Greenville Unitarian Universalist Fellowship
Policy

Title: **Fundraising**

Replaces: Fellowship Fund Raising Protocol
dated October 8, 2008
Revised: May 2017
Approved by Board: June 14, 2017

This policy establishes guidelines for fundraising for any purpose or by any means, in order to ensure that fundraising activities:

- help broaden the base of financial support for our annual operating or capital budget,
- fulfill the resource allocations reflected in our budget,
- support our selected and approved initiatives,
- reflect effective social and spiritually nourishing forms of fundraising,
- avoid activities or efforts working at cross-purposes,
- are sensitive to burdening the congregation with multiple requests in a period of time.

The Fellowship seeks to fund operations, including establishing prudent reserve funds, through the annual pledges of members and friends as well as other revenue producing functions such as the thrift shop and facility rental. Experience suggests that it is rarely feasible to do so.

Therefore, fundraising activities are important to the social and financial health of the Fellowship. It should be remembered that fundraising contributions are in addition to pledges; funds are not to be solicited as an alternative to annual pledging.

The Ways & Means Committee is responsible for fundraising for the operating budget of the Fellowship apart from the annual pledge drive/canvass. No other committees or individuals are authorized to conduct fundraisers on behalf of or within the Fellowship for any items, purpose or entity. All proceeds from fundraising efforts, except as otherwise stipulated in this policy or specifically approved by the Board, go directly and only into the general operating fund in support of the annual operating budget.

If the Board approves, one Sunday per month may be designated a Donate-the-Plate Sunday. The Board must approve the organization and date of collection in advance. Monies received during the Sunday offering, except payments for operating pledges and other specified payments, are collected and given in the name of the Fellowship to a designated organization. The organization must hold an IRS certification as a nonprofit organization under section 501(c)(3) of the IRS code and have a mission aligned with the Fellowship’s mission and principles.

The only exception to this policy is fundraising activities done by and for the Children & Youth Religious Education program for their travel account, provided that the activities do not compete or conflict with the Ways & Means efforts.

Any requests for fundraising for items or causes other than the Fellowship's operating fund should be proposed to the Ways & Means Committee for consideration, or directly to the Program Council. The Program Council will then consider the proposal for referral to the Board of Trustees for a decision regarding the proposed exception.

This policy does not apply to fundraising conducted in conjunction with events held at the Fellowship by individuals or groups who are renting the facility for their program or event.