

Shadow Rock, > Today

Last week, we as individuals and a congregation pledged to strive to be greater than we are today. We sent a resounding “YES” from our pews but now we must respond with more than our hearts and words, we must respond with our bodies and resources. To be *greater than* we are today, we need to back up our visions, goals, and our words. We need to commit ourselves as members of Shadow Rock. To renew our commitment we must make three important decisions.

We must make a personal financial decision to support Shadow Rock. It is an uncomfortable topic, but realistically, we as a congregation cannot achieve our goals if Shadow Rock does not have adequate funds. Sending youth on mission trips, placing water in the desert, advocating for justice, even just keeping the lights on – it all takes money.

We must commit our personal time and talents. Every person in this church has been blessed with unique skills and a wealth of knowledge and experience. Each person is a treasure to draw from which can in some way to help Shadow Rock UCC achieve the vision set forth by the congregation.

We must ground ourselves in Shadow Rock’s Covenant. We need to recommit ourselves to “covenant one with another to be that sensitive and responsive part of human society which *perceives and responds* to God’s newest thrust in the midst of history.” It is obvious that we perceive, now it is time to respond.

I would ask you to spend the next few weeks in thoughtful prayer and meditation, considering these few questions:

- What is it that Shadow Rock does, can, or should do to respond to God’s newest thrust?
- How am I helping Shadow Rock respond?
- What talents do I have that would help Shadow Rock?
- Can I make time to do more with and for Shadow Rock in the furtherance of our calling?
- Can I provide more financially to support the work of Shadow Rock, if I practice sacrificial giving?

The idea and practice of sacrificial giving is often misunderstood and unfortunately much abused but next week I hope to clarify this important concept.

Faithfully,



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