The UUFP has had some exciting moments in its history. **This is one of them.**

We came into being in 1958 during the fight to racially integrate Virginia’s schools. As one of the few racially integrated churches on the Peninsula, we served as a living example of the Beloved Community we believed in. We survived a devastating fire in 1979 and made a new home on Young’s Mill Lane. We’ve protested war, stood up for women’s rights, affirmed the dignity of LGBTQ+ folks, fed the hungry and homeless, helped our neighbors through disasters, and proclaimed boldly that Black Lives Matter.

As we’ve grown over the past few years, however, we’ve felt the painful pinch of space limitations. So now we’re preparing to take the next momentous step: serving our mission in a new church home.
"Look around, look around at how lucky we are to be alive right now!"
~ The Schuyler Sisters, Hamilton

"When we tell the stories of the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of the Peninsula, we talk about our founding with the support of the Norfolk Unitarians. We talk about our close relationship with the Hampton Institute, and we talk about being a racially integrated congregation — in 1950s Virginia! — right from the start. We talk about music and learning and creativity and potlucks. We talk about our engagement with social issues from LGBTQ rights to climate change, from racial justice to feeding the hungry. We talk about the kitchen pipe that burst in 2015 and flooded our Sanctuary building and the fire in 1979 that burned down our previous church building on Briarfield Road. We talk about finding in the rubble our original membership book, our 1958 charter from the American Unitarian Association and our chalice, and we talk about how the congregation picked itself up and started a new chapter on Young’s Mill Lane.

"Now we're doing it again! Only this time, rather than being forced into it by disaster, we're choosing to start a new chapter in the life of the UUFP!

"Over the last few years, we decided we want a campus that inspires wonder, with beautiful and sustainable indoor and outdoor spaces, and a kitchen and a Sanctuary that will nourish us in body and soul. We want to build on our strong tradition of hospitality and social justice by welcoming everyone, practicing inclusion and growing diversity. Perhaps most of all, we want to engage with the surrounding community by being more
visible, by supporting local culture and activism, and by offering the spiritual resources that both we and our world need. This is the Vision that we have chosen for ourselves, to take the UUFP from who we are now to who we are called to be in years to come. And now, with our Capital Campaign, we are starting to write that exciting new chapter in which our Vision comes to life.

"Now is the time to come together as we did after the flood, to summon our courage as we did after the fire, and to make our bold commitment to our future. By growing in wonder, connecting in love, engaging in service and inspiring generosity, we can save the world. Let's seize this once in a lifetime opportunity to make a real and lasting difference!"

~ Rev. Andrew

The need for a new church home became clear when, in 2017, we began the process to articulate our mission and purpose for being. We started by identifying our **CORE VALUES**: WONDER, LOVE, SERVICE and GENEROSITY.

We then put our values into action statements, yielding our **MISSION**: GROW in wonder, CONNECT in love, ENGAGE in service and INSPIRE generosity.

Then, Rev. Andrew challenged us to go further and make our mission real:
“Over the next five years, what more can we do to help one another grow in wonder? How can we be better at connecting in love? What else can we do to help more members and friends engage in service? How can we be a better example to those beyond our walls and inspire generosity in the world?”

Then the Board asked us to consider: **Will our current facilities on Young’s Mill support us in carrying out the different aspects of this vision?** After several cottage meetings to discuss the topic, our membership answered with a resounding “No!” with a vote on March 8, 2020, to seek a new home elsewhere.

**Mission → Vision → Goals → Actions**

**WHAT WE'RE SEEKING**

To make the best use of our assets, we’re seeking to purchase an existing building that will meet our needs with minimal renovation. Likely, we will sell our current properties on Young’s Mill and temporarily rent a worship space as we search for the best option. We are quite optimistic, as many churches have been put on the market in the last year.
We seek a campus that inspires wonder: with ample green space, a more environmental design, an industrial kitchen, and a sanctuary that can seat everyone at a single Sunday service.

We seek a more diverse congregation: one that practices social justice and is safe and welcoming to all ethnicities, children and teens, families, genders and sexual identities, and people with disabilities.

We seek a church that is more staffed, more visible: one that is open to the public, supports art and culture, has a robust music ministry, and provides spiritual development and community resources.

You can help us get there.
HOW WE’LL GET THERE

Even as we continue our annual pledges, the capital campaign will take us into new spaces. To secure a new church home, our members will need to commit **$1.1 million**, over and above annual giving, to be paid over the next three years. That sounds like a big goal, but one that we’re more than capable of achieving.

According to the recent Financial Feasibility Study conducted by our consultant Mark Ewert, our fellowship has the capacity and enthusiasm to reach a stretch goal of **$1.3 million**! Meeting this stretch goal could allow us to purchase a building with more space or less debt, or invest in audiovisual technology to improve online worship.

