

2012 MISSION PLAN



MISSION HILLS UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Count Yourself Blessed!



Every piece counts!

Dear Members and Friends,

The Mission Plan of MHUCC has many pieces to it. Each piece fits together to create a whole picture which is the vision of our congregation for what is possible. Each piece of the plan is made possible by each one of our members and friends who are stewards of the ministry of this church. Each one of us is a piece of the Plan. We become disciples by learning and doing and Mission Hills UCC provides you with many of those opportunities.

We ask that you do 4 things with this Mission Plan Book:

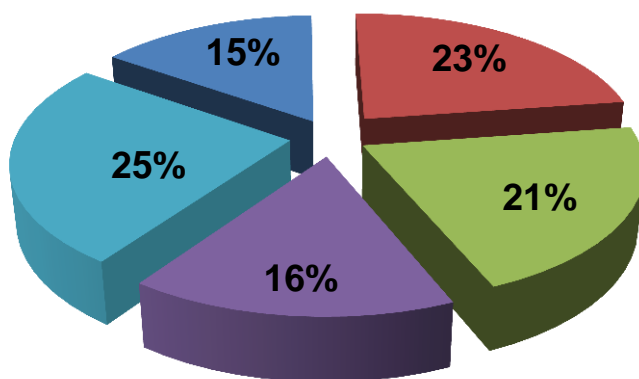
1 Read the Mission Plan and then prayerfully consider what portion of your income you will pledge to support Mission Hills UCC's ministry. If applicable, sit down with your partner, spouse, and children and have the conversation as a family. Let the Spirit guide in how you are able to participate and be a piece of MHUCC's Mission Plan at this time.

2 Remove the Pledge Card from the booklet. Complete the card and return it to church either by mailing it to the church office or dropping it in the offering basket during worship.

3 Just for fun: Please take a moment to think about how Mission Hills United Church of Christ has been a blessing in your life or the lives of others. Please write or illustrate what this blessing is on the puzzle piece included in your packet. You can write your name or keep it anonymous. Please return your completed puzzle piece to the basket in the Narthex of the church or mail it back to the church office. Check out the puzzle mural as all the pieces come together because...EVERY PIECE COUNTS!

4 Please continue to pray for the members, friends, and staff of Mission Hills UCC as well as those individuals and groups that are supported through the ministry of this congregation.

Our Mission



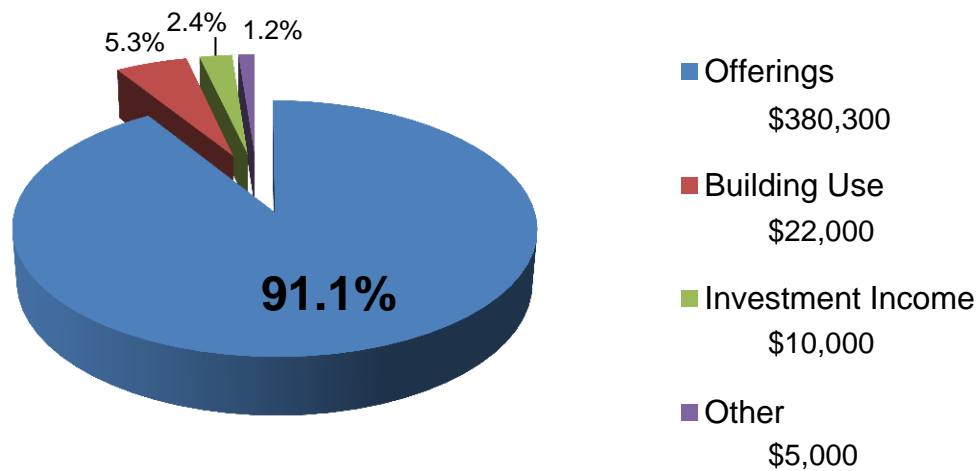
■ Providing an Extravagant Welcome to All	\$93,432
■ Reaching Out in Mission & Witness	\$92,632
■ Leading, Learning, and Caring in Our Community	\$66,732
■ Supporting Worship & Music	\$101,639
■ Nurturing Spiritual Development	\$62,807

How We Accomplish Our Mission

The United Church of Christ is a congregationally-based denomination. Unlike other denominations, each local UCC congregation is financially independent and receives no financial aid from the denominational headquarters. Thanks to this congregation's generous stewardship in 2011, for the first time in many years, MHUCC surpassed its pledge goal! As a result, various programs in our church Mission Plan were added to rather than cut. Thank you for your amazing support!

