

# RETURN AGAIN



## *To the land of your soul* The 2021-2022 Stewardship Campaign

Sunday, April 11, 2021

Dear Friends,

This last year - from mid March 2020 through today - has been the most trying and painful any of us have experienced, except during wartime. We have watched humanity's reactions to a pandemic, political upheavals, and intense divisions within the populace. We have been apart and alone. We've lost family and friends and witnessed the schism of discontent widen to the point of near anarchy. This last year has been painful, yet we have endured with persistence and patience. We have managed in our own families and as a church community to survive. We know life continues and look forward to that Sunday in the future when our doors will open, and we will Return Again *to the land of our soul*.

Rabbi Shlomo Carlebach was deeply committed to the creation of Israel and was instrumental in support of the Law of Return, which welcomed all Jews with full citizenship. Rabbi Carlebach composed a simple round consisting of a dozen words inviting people to "*return again to the land of your soul. Return to what you are, to who you are, to where you were born and born again.*" His song is in our Teal songbook and we think it a fitting tagline to our upcoming stewardship campaign.

The finance committee is committed to assuring that we will have completed our annual stewardship campaign prior to whatever Sunday will be our first back to our church home. That's why we're now asking that you think deeply about the importance that our liberal religious voice has for you, and our wider community.

The church left the building, but it has not been still. During this difficult year, the worship team has produced 52 weekly virtual morning assemblies that have been viewed on over 4,200 screens. A handful of virtual visitors have become friends and we shall continue a virtual outreach with our morning assemblies on YouTube and Facebook.

Our stewardship campaign kicks off tomorrow, April 12<sup>th</sup>. We've uploaded a pie chart giving an overview of how the budget is allocated to the church website, mobile app and Facebook page. You can also complete your pledge online as well on all our social network apps. Paper pledge cards are also available by asking one of us.

So, good friends. Return again perhaps to where you were first 'born' as a Unitarian Universalist or perhaps where you were 'born again'. If you miss gathering together as much as we do, we know you will want to return to the land of your soul - our own small sanctuary on the corner of North Burnett and West Boyd - where we will let our souls sing.

Struggling along together,

Dick, Jan, Jim, and Marilyn  
The Finance Team