



*Next Level Giving*

## Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

We are embarking on a journey of Next Level Giving to:

- Assure consistent support of ministries and programs that deliver services to our membership and community
- Provide for timely maintenance and care for our many properties, and
- Grow our capacity for service, through ministry

This document was developed to answer several of the important questions related to the campaign.

### **Q.1 What is Next Level Giving?**

A This is a Trinity United Church of Christ campaign that seeks to grow the congregation spiritually, increase our capacity to serve through ministry, and provide financial security for the present and for the next generation.

### **Q. 2 Why do we need Next Level Giving?**

A While we cut \$1.2 Million from our budget in 2009, there are additional needs to be met and obligations we would like to fulfill, including:

- Increase in healthcare expenses to \$53,000/month (a 14% increase)
- Mortgage principle & interest of \$110,000/month (95<sup>th</sup> and Cottage)
- Kwame Nkrumah Academy class room build out: \$250,000
- Real Estate Taxes: \$116,000 (twice a year for 95<sup>th</sup> and Cottage)
- Facility maintenance: New roof, heating and air conditioning, etc.
- Maintaining 3-months operating reserve
- Benevolence gifts beyond the current budget

### **Q. 3 What Ministries and Institutions will be blessed by Next Level Giving?**

A Our budget for 2010 reduced, or even eliminated many of our benevolence gifts to institutions we have historically supported. A successful Next Level Giving campaign will allow us to bless:

- Our Church's Wider Mission (National/International service and advocacy through the United Church of Christ)
- Balm in Gilead, Inc. (HIV/AIDS)
- Community Renewal Society
- Lott Carey Foreign Mission Convention (Health, Education & Ministry around the world)
- Samuel DeWitt Proctor Conference
- Scholarships
- TUCC Gary
- Chicago Theological Seminary
- Howard University
- Morehouse College
- Virginia Union University, and many others

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### **Q. 4 Is Next Level Giving tithing?**

A No, this is above and beyond your current tithes and offerings. For those members who are not yet tithing, your Next Level Giving pledge may bring you closer, or up to a tithing level, or beyond.

### **Q. 5 What is the 2010 goal for the Next Level Giving Campaign?**

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- To grow the congregation spiritually through prayer and fasting
  - To increase youth and young adult participation
  - To raise \$3.3 Million
  - To grow Trinity United Church of Christ's capacity to serve, through ministry

### **Q. 6 Is our Endowment program part of Next Level Giving?**

A No. A separate program focused on bequests (e.g. naming Trinity UCC as a beneficiary of an insurance policy, or a participant in a will), Trinity Planters' Society, will launch soon and target growing our endowment.