

## UU Congregation at Rock Tavern Unanimously Passes Re-building Plan

At a special congregational meeting on March 2, 2008, the UU Congregation at Rock Tavern (NY) unanimously passed a floor plan for rebuilding. After the early morning fire of September 12, 2006, destroyed the UUCRT's sanctuary, RE classrooms, and all possessions, the congregation and building committee have been energetically working toward re-building. The UUCRT is committed to building green and has secured the architectural services of Alfandre Architecture in New Paltz NY, with Rick Alfandre, a LEED certified architect committed to building environmentally sustainable buildings, and David Ekroth, a UU, as lead architect. The civil engineer is Troy Wojciekofsky, PE, Senior Project Manager at Fuss and O'Neill, located in Poughkeepsie NY. This firm ranks in the top 200 environmental firms in the country. The builder is Jim Hinze of Zion Church Builders in Mattawan MI. They only build churches and are dedicated to building the best church at the lowest possible cost.

The new building will be approximately 6,600 square feet, and is designed for growth into the future. It will contain the sanctuary, a fellowship hall, RE classrooms, and offices. The sanctuary will be able to hold up to 200 people.

The capital campaign committee has been working toward beginning the public phase of its campaign, which will begin in April. While insurance monies will help to cover almost two-thirds of the re-building costs, additional monies will be needed in order to build a larger and green building to meet our growing congregation's needs. The slogan of its campaign is: *Rebirth. Rising from the Ashes into the Future*. Congregation members are fully involved in fundraising and grant writing efforts, including having a table at the upcoming Metro NY District Annual Meeting to share our building plans and sell fundraising items.

By Athena A. Drewes, Building Committee Chair