In 2012, we anticipate that 91.1% of our Mission Plan at Mission Hills UCC will come from individuals in this congregation. Each of you - our members and friends - will help the pieces of the Plan come together. The rest of the Mission Plan is funded by investment income and building use.

Income



The generous and joyful giving of our members and friends determines the SUCCESS of MHUCC's Mission Plan – we are each a piece of the Mission Plan of MHUCC!



***Count Yourself Blessed!
Every Piece Counts!***

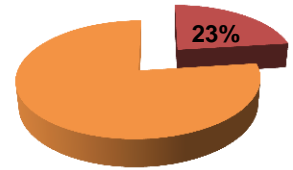
Take One Step Forward for MHUCC!

As you prayerfully consider how you will be a piece of the 2012 Mission Plan, we invite you to use this table. To determine your 2011 weekly pledge, divide your current annual pledge amount by 52 weeks. Then increase your weekly pledge amount for 2012 to the next category: for example, if your current weekly pledge is \$25, take one step forward to the \$31 - \$40 category. If we all increase our pledge by a small amount, the financial increase is substantial!

<u>2011 Pledges</u>			<u>2012 Pledges: One Step Forward</u>		
Weekly Pledge	# Pledge Units	Total	Weekly Pledge	# Pledge Units	Total
\$0	55	\$0	\$1 - \$10	55	\$14,300
\$1 - \$10	27	\$8,186	\$11 - \$20	27	\$21,060
\$11 - \$20	28	\$22,200	\$21 - \$30	28	\$36,400
\$21 - \$30	25	\$31,505	\$31 - \$40	25	\$45,500
\$31 - \$40	10	\$18,392	\$41 - \$50	10	\$23,400
\$41 - \$50	7	\$17,254	\$51 - \$60	7	\$20,020
\$51 - \$60	8	\$23,220	\$61 - \$70	8	\$27,040
\$61 - \$70	5	\$17,540	\$71 - \$80	5	\$19,500
\$71 - \$80	6	\$23,400	\$81 - \$90	6	\$26,520
\$81 - \$90	5	\$21,520	\$91 - \$100	5	\$24,700
\$91 - \$100	6	\$30,400	\$101 - \$110	6	\$32,760
\$101 - \$110	2	\$10,900	\$111 - \$120	2	\$11,960
\$111 - \$120	5	\$29,940	\$121 - \$130	5	\$32,500
\$121 - \$130	2	\$13,060	\$131 - \$140	2	\$14,040
\$131 - \$140	1	\$7,100	\$141 - \$150	1	\$7,540
\$141 - \$150	1	\$7,500	\$151 - \$160	1	\$8,060
\$151 - \$160	0	\$0	\$161 - \$170	0	\$0
\$161 - \$170	2	\$16,800	\$171 - \$180	2	\$18,200
\$171 - \$180	1	\$8,940	\$181 - \$190	1	\$9,620
\$231 - \$240	1	\$12,000	\$241 - \$250	1	\$12,740
\$291 - \$300	1	\$15,340	\$301 - \$310	1	\$15,860
	198	\$335,197		198	\$421,720

PROVIDING

an Extravagant Welcome to All



Every piece counts in providing an extravagant welcome to all:

- ✚ Open & Affirming Congregation
- ✚ Clean, spacious classrooms for our children and youth
- ✚ Child Care provided
- ✚ ASL Interpreter upon request
- ✚ Wheelchair Accessible 1st Floor
- ✚ Maintaining a warm and inviting facility

**No matter who you are
or where you are on life's journey,
you are welcome at Mission Hills UCC!**

As part of our *EXTRAVAGANT WELCOME*, we are an Open & Affirming (ONA) church, we offer an ASL interpreter upon request for services, we are dedicated to always providing childcare during worship services and special events, and we have improved accessibility for all physical abilities.

