



An Open & Affirming Community of Faith

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The season after Christmas called *Epiphany* is a season of light.



Light lives in each one of us in a unique way, according to our personalities, abilities, and backgrounds. This Light also displays itself on the *outside*, when we love others as they are. Sharing and displaying this kind of light is contagious. There are many in our communities who need to see light in others, light in us.

In our faith community people's spiritual lives are nurtured through the worship gatherings, service, learning, and friendship. Love in Action UCC is a safe place to experience community in a non-judgmental environment and to experience the love and mercy of God.

The leadership and staff of Love in Action UCC want to ensure that this type of welcoming, open and safe faith community will exist not only tomorrow, but in the future for others to enjoy and discover. It is with your generosity that this vital community and work will continue.

FINANCIAL SITUATION

In 2015 the leadership discussed a 5-year plan with the congregation (2016-2020). We decided to sell the building in Warminster and start a new ministry in a local community with a new identity. Specifically, we wanted to form a community that was safe for everyone, especially those who are often marginalized by religion [including LGBTQIA+ folk, atheists and agnostics, recent immigrants, and the working poor]. Thus, in 2017 we moved to our current location in Hatboro and opened our doors, hearts, and minds to anyone who needed a place to worship, connect, and serve.

The 5-year financial plan was to use the proceeds from the sale of the building as seed money for what we now call LIAUCC. We knew that we would need this seed money to make our expenses. In 2017 due to your generosity we raised nearly \$71,000 towards our budgeted expenses of approximately \$150,000. Thus, we raised about half of what our expenses were.

We know that we cannot do that much longer, and so in 2018 [and beyond] we hope to significantly move closer towards a balanced budget, enabling LIAUCC to continue to minister to the community for years to come.

How do we move closer? Well, as your acting treasurer [Jim], I have worked with Pastor Josh to start some new approaches to funding what we do. There are 3 major areas of giving opportunities to benefit our faith community:

- Donations [Direct giving] 2018 Goal: \$80,000; \$90,000 for 2019 and \$100,000 for 2020.
- Grant money Goals are \$10,000-20,000 in 2018, \$30,000 in 2019 and \$40,000 in 2020. The grants will be realized to support our ministries which will help pay for staff and facilities expenses.
- Rental Income and Fundraising Goal is to pay all operating expenses (utilities, grounds, repairs, access, etc.) and enhance our programmatic ministries. Estimate: \$2,000 in 2018, \$10,000 in 2019 and \$30,000 in 2020.

With this plan, we would balance out in 2020/2021 with enough security money in the bank accounts to enable us to grow what we do and who we impact.



GIVE TO LOVE

Dear friends, please consider how you can help Love in Action UCC continue to grow and serve in 2018. If you are able, please consider a bump up in giving or, if you haven't given a regular donation in the past, please consider giving monthly. There are two ways to do this:

Online: <http://loveinactionucc.org/giving/> and select the **Give Now** blue button. You will be redirected to Vanco's secure site where you may give monthly or as a one-time gift.

Ask for envelopes to enable you to place cash or personal checks in the offering plate during worship. (please note that this method is not as easy and requires your memory!)

*Note that as of now we are still awaiting our official name change in Harrisburg. Until then, please continue to write checks to *UCC Warminster* or *United Church of Christ*.

In lieu of the memory concern, I also propose that we invest in a kiosk that would be available for credit card donations anytime, physically, at the church building. Please tell me if you are interested in giving through the kiosk. That would help support the purchase of the kiosk.



YOU MAKE IT HAPPEN

We are a welcoming, safe, and vibrant community **because of you!**

Consider how you might use your gifts and ideas to enhance Love in Action UCC this year! And keep telling the story to others—that there is a faith community where people can be themselves, where they can ask questions and be heard; where children are truly welcomed as full members; where trans people are leaders and embraced fully; where your nationality, sexual orientation, gender, social level, or skin color don't determine your status or whether you're safe. **We want to keep being this kind of community.** Won't you join us in telling this story to friends and coworkers, neighbors, and family?

WHAT TO EXPECT IN 2018

- Immigration Services [adjacent rental space]
- Therapy [rental space]

- Expansion of SAGA [LGBTQIA+ Support Group, SAGA activity nights for all, Afterschool space for students, Advocacy, and Education]

- Food Outreach [providing fresh produce seasonally]
- Expansion of Love Your Neighbor emergency assistance program

- Interfaith Events: learning, connections, community-building

- Spirituality Group for adults

- Regional Youth Event [Jr. High, High School, and College Students]

God is Still Speaking through you and all of us are better together!

Let's make 2018 a year of even more Love displayed in our Actions!

With Thanks and Wishing You Peace and Wholeness,

Jim Leamon, Treasurer

Rev. Josh Blakesley, Pastor