



# FAQs for the Building on Love (BOL) Comprehensive Campaign

FIRST UNIVERSALIST CHURCH of YARMOUTH

## **What is a Comprehensive Campaign vs an Annual Campaign and a Capital Campaign?**

A Comprehensive Campaign combines two fundraising campaigns: an Annual operating campaign, and a Capital campaign. This translates to ONE major fundraising campaign—combining the Annual Campaign that funds our annual operating expenses AND a Capital Campaign to fund capital projects that ensure the integrity and safety of our physical space.

To align our campaigns and assure stability, we are asking that people consider what they plan to contribute to three years of Annual operating expenses while also contributing to the 3-year Capital project.

## **Can I commit to just one year at a time? I am not sure I can make a 3-year commitment.**

We ask people to consider how First U fits into their life, and express their intention appropriately. While we expect most families will be able to consider a 3-year commitment (paid over three years), we recognize that there will be exceptions. Every gift is received with gratitude.

## **What might each person consider contributing to the Comprehensive Campaign?**

Everyone is invited to contribute what feels right. We have found that if each donor “stretches” just a little (think yoga!), there is enough to make things work. And a little stretch feels good!

Please visit [UUYarmouth.org/comprehensive-campaign](http://UUYarmouth.org/comprehensive-campaign) and scroll down for annual Fair Share giving suggestions.

## **Can I give stocks and securities? How are they valued by the church?**

Yes. For details on how to do this, please email the church office at [office@uuyarmouth.org](mailto:office@uuyarmouth.org). First U has a standing order with Fidelity to sell the stock when received and to transfer the funds to First U’s checking account.

## **When will payments be needed?**

As always, you choose what works for you. The portion of your giving that is for the coming church year’s Annual operating expenses can be fulfilled during each church year, e.g. weekly, monthly, quarterly. Our expenses are continuous, so prepayments are always welcome!

Your giving for the Capital expenses will be needed over three years: July 2025 through June 2028. We will do work only as funds come in, so we appreciate weekly, monthly, or quarterly payments—or annual prepayments if you prefer.

## **Can I give my contribution all up front?**

Yes. This is greatly appreciated!

## **What if my life takes a turn and I can’t fulfill my commitment?**

Life happens, sometimes for the better, sometimes not so much. We just ask that you keep us informed if your intention changes so that we can plan accordingly. You can contact the Treasurer, Stewardship Chair, or Board President to confidentially share your change.

## **Is the church raising money from outside our church community as well? Grants?**

Yes. First U is seeking grants that may be appropriate for some of the Capital work.



### **When does the Campaign begin and end?**

Behind-the-scenes work has been going on since September 2024, in preparation for starting the Campaign in earnest by February 1, 2025. The Board anticipates all intentions will have been submitted by March 31, 2025.

### **What if our dollars don't come in fast enough to cover costs? Does the church ever borrow for projects like this?**

For Annual operating costs, we expect cash to come in at the usual rate, so expenses (which are mostly salaries) can be met on time.

For Capital expenses, we plan to begin discrete projects as funds are available. But, yes, we do have access to interest-bearing loans through Bangor Savings Bank or, sometimes, from congregants.

### **What kind of disruption might the projects cause to our worship, our kitchen use, and to the residents of 95 Main Street?**

We plan to do most of the work without disruption of planned activities (i.e. much over the summer). For 95 Main, much of the work is outside, so will not be disruptive. We would provide alternative accommodation for our tenants if interior work becomes too disruptive.

### **Why does 95 Main matter to us, and is this the best plan for the future?**

At present, 95 Main is a source of income for us, and a safe home for four grateful asylum seekers. We don't know what the long-range highest and best use is—community center? church offices? spiritual retreat?—but we do know that we like having some control over something on our property, and that if this beautiful house were lost, it would be very hard to get back. What uses can you imagine for 95 Main?

### **If I can't make the mid-year meeting, can I vote in absentia?**

Sorry, no. According to our Bylaws (Available on [UUYarmouth.org](http://UUYarmouth.org)) we cannot vote in absentia or by proxy. We DO accept votes via live video participation, and the Mid-Year Meeting will be held on Zoom as well as live at church.

### **How will my financial giving be used?**

Your giving contributes to First U's ability to meet its congregation-approved Annual operating expenses (minister and staff salaries/benefits, heat, lights, insurance, etc.). Your giving in this Comprehensive Campaign will also contribute to congregation-approved Capital projects identified by the Board and Leadership.

The Congregation votes on all of these expenses. The Annual operating budget is considered and voted upon at the June Annual Meeting. The Capital budget will also be considered and voted upon at the June Annual Meeting.

### **What are the Capital needs of First U?**

*95 Main Street (House)*—Restore the structural integrity of our historical building that currently offers affordable housing to asylum-seeking immigrants and creates income for the church.

*97 Main Street (Church)*—Address the long-term maintenance needs of our building and respond to the needs of our growing congregation.

*Sanctuary*—Make audio-visual and other necessary Sanctuary improvements.

*Kitchen*—Upgrade to safely and joyfully support current uses, e.g. Maine Farm Suppers and Dinner Church.

*Grounds*—Beautify, naturalize, and explore expanded use of our grounds.

*Financial Integrity*—Add to operating reserves and grow existing endowment funds.

**Thank you for your consideration!**