Our welcome to visitors includes the Bread Delivery Ministry, participation in "Coffee with the Pastor" and the New Members'-Inquirer's classes which are held throughout the year. While acknowledging the importance of new membership, Mission Hills UCC also recognizes the importance of sustaining relationships with current members. Staff and commissions work together to keep track of those members and friends we haven't seen in a while and regularly "checking in" with them.



Thanks to the foresight of our founders 100 years ago and the generosity and faithful stewardship of members and friends throughout the years, we are blessed with a beautiful facility. Our sanctuary, First Congregational Memorial Chapel, meeting rooms, classrooms, and Fellowship Hall are known throughout the community and denomination as great places to hold special events and meetings. As we open our doors to the community, we are opening our arms to new friends, inviting them in to explore the wonderful things happening at Mission Hills UCC.



When a visitor walks in for a community event and sees the list of "Principles of a Progressive Church" or any of the other literature available throughout the church building, they are heard to say, "I didn't know a church would support something like this!" This visitor may then find his/her way into one of the pews on Sunday.

Did You Know...?

Mission Hills UCC is a model church for other UCC congregations going through their ONA process, and we provide training and facilitators upon request.

REACHING OUT

in Mission and Witness



Every piece counts in putting the “mission” in Mission Hills UCC:

- ✦ *Serving as witnesses that “God is Still Speaking!”*
- ✦ *Volunteering in the community for the underprivileged, ill, and homeless*
- ✦ *Supporting UCC programs for developmentally disabled adults, disaster relief, and more*
- ✦ *Participating on the fourth Tuesday of each month at the church to feed the hungry*
- ✦ *Serving our neighborhoods by picking up trash in Chollas Canyon*
- ✦ *Collaborating with the San Diego Partnership UCC Churches for quarterly programs*



Mission to others has always been an important component of ministry at Mission Hills UCC. This church offers our members and friends many opportunities to give and to serve. We are blessed to stand with other UCC local churches as a “5 For 5 Congregation” by supporting all five of the UCC special offerings. In 2011, our Mission Hills UCC family supported with our hearts, hands, and finances the following organizations: Becky’s House, San Diego Partnership Churches, Storefront, Peppermint Ridge, Feeding America, Uptown Faith Community Center, Daniel F. Romero Center for Border

Ministries, El Nido, I Love a Clean San Diego, Archi’s Acres, Rolling Readers, Church World Service, Special Delivery, San Diego Winter Shelter, Global Ministries, and more. Our Mission and Outreach Commission is always seeking new avenues for expanding our mission outreach. Without diligent financial leadership and stewardship, our mission goals cannot be realized.

Part of our mission is to be a witness of our faith to others. As an Open and Affirming Congregation, we march in the annual Pride Parade, and welcome members of other local UCC congregations to march with us. Many of our monthly Fellowship activities take us out into the community for barbecues, kite flying, hikes and other opportunities for people to see the congregation in action, having fun. We open our church to the community by having concerts and other special events as well as offering the spaces to community groups such as Grant School, San Diego Women’s Chorus, Mission Hills Garden Club, Hillcrest Wind Ensemble, Pacific Children’s Theatre, San Diego Hospice, and more.



Did You Know...?

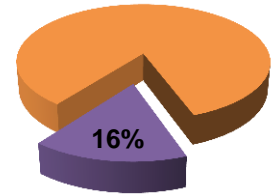
Mission Hills UCC provides a monthly meal to the Storefront Youth Shelter, feeding 10-15 hungry homeless teens. You can get involved! Sign-up sheets are on the hallway bulletin board.

