



First Unitarian Society of Ithaca

Connect. Inspire. Engage.

Coffee Hour Fundraising Policy

1. Fundraising activities of **charitable groups** outside the church but whose purposes are compatible with our own **and are sponsored by a church committee or team** will be permitted after approval of senior staff. Requests must be submitted to the Congregational Admin at least two weeks in advance of the proposed Sunday and scheduling is at the discretion of the staff.

2. **The church committee or team sponsoring** any fundraising group should have the proposal well prepared and documented at the time approval is sought in order that an assessment of the effort can be made and evaluated against the degree of confusion it might engender.

3. Solicitors will be expected to confine their activities to a single table or station where people can gain information regarding the cause or make a contribution.

4. Fund raising activities by **individuals** will only be allowed as long as the Church is the recipient of the net proceeds and the sale price of the item will just cover production costs plus contribution to church. Since targeted fundraising for the operating fund is not allowed, the monies will be deposited to an appropriate Endowment account or the **general** operating account. Proposals must be submitted at least one week in advance of the proposed sale date(s) and will be permitted with the approval of the President of the Board of Trustees or her/his designee.

The reason behind these rules is not to discourage worthy causes but to try to eliminate the bazaar-like atmosphere that has prevailed on occasion, in which the cause has had little or no relation to basic church activity, orientation or purpose. Secondly, as the church budget is frequently in deficit, fundraising activities must be considered with relation to the need of the church and its commitment. Finally, the coffee hour should be a time of sociability and friendly discourse and not be used for other purposes simply because a captive audience is available.

For fund raising done outside of the coffee hour, or done by the church's Board, Committees, Teams or Programs, see the "Special Gifts Policy."