



November 28, 2018

Dear friends,

We write out of concern about the large gap between our church budget and the pledges received so far.

One of the responsibilities of an interim pastor is to hold up a mirror to the congregation. I want you to see what I see: You are grateful for each other. You want your lives to matter. You are restless for a practice of the faith that embraces hard questions and makes room for others' journeys. You are willing to sacrifice your time and energy and resources to make a difference. And you may not realize how much good you do.

I'm convinced that the impact of a church can't be tracked just by looking at the budget, or reading the newsletter, or scanning the website, because the gospel takes hold of us in such personal ways, and we live it out in our daily interactions. Our encounters with God and with one other as we worship, serve, and support each other, strengthen us to live out our faith.

We need your help if we are to respond faithfully to the challenges in front of us. As we write, we are **more than \$150,000 behind where we were two years ago, and over \$70,000 behind where we were last year.** Graphs on the back of this letter will give you the details. Please be aware that in order to make last year's budget, we had to **absorb cuts to important ministries** and to **draw \$40,000 from our reserve fund.** We are blessed to have had the resources to make that draw, but **cannot sustain that kind of budgeting as an ongoing practice.**

This is a crucial year in the life of this historic congregation. Prospective pastors will be deeply encouraged by the commitment you demonstrate at the threshold of this new beginning.

In this season of pregnant waiting on the God who makes all things new, will you help us to move into the future confident that we can meet the needs that press upon us?

If you have pledged already, thank you for leading the way. If you have not yet pledged, we would be so grateful to hear from you. Not all of your neighbors will be in a position to respond. If you are someone who is able to reach deeper, you will bless not only this church you love, but so many who are reached through her ministries.

Grace and Peace,

Margaret LaMotte Torrence
Interim Pastor

Scott E. Smith
Stewardship Co-Chair

Kelli H. Smith
Stewardship Co-Chair