



WESTMINSTER  
PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH  
47 JEFFERSON AVE SE  
GRAND RAPIDS, MI 49503

October 23, 2017

Dear Westminster Friends:

Chandler recently asked Session about what it means to be “faithful to the living God” in anticipation of our stewardship season. We all shared personal stories of the people who taught us to give and how we spent our first paycheck. (Full disclosure: my paperboy money went to McDonald’s cheeseburgers.) When Chandler asked us, “Why do you choose to give to Westminster?” I expected everyone’s responses to be similar, but instead I heard:

“... because I believe in the Westminster Welcome.”

“... because I’m grateful for the spiritual journey Westminster helps me nurture.”

“... because I love our calling to be a positive influence of hope in our community.”

It’s remarkable to me that our individual calls to support Westminster arrive from so many different paths, but our journeys all convene here. As Westminster moves into 2018, we continue to strengthen what brought us here and to also challenge ourselves in new ways, such as:

- **Expanding our call to mission and participation.** We have expanded the mission team to continue practicing participation as a key way we change our community.
- **Creating new opportunities in adult faith formation.** We have outstanding programs for children and youth, but we want to also focus on the formation of adults of all ages.
- **Increasing staff wages by 2.5 percent.** We have exceptional staff and want to honor their work with a cost-of-living increase in today’s competitive job market.

We can achieve these important initiatives with a small increase in next year’s budget. **With this in mind, we ask you to prayerfully consider a 3 percent increase to your 2017 pledge.**

This Dedication Sunday, please bring the enclosed pledge card to church so we can bring them forward in each service to celebrate our gifts together. If you cannot make it to church that day, please submit your pledge as soon as possible so we can finalize our 2018 budget. Our congregation is so devoted and generous to our church family. We are grateful for your continued gifts.

Grace and peace,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dave Driscoll".

Dave Driscoll  
Interim Elder for Stewardship