

2021 Stewardship Campaign: *Emerging into Action*

Following a year and a half of lockdowns, social gathering limitations and isolation, I'm sure we are all yearning to resume life as it was before the Coronavirus had such a severe and limiting impact. Our facilities at Chapel Hill and the Trinity Neighborhood Center were shutdown for many months, which not only prevented us from worshipping together, but also caused anguishing delays, postponements and cancellations to our new and ongoing projects in service to our community.

Unfortunately, we are still dealing with threats and unknowns of the virus and its mutations. But vaccination and the scientific advancement of our understanding of how the virus is spread and how it can be effectively contained have allowed us to resume many activities of the church that have been missed by so many. We have reopened our facilities for worship and other activities, had some leadership meetings in person, have resumed local mission projects such as the Snack Pack, Food Pantry, and Haven of Rest programs, and continue to support global missional needs such as disaster relief through UMCOR and Sager-Brown and support of Salud y Paz.

So it feels like we are emerging from the pandemic. Slowly, perhaps, but emerging nonetheless. And we are emerging with a pent-up energy to resume actions to support our congregation and help others.

These plans of action require support from all of us. Financially, we continue to bear the costs of staffing and operating our facilities; Ministry Shares, our support for operations and missions of the Michigan Conference of the United Methodist Church; and local and global mission projects. We are also excited about moving forward with our Trinity Neighborhood missional objectives. Trinity Community Development Inc. has hired an Executive Director to raise funds, manage projects and interface with the neighborhood, a long held objective that was put on hold by the pandemic. This is a big step forward in our strategic plan and one that requires financial support from Chapel Hill as the fledgling operation gets established and develops the ability to self-fund its projects, activities and operations.



These plans also require a lot of volunteer support for the leadership team, mission projects and congregational care. As always, stewardship is about a lot more than financial support. We encourage you to use that pent-up energy to utilize your skills and abilities to support the church and its missions.

In mid-October you will receive your 2021 Stewardship Packet either at a Sunday worship service or by mail. After careful and prayerful reflection, please return the 2022 Faith Promise Card and EFT form (if desired) to the church office either by mail or by dropping them off in person during regular office hours no later than **October 29**. On Sunday **November 14** our commitments will be consecrated for use in God's kingdom during our worship services. Prompt return of the forms will be appreciated as we must estimate income for the coming year. If you do not receive a Packet, please contact the church office so that we can get one to you.

In closing, the Bible instructs us in *1 Timothy 6:18-19* to be rich in actions and generosity:

They are to do good, to be rich in good works, generous, and ready to share, thus storing up for themselves the treasure of a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of the life that really is life. (NRSV)

It is my prayer that we will emerge from the pandemic with renewed energy for action to serve, financially and physically, in our calling to make Disciples for Jesus Christ. Be blessed and be a blessing,

Chuck Miller, Finance Committee Chair