



MAYFLOWER

Congregational Church

Nevertheless, the righteous will hold to their ways, and those with clean hands will grow stronger. (Job 19:9)

...to hold fast to him and to serve him with all your heart and with all your soul. (Joshua 22:5)

December 9, 2020

Dear Mayflower Members and Friends,

I am reaching out to you with a follow-up request asking for your help.

One of my stewardship goals is to be completely transparent: here are the current numbers. As a reminder, Council's budget for 2021 is \$985,000. Other than pledges, we do receive other income: our endowment income and non-pledge donations total about \$185,000. A balance of \$800,000 remains solely dependent on membership pledges.

As of 12/8/20, we have received 134 pledges totaling \$499,000 which is 68% of our total Covid-19 reduced budget. 439 pledge cards were sent to Mayflower households and 52 cards were sent to visitors who have contributed in the past. We have heard from only 30% of our membership. These are facts, and as members this is an annual call, not a special request. We faithfully remind you to prayerfully reconsider and respond today.

This year Mayflower has much at risk.

To date, we haven't had to layoff any staff or cut salaries.

We are actively engaged to hire a pastor who can run a complex organization, care for our members, and deliver thought-provoking biblical sermons. There are many pastors, but only a few who can effectively manage these requirements. We must offer a competitive salary to attract someone with these primary qualifications.

Music and Youth Programs are at risk.

Outreach is at risk and has already been cut drastically. Mayflower is one of the wealthiest churches in Grand Rapids, if not West Michigan, and our Outreach programs absolutely impact this community. We simply must restore our 15% commitment for Christian outreach as soon as possible.

Finally, I must re-emphasize that any reference for pledging money does not apply to those who have suffered job or income losses. Your option to take a sabbatical is genuine as we hope others will give to their means as retained income allows -- but please let us know.

To have a chance of staying relevant in our community, we need to hear from the 305 Mayflower households we are missing.

And to our Visitors, thank you for reaching out and joining us!

We are at nearly 70% of our funding commitment and capable of reaching our goal, giving us the ability to maintain a supportive level of service. Mayflower, however, has never been a minimal service congregation -- and there are certainly enough generous influential families to make sure it doesn't become one. Your participation is valued, and your commitment is a blessing to your church and your community.

Remember, this is a personal and confidential process. We will respect your privacy as we would expect, in-kind, our own.

It is my task to provide our Mayflower Council an accurate financial update (good or bad) so

they can make the best informed decisions for our Church's future. I will update everyone in Wednesday's email. I want to make sure we connect with 100% of our membership, not just 30%.

Mayflower members, this is crunch time and we need your help to ensure that Mayflower Church will be able to sail onward toward the brighter horizon -- beyond this virus -- with fair winds and following seas again.

Thank you for your continued stewardship in treasure and faithful prayer,

Ken Goodson, Stewardship Chair

Jim Rogers, Moderator