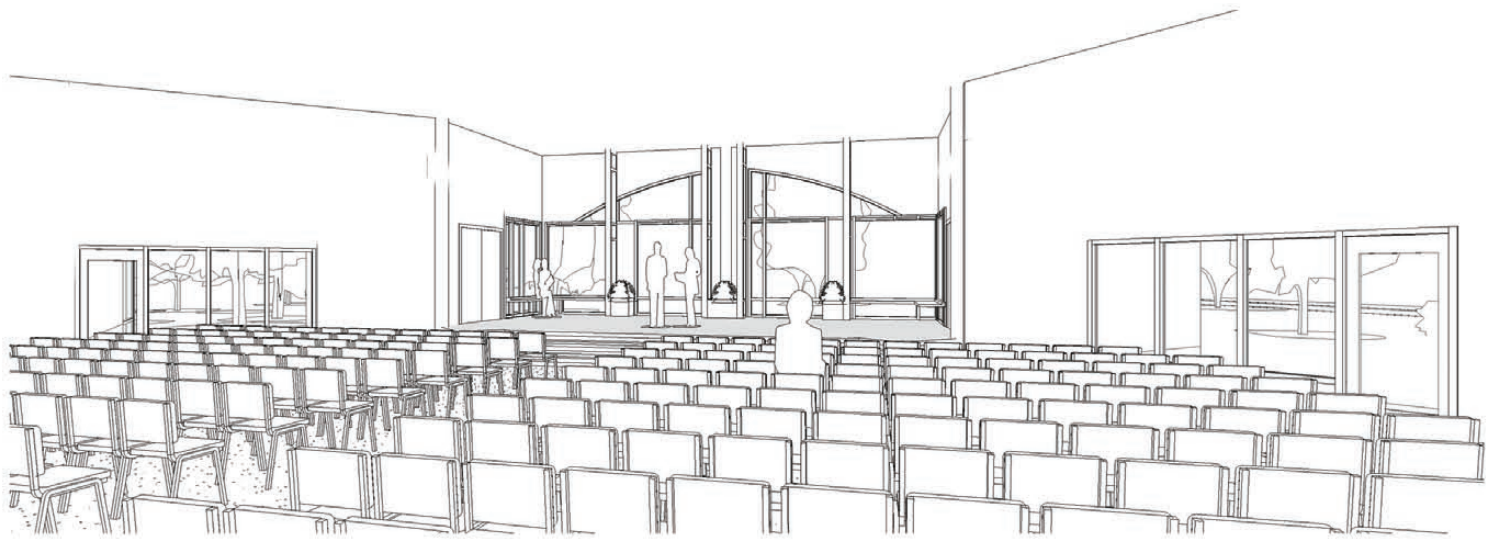
- **Phase Zero:** The updated sanctuary and sign.
- **Phase One A:** A full, first floor Education Wing with second floor unfinished Education Wing
- **Phase One B:** New, handicapped-accessible bathrooms, family restrooms, shower, supply closet.
- **Phase One D:** An opened-up, welcoming lobby with new entrance, appropriate light and sound and an expanded kitchen with new equipment and capabilities.

Beyond that level, we would look at developing the bookstore/cafe, improved office space, and the larger, private chapel depicted by our architects. And eventually – an expanded, remodeled sanctuary.

"You may say I'm a dreamer. But I'm not the only one." Fulfilling our destiny – serving our community and world to the best of our ability – begins with a shared dream. That dream is now unfolding. It's up to us to bring it into manifestation.

This is the time. This is the place. We are the ones!





This color-coded plan shows the proposed phases of upgrades and additions to be completed when and as funding becomes available. The first two phases would be Phase 0 (light purple, basic sanctuary improvements) and Phase 1A (light blue, new education wing).



“Unless you try to do something beyond what you have already mastered, you will never grow.”

— Ralph Waldo Emerson



Why Practice Generosity?

