As I write this, I'm aware that tomorrow is the first Monday of 2010, and it's a working Monday for those with jobs.

As I look at my calendar, I also see that my congregation's Canvass Committee has its start-up meeting Wednesday evening. Indeed, congregational work will be back in full swing. Making financial ends meet for this Fiscal Year, and starting to think about the next Fiscal Year are upon all of us.

My request is that whoever reads this takes it upon him/herself to download a few wonderful and important documents from our UUA and share them with their Boards.

First, may I suggest "We Build This Community", an easy-to-read review of all the programmatic work that the UUA does with your donations. As Board members change, it may be helpful to give new members a quick overview. You'll find this at uua.org/documents/stew-dev/apf/apf_brochure.pdf.

Second, at uua.org/documents/stew-dev you'll find excellent materials to help your Boards think through stewardship.

Third, please download the Summer 2009 Newsletter. Enjoy the article about the Central Midwest District's very own Third Unitarian Church of Chicago: "Generosity as a Spiritual Path." Then read about two congregations that have worked hard to become and sustain Fair Share generosity. You may download this Newsletter at uua.org/documents/stew-dev/apf/0909_news.pdf.

Here’s to a Special New Year for all our congregations.

Neil Lichtman