

January 3, 2023

Meetinghouse Church Members & Friends,

Since the Fall, we've been unpacking a simple idea.

The God who created **all of us**,
Loves **all of us**, and
Calls to **all of us**,
To bring **all of us**.

From thoughtful sermons to heartfelt Monday Meditations to mission partner highlights to all the ways we've gathered together in community, we've considered what it means to bring all of ourselves to the body of Christ for the sake of our neighbors.

For the sake of our neighbors. That's our throughline, our heartbeat, our purpose - to be a church where neighbors feel God's **welcome**, where they have permission to **risk** bringing their whole selves to life and faith, to **wrestle** with the tensions between them, to **immerse** in God's presence through sacred rhythms and practices, and of course, to become people who **do good** for Christ's sake.

To be that kind of Church, it's taken members and supporters who believe in what we're doing, feel the impact in their own lives, and bring all of themselves, **including committing to supporting it financially**.

After our Town Hall in November, we are learning that we can do much better talking about our investment budget, and how that relates to our finances. We haven't always been direct in asking you to give as you're able, and we want to do better in being transparent about our finances and what it takes to continue the work we're doing.

So this January, **we're inviting you to discern your financial commitments to Meetinghouse Church in the 2023 calendar year.**

And we use the word "discern" intentionally. At the heart of a Congregational church, there is each individual discerning the leading of God's Spirit for themselves and bringing that discernment to our community. Too often, it's easy to draw lines between what is sacred and what is ordinary, and think of our financial commitments as something to figure out on our own.

That's why we invite you to take this opportunity to invite God's Spirit into conversation as you submit your pledge to Meetinghouse Church. Bring every dimension of the decision - what Meetinghouse means to you, our current financial picture, your own financial situation - and bring it before Jesus as an open question.

We're asking that you complete your pledge and submit it by Sunday, January 29, 2023. Before then, we'll be sharing a number of reflections and bits of information to guide your discernment, but you're welcome to submit your pledge any time before then.

As we focus on stewardship in 2023, it is our aim to reduce the deficit from our investment budget both before the end of the fiscal year in April and thereafter, even as we seek to manage our expenses more efficiently. Together, as we bring all of ourselves, we are hopeful to chart out a future where Meetinghouse Church stands on solid ground financially, where each member clarifies how they'll be stewards financially, and where we are set up for even greater impact... **for the sake of our neighbors.**

Seeking Christ and our neighbor's good with you,

Jeff Lindsay, *Senior Minister*

Steven Anderson, *Moderator*

Deborah Eckland, *Vice Moderator*

Jason Phillips, *Treasurer*