

# THE TWO PLEDGES FOR OUR SHARED MINISTRY EXPLAINED

## THE GENERAL FUND

Our combined gifts to the General Fund help achieve our mission to introduce people to new life in Jesus Christ that grows into enthusiastic Christian living.

Your support is the lifeblood for the ministries we carry out in support of our mission, including worship, outreach, education, and community life for all ages. Joined together, we can share the Good News of Jesus Christ with one another, our community, and beyond.

Our Church Council is responsible for the stewardship of our offerings. They provide oversight for not only our offerings, but for our expenses, seeking to provide the best possible management of our resources. We are grateful for all who have responded in recent months to the call to fully fund our shared ministry in 2016. We were 17% behind the previous year's General Fund giving at the end of September. Today, we are 12% behind. We are certainly making progress!

## THE MORTGAGE FUND

Our facilities are tools for our mission and ministry. The Mortgage Fund provides support for monthly mortgage payments that were \$98,652 annually. In 2016, however we refinanced for the second time since building our new worship building and now need \$87,660 annually to pay our mortgage. We have kept these funds separate so that, when we are far enough ahead, we can intentionally pay down our mortgage more quickly, saving thousands of dollars in interest that can eventually be used, instead, for our mission. This year, thanks in large part to two generous donor families, our giving is already 7.73% ahead of what we need for the entire year!

When the balance in the Mortgage Fund grows above the needed minimum, we have the option to pay down the principal on the mortgage. Experience has shown that congregations that keep their mortgage fund separate from the general fund, often pay down debt more quickly, freeing resources to be used for ministry. We are grateful for the increase in gifts toward the Mortgage Fund in 2016.

## FINANCIAL GOALS

The minimum financial goal for the General Fund is \$294,070.00 in 2017. This is the amount to support our planned current ministries for 2017 if there are no increases.

The minimum financial goal for the Mortgage Fund is \$87,660.00. This is the amount needed to pay the mortgage for 12 months. The current balance on the mortgage is \$1,234,974.88, with any balance to be refinanced after 15 years from the original loan, or in about 7 years.

