

May 1, 2018

One in the Spirit

Dear WPC family and friends,



*We are one in the Spirit; we are one in the Lord.*

So begins the popular hymn by Fr. Peter Scholtes, a Catholic priest who wrote the hymn during the Civil Rights movement in Chicago for singing at ecumenical, interracial gatherings.

In our increasingly fragmented world, holding fast to our unity in Christ is as important today as it was when Fr. Scholtes composed his hymn. As members of the Body of Christ and as part of the WPC family, we are indeed ***One in the Spirit***, bound together by the joys and opportunities that come with being God's people.

Each spring, we are invited to renew and deepen our financial giving to WPC as part of our commitment to promote our unity, our ***oneness***. This is the season to reflect on how God is asking all of us to do our part to support the vital ministries that unite us as a church. This is the time to consider all the ways God touches and transforms lives through WPC, like the transcendent moments we experience in worship, the deep connections made in a small group, the way our children learn about the love of Jesus Christ, and the work of our mission partners such as P.A.T.H, FosterAll, and Habitat for Humanity.

Our giving connects us to one another and our world. Giving—regardless of the amount—speaks to our commitment to join together in doing the work God calls us to do. Being ***One in the Spirit*** asks us all to be responsible, faithful stewards of what God has first given us.

As your Stewardship Committee, we thank you for your financial gifts to date. By God's grace, they have enabled our church to thrive and allowed us to fulfill our mission. As we look toward the future, we ask that all who are able will move a percentage point or two toward the tithe (*10% of income*), if you are not tithing already. As your household costs inch up each year, so do the church's expenses. A gift that holds flat year-to-year simply means the church loses ground as costs increase 2-3% every year. A growing, thriving church is not an inexpensive endeavor.

Enclosed you will find information about giving at WPC, along with a 2018-2019 pledge card. It is an invitation to join your Pastors, Stewardship Committee and Session in committing to the ongoing mission of our church. Please join us in making a generous commitment, so that WPC may continue to be a community of faith that truly is ***One in the Spirit***.

Faithfully,

**Your WPC Stewardship Committee**

Jan Doak, Chair  
Sali Fomukong

John Langfitt  
Elton Howard

**P.S.** –If you did not make a pledge for 2017-18, we hope you will join in supporting our shared ministry in 2018-19. We strive for 100% participation – it takes all of us! **Please bring your completed pledge card to church on Sunday, May 20, at which time we will dedicate our pledges as an act of our worship.** If you cannot be present at church of May 20, you may mail your completed pledge card to the church office.