



Annual Canvass Report – Marilyn Mitchell

This year, the Minister, the President and the Treasurer asked the members of the First Unitarian-Universalist Church Trust to lead the Canvass campaign. The Trustees are: Marilyn Mitchell, current chair; Bill McKnight, James Robinson, Al Acker and Pearl Samples.

The Trustees decided that it would be fun and productive to hold a series of house parties and invite Church members and friends to come together, to share information about themselves, to discuss their visions for the Church for the next 3-5 years and to make a pledge of support for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2008. The Trustees solicited members to host house parties on the weekends of April 12-13 and 19-20. Other members were asked to choose locations and times to “testify” as to their feelings for the Church and to “close” the deal by taking pledge cards. Parties were scheduled from 4-6 p.m.

The following members hosted house parties: Alma King, Marilyn and Jerry Mitchell, Jim and Ruth Harvey, Al and Lencha Acker and Dave Lingholm and Gladys Santiago. Mildred Robinson telephoned members and friends and signed them up for house parties. Since the parties were located in Detroit, Dearborn and Grosse Pointe, people could choose a convenient location for a party to attend. The parties were well attended and, by all accounts, were enjoyed by hosts and guests alike.

The parties were successful in two crucial respects: (1) people were able to share their visions for the Church, which resulted in some amazing suggestions for action that will help First Church grow and fulfill its missions, and (2) people pledged generously. Although all pledges have not been returned and/or pledging units reached and there is no final tally, the preliminary results show a significant increase over last year.

Better yet, ‘pledgers’ expressed an eagerness to keep the good thing going at First Church and to spread the word about the good thing we have going.