



# Not for Ourselves Alone: Building an Inclusive Future

First Universalist Church Capital Campaign



**RAY DILLON &  
DICK RUETER**

“Jolted out of our complacency by the announcement of Rev. Kate Tucker’s impending retirement, we at last understood that we needed to come back to First Universalist. In quiet ways we had been drifting apart as a couple, and growing together spiritually struck us as a good path to walk together. This time we began attending every week and participating in several circles; the ones that were the most helpful were Conscious Aging, Circle Supper, and

New Member. For the past two years we also have been singing in the choir, which has grown us musically, emotionally and spiritually, strengthened our relationship, and brought us satisfying new friendships.

We are very grateful to the ideals of this church that keep binding all of us together, leaning into our areas of discomfort, and asking where love is calling us next. The racial justice journey has been spot on for our own growth. The Sunday services consistently call us to be our better selves. The sermons, interlaced with our ministers’ personal experiences, have given us much to chew on, discuss, and be nourished by. The Calls to Worship, the tremendously varied music, and the cumulative effect of sharing silence together have all contributed to our deepening commitment to this community.

Now that we have entered into this Capital Campaign, we want to acknowledge the shoulders of those who have gone before us, and we want to be the shoulders for the ones who will come after.

Everyone has experienced enough emotional pain in life to understand the depth of our gratitude that we are seen and embraced by this community as a gay couple. We are joyfully looking forward to this September when Rev. Elaine, the choir, our families, and friends new and old will help us celebrate our wedding in this church.”

