



Dear Friends,

It is hard to believe that it has been almost 1 year since I was called to be your pastor. What a wonderful time it has been. So much great ministry, outreach, and fun has happened. I have told you before and I mean it with sincerity: Wesley-Knox United Church is the healthiest church I have ever pastored: spiritually, emotionally, and relationally. The only place the Church suffers is in our financial health.

I believe in Wesley-Knox and what it is that God has called us to do together. People are coming to us and finding a safe, loving place to explore their faith and come to know an authentic relationship with God. What we do here is not just important, it's necessary! We are changing lives for God. We are giving hope and new life to those who may not find it elsewhere. For some, we are restoring faith in organized religion for the first time in many years.

In recent years we have run a serious deficit, some years almost \$190,000! We do have savings, but the fact is that even with a large savings, it doesn't take long for the reserve to run out. I am writing to ask for your help. I know that the people of this church are loving and generous people and have a history of stepping up when needed.

So, I am asking you, challenging us all, to prayerfully consider increasing your weekly giving to the church. If you are not here weekly, why not set up auto-giving through PAR so that you support the church even when you are not here? That alone would meet a great deal of the need! You can do so by contacting the office or getting a PAR form from a greeter any Sunday. Rob and I have done it now for many years and it's so easy. \$800.00 comes out of our bank account every month. I share that with you, not to be too personal, but to let you know that I am not asking you to do anything I am not doing. As your minister, I am called to lead by example. Rob and I consider you our family and we are blessed to have you! This place is a priority for us, and we want our giving to reflect that reality.

My challenge is for all of us to commit to systematic giving. Setting aside a portion of our income and dedicating it to the ministries of the Church. If we work together intentionally, each of us according to our abilities, we can begin the process of cutting the deficit and making sure Wesley-Knox United Church is a fiscally healthy place for years to come!

On November 12th, we will celebrate stewardship Sunday when we will be invited to dedicate our pledges for the new year for the work of God in the Church and world. So, will you join me on this journey? Please prayerfully consider how your giving can reflect the priority of your faith, your commitment and love for the Church, and your generous response for the blessings in your life.

Thank you for your continued support, your faithfulness, and your love. And in case I haven't told you recently, it is such a joy to be your minister!

Blessings.

Rev Rob +