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2015 PLEDGE REQUEST – PLEDGE SUNDAY, OCTOBER 26

October 22, 2014

Dear Westminster Family:

When I became the Stewardship Elder three short years ago, I had three specific goals:

- To make sure every pledge was thanked specifically for their support;
- To make our financial information a bit more accessible and easier to understand;
- To make stewardship a more important part of our worship life together.

Time flies and the door is already hitting me on the backside. I do hope that you have experienced our thankful spirit; I do hope that you know a little bit more about Westminster's finances; I do hope that you have experienced a greater connection between your financial stewardship and our worship experience.

At our Stewardship Committee Luncheon this past Sunday, and with the Stewardship Committee and Session, we have set five goals for the 2015 Budget:

- 1) Given our upcoming capital campaign in the spring of 2015, we want the amount of revenue we budget for pledges to be the same – no growth. This means overall we are not expecting pledge revenue to grow. New pledges will have to replace pledges that do not renew and for every pledge that goes down, we need another pledge to increase;
- 2) Honor our recent funding commitments to our improved communication effort and our core missions through Camp Henry, the Child Development Center, and the Food Pantry;
- 3) Continue our active/hands-on approach to mission, not just writing checks;
- 4) Fund a 2% wage adjustment for staff by finishing 2014 with at least +\$15,000;
- 5) Breakeven Budget: no dependence on prior year reserves to balance the budget.

Enclosed is your pledge card for 2015. Our request is simple. Reflect on the importance of Westminster to you and those you love, and respond with a pledge of financial support for 2015. Then, we would like you to do the following:

- Bring your pledge card with you to worship this coming Sunday, October 26, and dedicate your pledge with your church family at either service that day. If you leave your pledge card at home, one will be waiting for you in the pew;
- If you are unable to attend worship in person on October 26, please mail your pledge card to the church office in the self addressed envelope enclosed; or
- Simply pledge on-line at www.westminstergr.org/pledge.

Our church continues to do amazing work. Please join me in continuing this vital ministry. Thank you in advance for your generosity. See you on Sunday, October 26.

Paul Karsten
Elder for Stewardship