

In the six weeks I spent interning at U Gathering, I was able to witness and experience the spiritual growth of both new and long-time members. I saw the way you embraced change and were open to thinking about the best way to move forward as a community to not only grow your faith internally, but to be able to connect with the community around you. – Molly Collier

OUR HUMAN NEEDS APPEAL

Helping the Wider World

FOR ABOUT 60 YEARS the Human Needs Appeal has distributed funds from University Temple members' pledges to organizations that work to solve social justice problems and serve the needs of people in the University District.

IN 2022, the Human Needs Appeal has aided the Country Doctor Free Teen Clinic, the Elizabeth Gregory Home, the People's Harm Reduction Alliance, Teen Feed, the United Churches Emergency Fund and the University District Food Bank.

OUR SERVICE AGENCY DIRECTORS SAY:

Thank you for your contribution for Elizabeth Gregory Home. Your gift will help women on their paths forward out of homelessness and assist women (as they) work toward their goals of self-sufficiency. – Development officer, Elizabeth Gregory House

The Food Bank is an important safety net in the lives of many of our neighbors. The nutritious food we provide helps ensure that there is always healthy food for families to put on the table. Thank you for your generosity! – Development director, University District Food Bank

We at PHRA are so deeply appreciative of the continued support from University Gathering UMC. Your years of support have been central to keeping PHRA's programs open over the last 15 years. – Assistant executive director, People's Harm Reduction Alliance

IN THESE DIFFICULT TIMES, please help us continue our tradition of reaching beyond our church boundaries to those in need. Please consider a generous pledge to the Human Needs Appeal.



University Gathering
United Methodist Church

THE OPERATING BUDGET

Preliminary budget for 2023

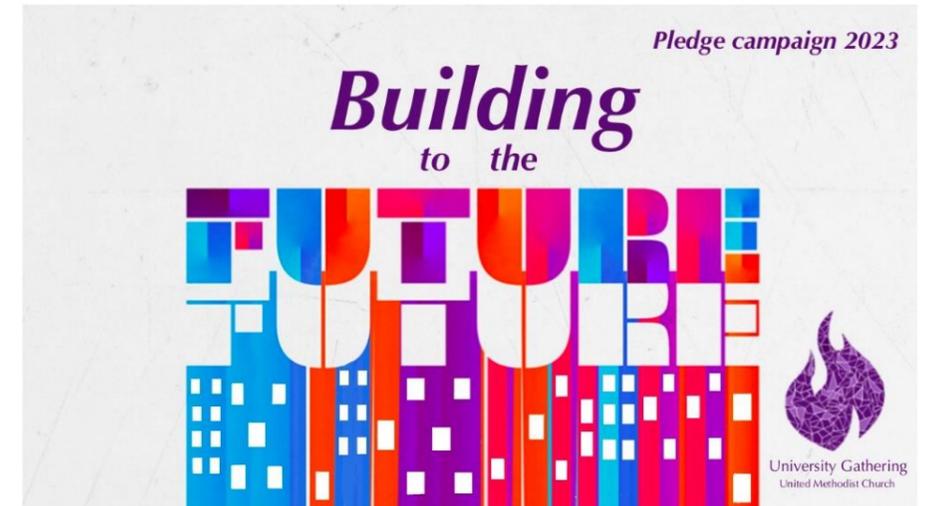
The Operating Budget is a promise to keep the ministry and mission of University Gathering UMC alive and growing. Your personal pledge or gift ensures we can move forward, creating new community and programs that make God's Love visible and vital. We ask everyone to make a pledge as a symbol of your love and commitment to the program and future growth of University Gathering. For those who want to make more than a symbolic gift, please review the chart below and determine prayerfully how much you can give.

Expenses:

Pastoral staff (including housing and other benefits):	\$107,500
Apportionments:	\$80,000
Music Program and worship:	\$42,000
Other lay employees:	\$40,000
Children and Families Minister:	\$35,000
Space lease (office and worship):	\$39,800
Human Needs Appeal:	\$24,000
Insurance and payroll taxes:	\$17,500
Administration, program support and office expenses:	\$16,500
New Programs/Evangelism:	\$7,200
Misc. Local Church Program costs:	\$6,000
Total.....	\$415,500

How much will I pledge?