LEADING, LEARNING, AND CARING

in Our Community

Every piece counts in leading, learning, and caring for our community:

- ✦ *Offering Fellowship activities that encourage us to come together outside of Sunday worship*
- ✦ *Providing Bible / Book Studies and Educational Forums*
- ✦ *Our Whole Lives education for youth and parents*
- ✦ *Big Steps Sunday School, Children's Sunday School, Youth Forum & Adult Sunday School*
- ✦ *Adult and Children's Libraries*
- ✦ *Church Website & Newsletter*
- ✦ *Time during worship to share joys and sorrows*
- ✦ *Pastoral Calls and visits*



Leading By providing the spaces, resources, personnel, and equipment necessary for a growing program, this congregation is known by many in our community and denomination as a church that is able to facilitate meetings, worship services, and special events. Because we are able to open our doors to so many people in our community, more and more people walk through the doors of this church and begin to understand that this is a different type of church community and look forward to being part of it.

Learning As we celebrate 100 years in the heart of Mission Hills, we are mindful that this church began as a mission project to bring Christian Education to the outskirts of town by our parent congregation, First Congregational Church. Faith formation and education have always been valued by this congregation and central to the UCC and our parent denominations. Mission Hills UCC provides a variety of quality educational opportunities for the congregation and the community which are designed for all – from our youngest friends to our oldest. We believe “Christian Education” does not stop or start at the doors of Mission Hills UCC or begin or end at a certain age. Faith formation is a lifelong process and happens not only in Sunday school but also during small group ministry, home visits, food distributions, Border education opportunities with the UCC’s Romero Center, or volunteering with the Uptown Faith Service Center.



Caring At Mission Hills UCC we minister to one another in many ways. Whether it involves calling on members and friends who are home bound or hospitalized and bringing letters and cards created by the Sunday school classes or reaching out to members and friends in times of joy and sadness, Mission Hills UCC is there.

Did You Know...?

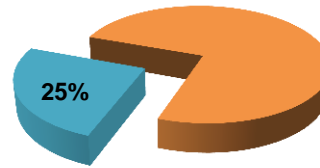
Mission Hills UCC adopted a “Safe Church Policy” in 2011, enacting procedures to help ensure that our children and adults can worship, learn, and work together in an atmosphere free from all forms of discrimination, harassment, exploitation or intimidation.

SUPPORTING

Worship and Music

Every piece counts in enhancing worship and music at Mission Hills UCC:

- ✚ Chancel Choir
- ✚ Children's and Cherub Choirs
- ✚ Professional Musical Leadership
- ✚ Special Music and Concerts
- ✚ Children's Message
- ✚ Guest Speakers
- ✚ Recorded Sermons on Website
- ✚ Special Services



What's your favorite part of Sunday Worship??



Worship is our common time together as the people of God. Our Pastor challenges our congregation intellectually, emotionally, and spiritually to discover ways in which scripture applies to our lives today. Sunday worship is a transformative experience which also includes beautiful music from our Chancel and Children's choirs who provide an opportunity to experience the sacred through music. A goal for the coming year is to provide alternative ways for our members and friends to experience the sacred – whether it be through traditional music and prayer, contemporary music, Taize and contemplative prayer services, dramatic interpretation of scripture and music, or the use of multimedia.

Under the inspiring leadership of Max Chodos and accompanist Rick Parks, our chancel choir has grown in number! The members and friends in the choir lift their voices each week with their inspiring musical offerings. The musical ministry of our congregation has expanded this year by adding the voices of our youth and children to the choir. MHUCC has not only started a Children's Choir for children ages 7 – 13, but has also started a Cherub Choir for our youngest community members aged 3-6 years old. These "Chancel Choir singers-in-training" are learning the beauty and spiritual nature of hymns and the sacred tradition of music as a vital part of worship.



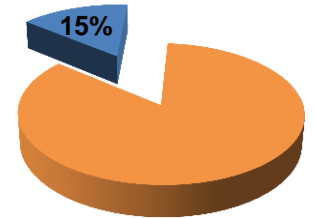
As we look ahead, we are exploring options for holding an additional worship service outside of the traditional 10:00 a.m. service in order to facilitate our growing numbers, crowded pews, and varied worship styles.

Did You Know...?