The chart below can help you plan your gift.

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<th>Gift Range</th>
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<th>Stretch Goal</th>
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<td><strong>86+</strong></td>
<td><strong>105+</strong></td>
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**$1,100,000** **$1,300,000**

This line means that the three gifts should total $350,000 when added together.
There are many ways you can contribute to the Capital Campaign apart from a cash gift. Other options to consider include:

- IRA contribution
- Gift of stock
- Sale of asset
- Share of estate

The amount you choose to give is a personal decision. Some members won’t be able to commit to a gift beyond their annual giving. Others will make significant capital contributions. **Whatever you choose will be accepted with love.**

“How did my family decide to give to the UUFP Capital Campaign?

“Years ago, when we first drew up our will, we set aside a percentage of our estate to go to multiple organizations which we felt were important to support or which had played an important role in our lives. Recently, we have realized that we should instead give this money now while we are alive and can see the good it might do and experience the joy of supporting something meaningful in our lives. This not only gives us some current pleasure, but also reduces the estate management burden on our children.”

~ Parker and Susan Stokes
“Remember that the building serves the congregation’s mission— not for the sake of the people who struggled so hard to obtain it, but for the sake of the people who are yet to come.”

~ Rev. Andrew

What does it mean to save the world? Is such a thing even possible in a UU context?

For UUs, saving our world means addressing those issues in ways that align with our mission and values. The UUFP has a rich history of doing exactly this dating all the way back to the Civil Rights campaigns and the anti-Vietnam War marches of the 60s and 70s. We also took an active part in the 350.org and the International Day of Climate Action. Today, we’re laser focused on immigration and the old-time favorites of civil rights, voting rights, and climate change.

But the point of all that growing, loving, connecting, engaging, and serving is not to rescue helpless people or to feel like an especially good person.

The point is to create the Beloved Community, where everyone dwells together in perfect equity. The new church home we’re searching for is simply a tool (albeit, a
much-needed one) that will allow us to better serve our mission and create this community.

That's why, for our Capital Campaign, we chose the theme of "Serving the Mission, Saving the World." We wanted to be continually reminded that the simple act of living out our values as Unitarian Universalists does make a difference. The work we do to dismantle white supremacy, stand with our LGBTQ friends, enter into covenant, make art and music, care for our planet, treat the disabled with dignity, and more...all of it helps create a better, kinder, safer world for everyone to live in.

You don't need laser vision or super speed to save the world. What makes a person a superhero is their willingness to see a need and respond to it.

We have many needs in our community: social justice, climate action, food and housing, and spiritual nurturing. With the right space, we can better serve our mission and continue saving our world.

Your vision of the future is reflected by what you’re willing to help create. What do you see the UUFP doing in the next five years? Who will be a part of our Beloved Community? And how will your stewardship make that happen?

The power is in your hands.
“The vote of the membership in March 2020 signaled the end of our long decision process and the beginning of a journey to our new home. I could feel the excitement then and have felt it building since. This is my home and my community of friends. I am so proud to be a part of it, to support our move actively and financially.

~ Judy Remsberg, UUFP Member

A NOTE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

"Our time is now. UUFP is living in a historic moment. The last time we stood at such a threshold was 1979, with our building destroyed by fire and us compelled to construct a new church home. And so, we did at Young’s Mill Road. But now is different. Now is our choice, our vision. We are poised to more deeply choose and live with generosity, wonder, love and service. Indeed, what we choose now will define the arc of Unitarian Universalism on the Virginia Peninsula for decades to come.

"Proud and humbled to stand in this moment, I am committed to giving deeply to our Capital Campaign. Together, we can make a living difference in the world now and in the world to come. Please, come join me as we build and live our UU future."

With UU Love,
Bek Wheeler, UUFP President
DREAMING BIG, ACTING BOLDLY

We don’t have to be driven by crisis. Instead, we can choose to be motivated by our values and our desire for a better community.

What if, instead of sending people to protest, our church became a base for people to gather and organize for change?

What if, instead of talking about becoming more diverse and environmentally responsible, we could start implementing programs to make it possible?

A new church home can give us the space to feed and educate people, organize for change, offer refuge, solve real problems, and nourish those around us through service and love.

We stand at an exciting time as UUs. But we do it in a church that was built in 1980, with an eye toward becoming a dentist’s office if things didn’t work out.

Our space should reflect who we want to be, not who we were when The Dukes of Hazzard was the best show on TV. We need a place where we can spread our wings and be a force for good in our community and world.

Let’s come together and make it happen!

Photo credit: Dennis True