

November 9, 2017

Dear Members and Friends:

As we near the close of 2017, we are thankful for your generous support of the ministry of Emmanuel Presbyterian Church. Your prayers, faithful service, and financial gifts allow us to exalt in the glory of God, reaching our community and world with His love in Jesus Christ.

We write you today to provide a summary update of Emmanuel Presbyterian Church’s current financial position. We have also included your financial statement through October to help you consider your intentions before year end. (In June, we voted to change our fiscal year to match the calendar year; December 31 is the year-end close for our giving cycle.)

The good news about our financial status is that we have adequate resources for our church ministries and programs, and continue to be blessed by families who remember Emmanuel in their bequests. While we are hopeful that these kinds of gifts will continue, we know as your Session that they are not the basis upon which we can build our financial future. Instead, these gifts have created a reserve that allows us to live out our code—*Experiencing the Grace of Jesus; Caring Deeply; Bridging Differences; and Moving Beyond Church—*ina new context of ministry.

In the coming year, while maintaining our current staffing and programs, we anticipate significant capital expenses for which we need to raise funds. We have received several gifts to help replace the antiquated sound system in the sanctuary and are receiving bids. We urgently need to upgrade our children’s play area and make rooms more functional for the growing number of children in our programs. And, we need to paint the exterior of our buildings. These improvements can only be accomplished with the support of our Emmanuel family.

The challenge we face: in our most recent fiscal year, our monthly expenses have exceeded—by $12,000 to $20,000—the total we receive each month in offerings. While our financial health has allowed us to absorb this budget deficit, we know this pattern is not sustainable. Instead, we believe that our reserve status has given us a window of opportunity to correct our financial course. For example, if every household contributed $50 per month more to Emmanuel, we could immediately cease the use of our reserves. Realistically, we know that’s not quite how it works; some can give more and others are giving all they can. But the formula and solution are workable with everyone’s participation. More details will be provided at our January congregational meeting. Until then, watch for updates and join us in praying for the vitality of our congregation and our ministries.

God has blessed Emmanuel mightily over half a century. In turn, we are asked to be cheerful givers for the work of His kingdom. Can we cheerfully narrow the gap between our expenses and offerings before the end of 2017? We believe we can. Thank you in advance for your generosity to God’s work in and through all of us.

Yours in Christ’s mission,

The Session of Emmanuel Presbyterian Church

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