

PETERBOROUGH UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH

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The Rev. Dr. David Robins, Minister
Sarah Franklin, Director of Religious Education
The Rev. David Van Strien, Minister Emeritus

Vanessa Amsbury, Office Administrator
Maria Belva, Director of Music
Marybeth Hallinan, organ/piano

October 24, 2013

Dear Barbara Bernstein,

In the event that funding becomes available, we request that the Public Utility Commission consider our grant request of \$40,000 toward the purchase and installation of a new wood pellet burning boiler. The total cost will be around \$81,000, and we hope to raise the bulk of the money through a capital fund drive and grants. Our funding options are limited due to our size: We are not a large scale entity, nor are we eligible for a homeowner tax rebate.

The energy company, A.W. Peters has informed us that our current oil fired boiler will last, at best for a year.

While we are registered with the state of New Hampshire as a religious organization, we have come to serve the Monadnock area as one of the region's community centers. We want to continue providing meeting space at the lowest possible rate for community groups such as:

- Two AA groups
- Monadnock Children's Choirs
- River Community Center classes
- Peterborough Grange
- Children and the Arts
- NH Dance Institute
- Turning Point Theater (for members of the community of people with disabilities)
- Narcotics Anonymous

In addition, our congregation staffs and supports a weekly community supper, 52 weeks a year, at which 80-120 people are provided a meal and a sense of community.

Yes, we could install an oil fired boiler for \$18,000, but we also know that this is the most environmentally damaging route. With a wood pellet furnace we would become carbon neutral, thus helping to maintain the healthy environment for which New Hampshire is valued. Our new boiler would displace 2,500 gallons of fuel oil per year and thus spare the atmosphere approximately 28 3/4 tons of CO2 per year. To date we have spent \$44,000 toward bringing our buildings closer to "carbon neutral." In addition, a wood pellet boiler would allow us to cut our energy costs in half, thus ensuring affordable meeting space for the area's self-help groups and non-profits.

Sincerely,

David Robins