



Growing Love at Indian Run

2018 INDIAN RUN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN

Dear friends,

One of our little guys handed me the note to the right after church recently. I couldn't agree with him more! This note is just one simple demonstration of the impact our church is having. What a joy it is to be part of a church that is growing love in so many powerful ways!

As we consider our annual commitments to the church during this "I'm IN!" stewardship season, I want to share with you some important information regarding the financial life of our church.

I'm pleased to be able to say that **the financial position of our church is strong!** Your faithful financial support of Indian Run has enabled us to grow love in tremendous ways over the course of this year, and it has allowed our leaders to dream big about the future of our church and its ministries.



Through your response to last year's I'm IN campaign, we were able to set an income budget of \$760,000 for 2017, and we are on target to meet or exceed that income budget. Once again, thank you for your faithfulness! Because of the strength of our income, our church leadership was able to step forward in faith in the following ways this past year:

- Growing our youth ministries staffing from half-time to full-time
- Funding missions through our operating budget for the first time in several years
- Replacing our part-time cleaning service with a full-time building manager to keep our facilities in good condition
- Growing our denominational apportionment payments from 0% to 20%, with a goal to increase this payment by at least 20% each year until we are back to 100% payment
- Offering a competitive compensation and benefits package to attract top-notch staff
- Refinancing our mortgage with additional funding to cover the costs of building repairs

The good news is that each of these initiatives were able to be completed while continuing to maintain a positive financial position for the church. The challenge before us in this season is to continue that positive momentum.

In a recent Church Council meeting, our chair encouraged our ministry leaders to "be bold!" in their dreams and plans for their areas of ministry in the coming year. The bold dreams that God has planted in our leaders will require additional financial support from all of us if they are to be realized. To fund the ministry dreams that God has given us, as well as the commitments we have already made, we will need to expand our budget by about \$90,000 (or about 12%) in 2018 to a total of \$850,000. This additional funding will enable us to:

- Grow love in ourselves and our families by expanding funding for children's, youth, & family ministries (\$15,000)
- Grow love in the community and world by increasing apportionment payments to 40% (\$15,000)
- Pay for a full year of staff expansion (\$30,000)
- Expand the funding available to trustees to continue to care for our facilities (\$30,000)

Please prayerfully consider your ability to expand your financial support of Indian Run's ministries. As the Bible demonstrates, some will be able to give more and some will be able to give less, but when we each play the part that God is calling us to play, the whole body is able to function exactly as God intends.

I look forward to being a part of the growth of love that God has in store through the ministries of Indian Run in the coming year, and I thank God for each of you who help make those ministries happen.

Growing love alongside you,

Pastor Jeff

— P.S. Be sure to check out the enclosed flyer regarding some exciting new electronic giving options!