

SECOND Opportunity (PLEDGE toward the 2010 Budget)

Name _____

Address _____

Phone Number _____ E-Mail Address _____

Total Amount of New
or Additional Pledge: \$ _____ Each Week Month

The deadline is March 25, 2010.

Thank you, sincerely, for your kind and generous contribution. Our budget will be balanced for the year and our dedicated staff and clergy will be able to serve us without the added burden of a pay cut.

FIRST Opportunity (DONATE to the \$8,000 Matching Challenge)

Name _____

Address _____

Phone Number _____ E-Mail Address _____

Amount Enclosed: \$ _____

Your check (or cash gift) must be received by Wednesday, March 25, 2010 and clearly identified with "Match" on the memo line.

Thank you, sincerely, for your kind and generous gift.

The Evangelical Congregational Church
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
8 Church Street
Westborough, Massachusetts 01581-1904
Phone (508) 366-2000 - Fax (508) 366-5867
Email: WestboroUCC@verizon.net & Website: www.UCCwestboro.org

March 4, 2010

Challenges = Opportunities

Dear Members and Friends,

This past Sunday, after much careful and prayerful deliberation, the Congregation approved a budget for the remainder of the fiscal year. The final 2010 budget contains a 15% across-the-board reduction of salaries and stipends and those committee and program expenses that are not fixed.

We were also presented with and approved two Challenges and Opportunities:

Our **FIRST Opportunity**, presented at Sunday's meeting by anonymous members, was to meet a **Challenge Gift of \$8,000** to be applied directly to staff and clergy salaries. In order to meet this Challenge, we are asked to provide one-time gifts in the form of cash or check totaling at least \$8,000 by March 25. If we reach this goal, your gifts will be doubled – for a total of at least \$16,000!

Our **SECOND Opportunity** is to restore our budget to its previous (2009) level, and eliminate the painful reductions which were required to balance our 2010 budget. Thus, for the next three weeks we will seek additional pledges sufficient to restore the cuts. This is a difference of about \$39,000.

One way to think about how we might meet this challenge is to increase our pledged giving by an average of \$200 for each pledge received for 2010. This would work out to be \$4 per week per pledging unit. We understand that some of us will be stretched to meet this challenge. Thus we hope that those who are able to meet it, might perhaps give more to insure our success.

First use of funds from either of these opportunities will be to restore salary cuts.

Please be aware that pledges alone will not satisfy the above "Challenge." However any pledges that come with payment enclosed will be counted if "Match" is noted in the check's memo line. Your gifts should be clearly identified, either as "2010 pledge" or "Match." Checks should be made payable to "The Evangelical Church."

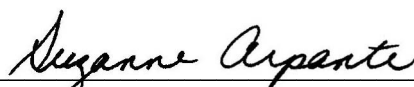
We are enclosing cards on which you may signify your challenge gift. Please return your card(s) to the Church with your gift in the enclosed return envelope, keeping in mind the time within which we are limiting this appeal.

Please also let us know if you would like to receive a visit or call from a member of the Church who will be able to explain more fully the needs we see and the goals we are seeking to reach. If you have questions, please call the church office at 366-2000, and the office staff will gladly assist you.

As we are about to enter this important time of transition in our Church, we ask you to prayerfully consider God's plan and purpose for us -- and our role (and yours) in carrying out that plan.



Stewardship Committee, Chair



Board of Trustees, Chair