1. To express gratitude.

We are grateful for the abundant blessings in our lives. Our generosity continues the divine cycle of giving and receiving.

"Bring the full tithe into the storehouse, so that there may be food in my house, and thus put me to the test, says the Lord of Hosts; see if I will not open the windows of heaven for you and pour down for you an overflowing blessing." — Malachi 3:10.

2. To bless others.

We practice generosity as the hands, the feet, the heart, the expression of God in this world. Our generous giving provides healing, comfort, faith, fellowship and material support for those in need.

"In all this I have given you an example that by such work we must support the weak, remembering the words of the Lord Jesus, for he himself said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'" — Acts 20:35.

3. To help manifest the kingdom of heaven on earth.

Our generosity helps Unity Renaissance minister to people in person and online both here and throughout the world. Through positive, life-affirming words and actions, we remind people they are loved, whole, and worthy—and that they have the power to transform their lives.

"Your kingdom come, Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven." — Matthew 6:10.

4. To experience the joy of giving.

When we give from the heart, we feel the unbridled joy of abundance, generosity, and love. We directly experience our power to make a difference.

From the Apostle Paul: *"Each [hu]man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver."* — 2 Corinthians 9:6-7.



Ways of Giving

Choose/Combine Giving Options Over Three Years

This is a three-year capital campaign; thus you may spread your giving over three years in whatever way you choose. You might wish to give weekly, monthly, yearly, or all at once. You might make a low monthly contribution through auto pay, and supplement with a one-time contribution. Contributing over a three-year period can add up to a wonderful gift—much more than you might expect!

Cash Love Offering

Your Sunday love offering envelope includes a place to write in a special gift. Just include your campaign contribution in your offering check and indicate on the envelope how much is for church operations and how much is for the **BREAKTHROUGH!** campaign.

Online Contribution

Our online contribution page includes the option to designate a contribution to the campaign. You may schedule a one-time gift and/or set up a recurring transfer to be made weekly or monthly.

Securities

You may contribute stocks, bonds, or other securities as part of your campaign contribution. Such donations offer potential tax advantages, but there may be penalties to consider as well. Before making this type of contribution, be sure to consult your CPA, tax attorney, or financial advisor.

Giving Over and Above

The success of our **BREAKTHROUGH!** will depend on how effectively the members and friends of Unity Renaissance make gifts "over and above" their current level of giving to the church. The surest path to increased giving is the spiritual path. When we "seek first the Kingdom," and focus on the deeper meaning of our commitment, our financial priorities are Divinely guided.



How Much Should I Give?

Here are some suggestions on how to determine the level of giving that is right for you:

Connect with God

Through prayer, meditation, journaling, time in nature, or quiet contemplation, seek Divine guidance. Ask: What is mine to do?

Evaluate your resources

Prayerfully consider everything under your stewardship. What might you have that you no longer need? What would be of greater benefit to others?

Nail down the specifics

Determine specifically how your resources could be combined for a generous contribution.

Stretch yourself

Consider “out-of-the-box” ways to increase your contribution. An idea that may initially seem out of reach can eventually become exciting.

Walk in Faith

Determine your best commitment and step out in faith, knowing it will be fulfilled!

How Do I Get There?

Practice Priority Budgeting

By identifying unnecessary or less important expenses that are currently part of your budget, you may free up funds that allow generous giving.

Redirect Present Expenditures

If you have short-term expenditures or loans that will soon be settled, once they are paid off you could possibly redirect those funds to the BREAKTHROUGH! campaign.

Tap Increased Income

You may know of an expected bonus or an upcoming increase in income. Some or all of these funds could be part of your campaign commitment.

Donate Assets

You and your family may have stocks, bonds, or other securities that have appreciated in value. Donating such securities offers potential tax advantages, but there may be penalties to consider as well. Be sure to consult your tax attorney or financial advisor.

