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Dear Friends,

It is a privilege to greet you as I begin my service as the next Chairperson of Union Chapel, a role which I accept with humility. With my first annual appeal letter I am reaching out to you on a matter of some urgency.

Union Chapel is the oldest public building here on Shelter Island. Unfortunately, this historic structure is showing its age. Emerging water leaks compel us to replace the roof which, thankfully, has lasted 30+ years. The worn and damaged louvers, trim, and shingles atop the Chapel bell tower also need to be repaired and painted. The total cost for this project will approach \$60,000. This capital maintenance work will be a major undertaking for Union Chapel, thereby raising the fiscal breadth of this year's annual appeal.

Our past Chairperson Jay Sterling's passion and erudite charm drew me to Union Chapel years ago. During Jay's 14-year leadership as Chairperson, he worked closely with the Board of Trustees to build on our strengths: expanding our spiritual embrace, interfaith worship, holding our services outdoors, and honoring local volunteer organizations — all innovations at his initiative. Jay remains an active trustee and a member of our Executive Committee.

As you may know, we have no members and we are not affiliated with any denomination. The Chapel's strength is that it represents many things to the people of Shelter Island: a place of worship, culture and respite, a venue for weddings and memorial services, and a landmark and historic home where all are welcome. Whatever might inspire you to support Union Chapel, please give generously to help keep the Chapel as a living symbol of our special Shelter Island community.

Sincerely,

Doug Sherrod
Chairperson