

Shadow Rock, > Today

As I think to when my family first moved to Arizona not quite two years ago, I recall one of our first questions: “Where do we want to go to church?” – a simple enough question for most people. Most people look nearby. Some people stay within the denomination they grew up in. Many people are happy to sit in church for an hour a week and then go quietly about their normal routines. Karen and I are not most people, and the members of Shadow Rock aren’t most people either.

Each of us came here in our own way, in our own time, and for our own reasons. All of us are seeking a place that speaks to our spirits, our souls, and makes us feel like we are a part of something greater. We are each searching for something greater. And that is what I think we have to remind ourselves of as a church: Shadow Rock UCC is about being *greater than* we are today.

The Wedgeblade symbolizes this. It is about being on the leading edge of God’s goals. And interestingly, it looks much like the math symbol for “greater than.” (My inner math geek couldn’t help but notice this when I was asked to be Stewardship Chair this year.)

Shadow Rock UCC is responding to the call to be *greater than* we are today. We are always looking forward, seeking dignity and justice for all people regardless of race, gender, age, creed, or sexual orientation. We believe that “you are welcome here.” We are diverse in our membership but united in our belief that everyone deserves respect, equal treatment, and justice.

Most churches won’t address the issues we do. We don’t merely talk about these issues, we work to change them. In order to do these things, to be *greater than* we are today, we have to look inward and ask ourselves, how do we support Shadow Rock’s worthwhile tasks, such as:

- Providing money to support efforts to recognize the right of every person to have a loving relationship recognized not only by God, family, and friends, but by society.
- Volunteering our time to help put water in the desert for people in need.
- Sending our children to places in great need, to help rebuild communities.
- Maintaining the facilities and campus with which we have been blessed.

When asked if we support these efforts and others, we send a resounding “yes!” from our pews, because in our hearts we know it is right.

Faithfully,



Scott A. Richter
Stewardship Chairman '09-'10
Shadow Rock UCC