Get Creative

- Sell some collectibles you’ve had for a while and donate what you receive. Postpone a major family vacation or a remodeling project and contribute what you would have spent.
- Get a part-time job and contribute your income from it.
- Give up certain indulgences (designer coffee, gourmet sweets) and contribute the savings.
- Look for opportunities to earn extra money that can be included in your campaign donation.
- Contribute any unexpected income.

My Faith Commitment



How We Get There Together

Number of Gifts	Total Gift (3 yrs)	Weekly for 3 yrs	Monthly for 3 yrs	Accumulated Total
1	\$60,000.00	\$384.00	\$1,666.67	\$60,000.00
1	\$36,000.00	\$230.00	\$1,000.00	\$36,000.00
2	\$28,800.00	\$184.00	\$800.00	\$57,600.00
4	\$21,600.00	\$138.00	\$600.00	\$86,400.00
5	\$14,400.00	\$92.00	\$400.00	\$72,000.00
6	\$10,800.00	\$69.00	\$300.00	\$64,800.00
12	\$7,200.00	\$46.00	\$200.00	\$86,400.00
14	\$4,500.00	\$28.00	\$125.00	\$63,000.00
25	\$2,700.00	\$17.00	\$75.00	\$67,500.00
Remainder @ less than	\$1,800.00			\$6,300.00
				\$600,000

This commitment schedule is for quick calculation of weekly, monthly, and total giving over a three-year period. No one should feel confined to this schedule.

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Use this sample pledge card to plan your financial gifts for the next three years.
You will submit a completed card on Commitment Sunday, November 22.

I/We believe in the future of **Unity Renaissance**, and with Spirit's help will give to our BREAKTHROUGH! campaign over and above my/our regular offerings.

I/we are making an **initial gift** of \$_____.

In addition to our initial gift...

☐ I/we plan to give accordingly over the next **three years**:

\$ _____ Weekly for 156 weeks

\$ _____ Monthly for 36 months

\$ _____ Annually for 3 years

and/or...

☐ I/we will make a **one-time** gift of \$_____.

☐ I/We cannot participate at this time, but will remain open to spiritual guidance and hold this initiative in prayer.

Signature: _____

Your commitment is only an indication of what you intend to give.
If your circumstances change for better or worse, you may adjust your gift accordingly.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

I/We also wish to give to the BREAKTHROUGH! campaign by a means other than cash. **Description:** _____

For example: Stocks, Bonds, Securities, Personal Property,
Appreciated Real Estate, Paid-Up Insurance Policies, Charitable Trusts



BREAKTHROUGH!

Consider the Larger Meaning

Contributing to this campaign is about taking an active part in a Vision that is bigger than any one of us. It is about our spiritual growth and commitment to something we believe in. It is about transcending lack consciousness and knowing there is always more than enough.

Ask yourself:

- Does the amount I'm giving stretch my faith?
- Does it represent a genuine commitment to our shared vision for Unity Renaissance?
- Does my contribution adequately express my gratitude for the love, blessings, support and wisdom I receive from this spiritual community?

Key Dates

- October 24-25, 2015 – Informational Gatherings
- October 25, 2015 – Launch Sunday
- November 22, 2015 – Commitment Sunday
- December 20, 2015 – First Fruits

Campaign Team Leaders

Thank you to our campaign team leads and team members for lovingly and faithfully giving their time and energy to this "BREAKTHROUGH!" campaign.

Senior Minister	Paula Mekdeci	Campaign Manager	Beatrice Clendenin
Campaign Director	Valerie Jones	Administrative Director	Michelle Lutton
Horizons Rep.	Tom Melzoni	Spiritual Emphasis Director	Elari Onawa
Stakeholder Director	Amber McCulloch	Communication Director	Richard Hackmann
Affinity Groups Director	Alex Then	Major Event Director	Judy Hackmann
Lead Gift Directors	Joleen Zackowski	Student/Children's Director	Laurie Surface
	Lee Pennypacker		




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