



Dear UU folks,

We need your help in fund raising for a new (refurbished) baby grand piano for the sanctuary. Most of the funds are already budgeted, but we (the Piano Task Force) would like to raise an additional \$8,800 by August 1 to complete the purchase and make any small renovations to the sanctuary needed for this instrument. Our fundraising goal amounts to \$100/key for an 88-key piano. Can you help out by contributing to one note, a half note, or a full chord (3 notes)? Or, for the bold, a full octave?

Why do we need a new piano? Our upright piano in the sanctuary has reached the end of its musical life. The keys stick, it doesn't stay in tune, and is slowly falling apart! The "Piano Task Force" has been meeting to consider alternatives for a new piano.

We've concluded that a rebuilt baby grand piano, located on the west side of the sanctuary stage (not on the main floor) would provide excellent musical quality and excellent acoustics.

Why a baby grand? A baby grand piano has a number of advantages over an upright piano: the tone is more balanced and full, the keys are more sensitive to touch, the foot pedals operate (somewhat) differently, it is less sensitive to temperature fluctuations, and the piano holds its value longer (does not depreciate as quickly). In addition, having a top-quality piano available makes our sanctuary more attractive for guest musicians and as rental space for students and others wishing to use it for recitals. We have placed an option to buy a refurbished Steinway baby grand at the cost lower than a new piano. Steinway is consistently rated one of the top pianos in the world.

Why put the piano on the stage? Locating the piano on the west side of the stage would allow the sound board (which opens to the right) to project the music to the entire sanctuary. Currently, a mic located at the back of the upright piano is used to do this amplification since the sound board opens to the back and thus faces the wrong way for the full sound to be heard without amplification. Locating the piano on the stage would free up one more pew for people to sit in during Sunday services and allow the pianist to easily see the conductor when performing with the choir. A baby grand is a lovely musical instrument that will add visual tone to the stage (like our pipe organ does).

Most of the funds needed for the piano purchase are already available through a line item in the church budget and the Kent Conrad music fund. A small fundraising effort

would be needed to reach the final goal. Our church's musical program is consistently listed as one of our most valued qualities in congregational surveys, and we think upgrading our piano will enhance our musical quality.

If you'd like to donate online, go to the [UUCUC web "Give" page](#) and click on the "Online Donation and Payment Form". Pledge your donation to the "Kent Conrad Memorial Music Fund" and then complete the remaining information about you and your bank account as prompted.

If you'd like to donate by check, make your check out to the UU Church with "Kent Conrad Music Fund" on the memo line. Just mail your check to the church or bring it to the next Sunday service and place it in the offering basket.

If you are unable to donate at this time, send us your well wishes!

We want to conclude this fund raising by **August 1st**, so we can install the new piano before the beginning of the fall services. Just imagine how nice this piano will sound accompanying the choir!

If you have questions, please ask one of the members of the Piano Task Force: Tanja Hodges (chair), Jerry Carden, Bill Childers, Matthew Gladden, Jim Hannum, Anne Sharpe, Tim Temple, Charlie Wisseman, and Sarah Wisseman.