

Stewardship Story for All Ages

A 200+ year old established Unitarian (now UU) Church up in the New England area, had its roof past need for repair. It was so bad that if it rained during the service, everyone had to get up to get buckets to catch the rain water. They formed committees, task forces, and fundraising groups. The fundraising committee recommended that the congregation consider selling the lumber from the trees on the back part of their property to help pay for part of the replacement costs. You see, the old building had large wooden beams that held up the roof.



The architects recommended replacing these with steel beams. The replacement wooden beams would cost 10 times more than the steel beams, and would be stronger. However, the congregation loved the look of their building...but what were they to do? They weren't even sure they could replace the beams. The task force tasked with aesthetics of the new look recommended that they try more fundraising. The board called a congregational meeting, and asked everyone who was able to attend: should they sell the property or trees and cut their losses?



During the meeting, the oldest and longest-time member of the congregation rose unsteadily to his feet. He asked to address the group.

“You see, the men and women who built our church, knew that one day these old beams would need to be replaced. They planted those trees over 100 years ago to provide for us now in our time of need. They were grown to use to replace these beams.”

Stewardship is about caring for something so much, you care even when you won't be around.

Please leave Emerson Unitarian Universalist Chapel in your will or estate plans. If every current member of Emerson UU Chapel, left Emerson \$100 in their estate plans or will, our endowment fund would have \$10,000. It takes only a few dollars from each of us to pay UUism forward.

If you wish to do some investigating before you seek counsel, you may wish to see www.emersonuuchapel.org/stewardship.shtml.