

## 2020 STEWARDSHIP COMMITMENTS

September 12, 2019

Dear Benson Memorial Family,

Grace and peace be with you. We hope that you have had a great summer that included a chance to refresh your mind, body, and soul. One of the things I do each fall is prepare my yard to plant a new crop of grass seed. My lawn is fescue and it relies on the cooler fall temperatures to sprout. Given the right amount of water, sunlight, and care, the grass seed takes hold in the fall and even though you can't see it happening, the grass develops a strong root system so it can make it through the winter, enabling it to emerge as a thick, lush yard the following spring.

Fescue seed is somewhat counterintuitive. You need to plant it just before it gets cold, rather than just before it gets hot. If you don't plan well enough in advance, the chances of having a nice, full yard of grass diminishes greatly.

At Benson Memorial United Methodist Church, we have a long history of planning well ahead so that we can maximize our positive impact on our community, our state, the nation, and the world. During the month of September, you'll see a series of videos during our worship services and on our website that will show how we've done this in the last year. I think you'll find that the number of ministries we take part in and the number of people we impact is amazing!

Our stewardship campaign is the key to helping us maximize our ability to spread the love of Christ. By helping us understand how we can count on you to Gather, Grow, Give, and Go, you are essentially sowing your individual grass seeds so that as we go into 2020, our collective lawn will be vibrant and lush. So, as we did last year, we're asking that as you consider your financial commitment to the church for 2020, you'll also consider how you are going to participate in our Gather, Grow, and Go ministries.

For the last several years, we've been asking you to consider committing to giving a percentage of your annual income. Committing to a percentage is helpful because it gives you an accurate view of your giving in proportion to your income. It's also a reminder that we understand life ebbs and flows, jobs are gained and lost, and emergencies happen.

While our church has an amazing impact already, if everyone gave just 0.5% more of their annual income to the Operating Fund, we would have more than \$100,000 available for additional outreach. That's the power of multiplication: many very small increments can generate a big impact. Therefore, we encourage all of you to consider growing in generosity through a pledge of at least 0.5% more to the Operating Fund than last year.

We recently celebrated paying off our Fellowship Hall renovation. Even though the capital campaign for that renovation has ended, the need to save for our capital maintenance needs is ever-growing. Over and above your percentage giving, gifts to the Capital Maintenance Fund are welcome and necessary.

As we move into our stewardship season and approach Commitment Sunday on October 6, we're excited to see all the ways that you plan to commit to Gather, Grow, Give, and Go in 2020. On the back of this letter, you'll find instructions to help you fill out the enclosed trifold.



On behalf of the Stewardship Committee, Pastor Kelly Lyn, and Pastor Jeff, grace and peace be with you,  
Bob Sylvester, Stewardship Committee Chair



Please find the enclosed trifold and do the following:

- Write your name or the name of your family on the outside of the pamphlet.
- Under the headings of *Gather*, *Grow*, and *Go*, you'll find several activities you can commit to take part in in 2020. Check the box next to the activities you'd like to commit to.
- Use the chart below to figure out how much you plan to give financially to the church in 2020. Use that number to help you complete the information under the heading of *Give*.
- Be sure to make a commitment for **each** area: *Gather*, *Grow*, *Give*, and *Go*.

*Example: Total household income is \$54,000. If we choose to give 2%, we calculate  $54,000 \times 0.02$ , so we would give \$1,080 to the church each year.*

|   |                     |                                    |
|---|---------------------|------------------------------------|
| Our total household income is \$ _____. |                     |                                    |
| If we choose to give 1%                 | Total income x 0.01 | \$ _____ would be our annual gift. |
| If we choose to give 2%                 | Total income x 0.02 | \$ _____ would be our annual gift. |
| If we choose to give 3%                 | Total income x 0.03 | \$ _____ would be our annual gift. |
| If we choose to give 4%                 | Total income x 0.04 | \$ _____ would be our annual gift. |
| If we choose to give 5%                 | Total income x 0.05 | \$ _____ would be our annual gift. |
| If we choose to give 6%                 | Total income x 0.06 | \$ _____ would be our annual gift. |
| If we choose to give 7%                 | Total income x 0.07 | \$ _____ would be our annual gift. |
| If we choose to give 8%                 | Total income x 0.08 | \$ _____ would be our annual gift. |
| If we choose to give 9%                 | Total income x 0.09 | \$ _____ would be our annual gift. |
| If we choose to give 10%                | Total income x 0.1  | \$ _____ would be our annual gift. |