

The Harvest Auction is the largest Congregational fundraiser of the year. The Auction is a well-established event with a written “template” to guide the committee, which allows room for implementation of new ideas and methods. The office manager coordinates much of the work of the auction.

Experience shows choosing co-chairs is a good model for this event. A committee is recruited with volunteers often following along from year to year. Planning begins in late summer for an event held the second Saturday evening in November. The auction is dependent upon the generosity and cooperation of the whole Congregation both for donations of time, food and drink, special events, goods and services and the purchasing power of the Congregation for the items donated!!

The auction is made up of several portions and each one needs a volunteer coordinator and other volunteer assistants:

- A Live Auction complete with auctioneers
- Home Made and Home Grown, Buy It Now and Silent Auction
- Special Events
- Themed Baskets

Other areas of volunteer needs include:

- Welcome table; get bid numbers, guest billing address info for banker, sell 50/50 tickets, auction directions for guests
- Hospitality; food and drink stations, volunteer food, commercially prepared food and kitchen crew
- Decorating; social hall, table rental, lamps, table decorations & special lighting
- Publicity, pre & post planning; volunteer at Sunday sign-up table at UUC, live announcements, newsletter articles, posters, displays, Facebook posts & wrap-up meeting
- Auction night needs include a bid-spotting assistant, sound system & set up for auctioneers, two “Vanna” type volunteers to bring auction items through the audience and to the winning bidder
- Banker; records live bids at the auction and coordinates other bidding areas to produce a statement for each bidder. Works with the office manager in order to collect money by year-end.