



10/14/2020

Dear CHPC Members and Friends:

2020 has been a year like no other. We are living in extraordinary times. And looking to 2021, CHPC has a financial need like no other. This is not cause for despair, but for “abundant hope.” As Paul said to the Romans during turbulent times:

Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you will abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. (Romans 15:13 NET)

In the midst of uncertainty, God is our refuge and our strength. Our God is a God of hope, and the power for such abundant hope comes from the presence of the Holy Spirit in our midst.

Even in a year like no other, we have much to be hopeful about. God has blessed us with a faithful community that has adapted to new ways to connect, worship, and serve.

- Our congregation has moved forward in so many positive ways, with renewed health, and a continued commitment to transparency and healing.
- Our Pastor Nominating Committee is working right now to call a full time pastor to lead CHPC in the years ahead.
- Nearly one-third of current CHPC members have joined our church over just the last 2 years.
- There are more children and youth entrusted to our care at CHPC than ever before.
- We are preparing for the future with plans from the [capital campaign task force](#).

**Our immediate need for 2021 is to fill a financial gap in our budget due to COVID restrictions.** Each year, it takes about \$400,000 of financial resources to support our shared ministry led by a full-time pastor, music director and dedicated staff, in terms of preaching, teaching, fellowship, mission, including the use of our historic meeting and worship space. As we moved quickly to restart on-line, we have reviewed the budget to pare back wherever we can—it’s not business as usual.

Our annual budget is funded from three main sources: annual pledge donations (\$200,000), loose offerings (\$20,000), and fees for use of the Washington Seminar Center and other space (usually \$180,000). However, in 2020, fees from the Seminar Center and space use have essentially gone to zero, and are expected to stay that way well into 2021. This sharp drop was only partially offset by a one-time PPP loan (\$34,000). **Overall, income for CHPC has dropped by about 1/3, with an ongoing shortfall of about \$6,000 per month.**



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We can make up this gap either through increased contributions, more severe cutbacks, or dipping into our reserves. While we have accumulated reserves to draw on now, the more we eat into our nest egg, the less we will have to build for the future and deal with other emergencies.

**Therefore, for 2021, we are asking you to prayerfully consider making a financial commitment to help “fill the gap”.** First, we are mindful that finances are difficult for many people right now--any gift is appreciated. Second, if you have not made an annual financial pledge in the past, we ask you to consider making a pledge for the first time, regardless of the amount. By making a financial commitment to CHPC through a 2021 pledge, we show our gratitude to God and our belief in the mission and goals of this church, this part of the body of Christ. Third, consider increasing your family’s existing pledge in 2021. Any increase--10, 20, or 30%-- will help fill the gap, and reduce the need to tap reserves. Finally, we, the Session, are committing to increase our personal giving for 2021.

Please keep in mind two important dates. This **Sunday, October 18**, please stay after worship during virtual coffee hour for Q and A about stewardship and the CHPC budget. Then, by **Dedication Sunday, November 15**, please pledge online via [Realm](#). We will be dedicating our pledges in worship. Your faithful pledge by **November 15** will help us plan and establish CHPC's 2021 budget.

Now more than ever, we want to ensure that everyone is aware of the many methods of giving that are available, whether you are a long-time CHPC member, a virtual visitor, or looking to simplify your giving habits. This year, we are encouraging everyone to **pledge online using Realm**, CHPC's virtual congregational connection tool, where you can securely enter any giving amount and choose whether to make a one-time donation or a recurring donation. Detailed instructions to make an annual pledge are found on the CHPC [website](#). Paper pledge cards are also available upon request. As we close out 2020, remember that you may give online at any time through our [website](#).

Even during this time when we cannot gather in person, we hope that each of you can discern how God continues to shower abundant blessings on us all, individually and as a church family, and in gratitude for those blessings, give abundantly to support God's work at CHPC.

Yours in Christ,

The Session