

2015.01.11 PROPOSAL

GIFT FOR RE-MEMBER CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

Congregational Church of West Medford/Sanctuary UCC has a four year, ongoing relationship with the people of Pine Ridge and the Re-Member organization. Re-Member (an independent nonprofit organization on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation, South Dakota, USA, whose mission is to improve the quality of reservation life through relationships, shared resources and volunteer services) is embarking on a Capital Campaign this fall to begin building a new and improved Re-Member facility.

In 2010, Re-Member purchased a 160-acre parcel of property, just east of Porcupine, South Dakota. The new property — Feather II -- will be the future home of the Re-Member volunteer program. Feather II will offer dynamic opportunities to further develop Re-Member's program on the Pine Ridge Reservation thereby increasing the impact of volunteerism on the Reservation. The plan is ambitious and the objective of the campaign is to raise \$1.5 million. Not only will the new facility improve the lives of the people of Pine Ridge, but it will also engage more volunteers in more projects. **The long term goal of Feather II is to turn the facility back to the Lakota people.**

Members of our church have participated in three volunteer trips to Re-Member. Our ministry with the people of Pine Ridge has become an important part of the fabric of our church community and gives us the opportunity to put our faith into action. In addition, we have extended our passion for justice and the people of Pine Ridge and Re-Member to our neighbors and the wider community in a variety of ways. We have organized educational events such as community presentations, film series, book discussion group and have supported new Lakota businesses and community groups by selling Hoka coffee, donating supplies to the Lakota sewing circle and making direct donations of clothing to families in need.

We believe that our congregation is being called to make a significant financial gift to this campaign. We further believe that action is being called forth from the intersection of our passion for justice, our call to care for the least of these and a commitment to the spiritual practice of generosity. We also believe this action would have a positive impact on our own fledgling ministry start—demonstrating to the Medford community what we stand for and that we are willing to take action accordingly.

Therefore, we propose that Sanctuary United Church of Christ take leadership in the Feather II capital campaign with a one-time donation of \$15,000 - \$25,000 and ask the Church Council to schedule a congregational meeting to discuss and vote on this proposal as soon as possible. Making a significant contribution early in the Capital Campaign will hopefully allow Re-Member to leverage the gift and encourage other churches, groups and individuals to make their own contributions.

We are aware that Sanctuary UCC hopes to develop a benevolence policy tied to her income and/or spending so as to encourage generosity and a permanent and long term commitment to being outward focused. We celebrate that intention. We also ask that this proposal be considered as a stand-alone proposal so that it does not need to wait for the broader decision to be made as the Re-Member need is immediate.

We offer this proposal in the name of love and pray that the congregation sees the seed that will be sewn by this gift as reflective of the abundance that God has already nourished within us.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Williams

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Joy Harris

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