Our pews are getting fuller and fuller each Sunday! Be on the lookout for visitors that can't find a seat, and help them out by sitting toward the center of the pew, leaving the extra seats open on the end.

NURTURING

Spiritual Development



Every piece counts in nurturing Spiritual Development:

- ✦ *Meaningful and transformative worship services*
- ✦ *Small groups: Young Adults, Journeying Together, Theology & Cinema*
- ✦ *Women's Fellowship*
- ✦ *Educational Forums and Book Studies*
- ✦ *Children's Sunday School and Big Steps Class*
- ✦ *Youth Forum*

We nurture spiritual development and faith formation in all of God's children, young and old, through Sunday school, Youth Forum, adult bible study opportunities, and small groups formed around common interests that deepen our relationships with each other. This year 13 members of our Youth Forum will begin their confirmation class with Pastor Scott, and on any typical Sunday, 30-40 children are racing to their Sunday school classrooms. We firmly believe in and practice ministry to families of all configurations.



Spiritual development isn't just about being in church for Sunday Worship. Our Fellowship Commission is continuously planning events such as group hikes, beach bonfires, Christmas caroling, and church potlucks that allow us to connect with creation and each other.

Our worship service provides a time to grow together spiritually through music, prayer, preaching, and quiet, personal reflection.

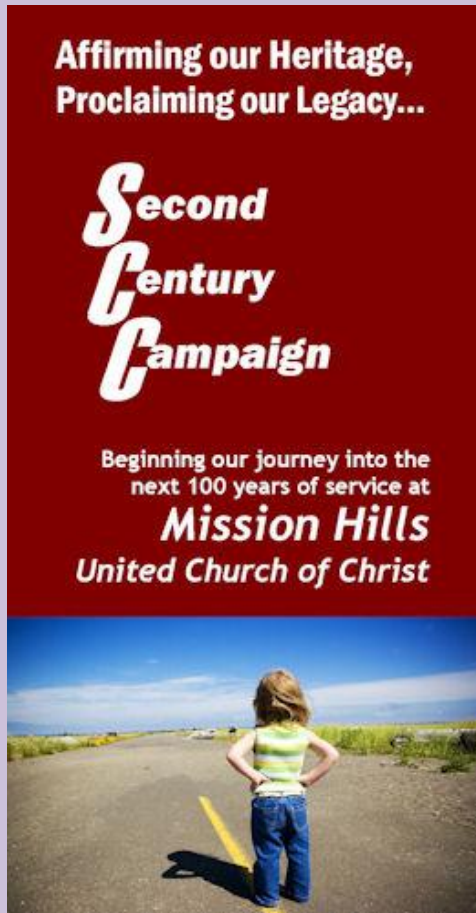
Because we understand that there are many

ways to experience the sacred, we will be forming a worship team in the coming year to help develop and organize new ways to join together and welcome new friends in an alternative service outside of the 10:00 a.m. traditional service.

Did You Know...?

Mission Hills UCC has purchased a 24'x24' labyrinth that can be used in Fellowship Hall for your next spiritual journey.

The Mission Plan outlined in this booklet specifically focuses on our annual operating budget - our continuing mission, but you may be wondering how this fits with the Second Century Campaign.



In June 2011, we voted to help secure our long-range plans through a fundraising initiative known as the Second Century Campaign, scheduled to begin in January 2012. Through the Second Century Campaign we will invite all members and friends of the congregation to join in as we proclaim our legacy to this church through a three-year pledge.

Gifts given to the Second Century Campaign will help pay for long term goals consistent with our mission including a commitment to preserve and prepare the church building for the next century of service, second floor accessibility and classroom upgrades, innovative outreach initiatives, and supporting our continuing growth. Much more information on the Second Century Campaign will be forthcoming in the new year.

Both the annual operating budget and the Second Century Campaign offer opportunities for you to be stewards of the gifts God has provided, and to deploy those gifts as we strive to fulfill our short and long term missions at Mission Hills UCC. We ask you to prayerfully consider how God is calling you to participate.



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MISSION HILLS
COMMUNITY
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