



# GRAND BLANC UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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Dear friends in Christ,

As a church family, we find ourselves each and every fall, participating in what we have come to call our annual Stewardship or “Pledge” Campaign. This is the process we use each year to invite one another to prayerfully consider what our anticipated financial generosity will be for the coming year – and more specifically, our church giving. We do this for a couple of reasons:

1. **The Practical Purpose:** Your pledge for your giving in the coming year allows us as the church’s Finance Committee to develop an operating budget for 2026. This budget then prepares us to be able to faithfully and responsibly resource the ministries we have all become so passionate about.
2. **The Spiritual Purpose:** The practice of generosity is a *spiritual discipline*, much like prayer, worship and serving our neighbors. Not only does generosity connect us more closely to our gratitude for all that God has entrusted to us that we might share it, it also helps to connect our lives more intimately to the God’s generous nature.

In other words, while the process of pledging and the act of giving have very practical purposes, the spiritual impact on our lives is remarkably healthy and fruitful!

This fall, the Finance Committee is approaching the annual pledge campaign a bit differently – or at least with a new component. In recent months, we have encouraged the church’s many committees and ministry teams to explore the costs of potential ministries and ministry enhancements, and to provide a “budget projection” – an itemized list of what possible additions there could be to the church’s budget *if* the added funding were to be pledged. Think of these budget projections as “*ministry wish lists*” of sorts. Now, we want to share those projections – *wish lists* – with you in hopes that it will give you a sense of what new things your generosity could possibly help make a reality.

Some of these budget additions would include, but are not limited to:

- Funding to continue new children and youth ministry programs such as the “Back to School Bash” held in September, as well as Christmas celebrations for children and youth in December.
- The addition of a new church staff position: *Coordinator of Adult Faith Formation* in order to continue the creation of small group ministries, support current adult ministry groups, and develop new ministry opportunities for our college and young adult communities.

- Funding to support the ministry of our new *Church and Society* group.
- Continued support for our wonderful team of staff.

Our current operating budget for 2025 is \$320,767 which allows for a wide variety of ministry and ministry support, including among other things pastoral and support staff; program ministries for children, youth and adults; outreach, missionary and connectional ministry support; facilities maintenance and utilities; and so much more! **You have been faithfully supporting this budget with your generosity!** The additional budget projections listed above would represent a budget increase for 2026 of approximately \$21,000 or an approximate 6.5% increase.

While these ministry wish list projections are not yet funded and remain just that – a wish list – our hope is that you will join me in starting to envision how these supportive pieces and ministry additions to the budget would continue to further Grand Blanc United Methodist Church’s ministry and impact. The invitation that I share with you this: how can we allow your generosity and this vision to come together? Will you prayerfully consider a pledge increase this year?

**Enclosed with this letter, you will find a pledge card that you are encouraged to complete and return using the pre-addressed envelope. If you would like, you can also bring your pledge with you to worship on Sunday, October 26<sup>th</sup> for our “Commitment Sunday” during which we’ll celebrate the pledges that are being made for the coming year, and the generosity they represent. If you’d prefer to submit your pledge online through SubSplash, you are able to do that, as well.**

As you prayerfully consider your pledge for the coming year, whether you have pledged in the past, or perhaps this is your first time doing so, please know that your generosity is appreciated beyond what can be conveyed with words. It is the collective generosity of this church family that allows us to continue to resource all aspects of our ministry, and you are no small part of that! Thank you.

Peace,

Pastor Brian