Estimated Income	\$1000 (month) \$12,000 (year)	\$2500 (month) \$30,000 (year)	\$5000 (month) \$60,000 (year)	\$10,000 (month) \$120,000 (year)
2%	\$20 (month) \$240 (year)	\$50 (month) \$600 (year)	\$100 (month) \$1,200 (year)	\$200 (month) \$2,400 (year)
5%	\$50 (month) \$600 (year)	\$125 (month) \$1,500 (year)	\$250 (month) \$3,000 (year)	\$500 (month) \$6,000 (year)
7%	\$70 (month) \$840 (year)	\$175 (month) \$2,100 (year)	\$350 (month) \$4,200 (year)	\$700 (month) \$8,400 (year)
10%	\$100 (month) \$1,200 (year)	\$250 (month) \$3,000 (year)	\$500 (month) \$6,000 (year)	\$1000 (month) \$12,000 (year)



Kindred in Christ,

As I celebrate going on my third year of serving as your Lead Pastor, I give thanks for all that God has done, is doing, and will do through the faithful community of University Gathering UMC! Our sacred scriptures conclude with the vision of the emerging City of God where pain and injustice are no more, and the Risen Christ says to us, *Behold! I'm making all things new.* (Revelation 21:1-6). This vision was given to a community in transition—not unlike us today. It serves as a powerful reminder that the One who made the past for us possible is at work in us making a new future possible in God's vision.



Like many of you, I eagerly await the beginning of the construction of our new building, sanctuary, and community hub! It will be a visible and concrete symbol of our emerging future in the U District.

Yet, the scriptures remind us that the coming City of God is always more than any physical construction project.

Thus, I invite you to prayerfully consider pledging and giving boldly as a way of partnering together with Christ to continue building the ministry that is being formed in the present and will have a larger impact on our city than we could ever imagine.

Alongside you,

With your financial giving, here are some of the ministries we are building in the present that will have big future impact:

We are Building New Community!



While continuing to live stream, we reopened and launched in-person worship at our interim location, the Masonic Lodge! This hybrid service gathers both long-time members and new people each week in meaningful ways. We also host various artmaking pop-up events as outreach to the community. We have launched a Starting Point small group for newcomers. And we host meaningful outings in our city to foster deep community connections.

As we lean into the future, we are interviewing candidates for a new Worship Leader position. We are seeking someone to lead us in favorite hymns, choral pieces, and contemporary songs as we move into the future together. We are excited to continue to reimagine choir and corporate singing as we gather online and in-person!

Milestones for U. Temple / U. Gathering

- 2019 June – U. Temple signs purchase & sale agreement with ACC and agrees to a fixed cost for exterior and structural portion of new Church facility.
- 2019 Dec. – U. Temple ends year with operating budget deficit: \$1,800.
- 2020 July – Rev. Paul Ortiz becomes new Senior Minister at U. Temple
- 2020 Dec. – U. Temple ends year with a positive operating budget of \$15,800
- 2021 Feb. – ACC uses first of two options to delay construction for a year.
- 2021 July - Building demolition completed
- 2021 Dec. – U. Temple ends year with a positive operating budget of \$14,500

We are Building New Children and Families' Ministry!

Since reopening in-person, our Children and Families' Minister, Leo DeDios has been facilitating a U Gathering Kids service each Sunday morning during service. We have also been exploring ways to creatively invite and incorporate children into our liturgy. We are thrilled to continue to grow our ministry with kids as we provide a positive gospel message through artmaking, play, and storytelling. We give thanks for the children of both long-time families of the church, as well as those new to our community, that we get to bless and form.



- 2021/2022 – Weekly & monthly meetings for architectural design of our space, securing permits and cost analysis.
- 2022 Feb. – ACC uses last of two options to delay construction for a year.
- 2022 March – U. Temple changes name to University Gathering United Methodist Church
- 2022 4th quarter – Start contract discussions with General Contractor for construction of interior portions of new Church facility.
- 2025 – University Gathering moves into new building. Refurbished organ, art glass window and Children's window installed.



BUILDING COMMITTEE

Passing by the site of our former (and future) church building, I was surprised to see how many plants were growing out from the rubble. It reminded me that God works in ways that we can't predict or even imagine.



On the building committee we hope we're thinking through all the possibilities to design the building that will best support our mission here for many decades to come. At the same time, we know that the future is a mystery we will never solve; we can't foresee what the U District will be like decades down the road, nor what new challenges its residents will face. Yet we have faith that our efforts will secure a place for a powerful, loving community that strives to emulate Christ in thought and deed, and points the way for our city and for our nation. We don't yet know who will accept the torch we pass, but we are confident in the knowledge that God will stir in them the same spirit that moved us to join together as University Temple and now University Gathering. Perhaps our role is not to build the future, but to set the conditions so that it can grow. Pledging to U Gathering is an important way to do just that.