

Deep Roots, New Branches

Stewardship Campaign for 2018



First Congregational Church, UCC

**21 Church Street, Winchester, MA 01890
(781) 729-9180 • www.fcc-winchester.org**

DEEP ROOTS, NEW BRANCHES

"You shall again take root downward and bear fruit upward" – Isaiah 37:30

"When holy is the root, holy are the branches." – Romans 11:16

Dear Friends in Christ,

As we have come back together for the fall of 2017, we have been uncovering our Protestant roots and reflecting on the Protestant Reformation and all that it means for us and our church today. The reformers dug down and reclaimed the roots of the Christian faith through a more faithful reading of the Holy Scriptures and as a result new branches broke forth out of monolithic Medieval Christendom and birthed church communities freshly committed to God's purposes and Christ's love. One of the shoots that emerged from the larger Church of England branch was the Puritans (those "purifiers" of the church) who transplanted themselves into the soil of a land they called New England. That shoot developed into a healthy branch of Congregationalism and on it, in 1840, there blossomed a single new shoot from the Congregational Church in Woburn that became the First Congregational Church in Winchester. The original church building burned to the ground 13 years later, but a new building on the hill was quickly erected (for a whopping \$27,000!) and dedicated in 1854. It is that very church that we call "our church" today.



When we worship God with a full-voiced choir and listen to our sacred scriptures in our beautiful sanctuary, we do so where generations have worshipped before us. When we serve in myriad capacities by walking the streets of Cambridge or filling buckets for Houston or making meals for Woburn, we do so as generations before us have spilled out of this church to serve the world with love. When we teach our children the stories of the faith and encourage them in the ways of Christ and the love of God, we do so in the spirit of children grown and gone who have received and passed on our beautiful faith tradition across the century. When we pray for the healing of one another, when we break bread together at a church potluck, when we gather around tables to study the Bible or read a book of spiritual import, we do so where these sacred activities have gone on for 163 years! That's a lot of love, a lot of faith, a lot of hope. And it's a lot of generosity. For it takes all of that to build and sustain and grow a vital Christian community that continues to branch forth and offer new fruit to lives in need of something sweet and soul sustaining.

So we invite you to come, "take root downward with us and bear fruit upward." Graft yourself into this branch that is the First Congregational Church and receive the nourishment drawn up from our holy roots, which anchor our faith and sprout holy branches. Take root downward and be a part of our bearing upward the fruit of love and justice, compassion, connection and prayer in a world that simply needs it right now.

Please consider the following account of who we are as a church explained in pictures, words, numbers, and story and consider pledging to the church for this coming sacred year of 2018. Let's continue to thicken out our branch on this family tree, bear the fruit of faithfulness and love and even make it possible through our gifts now for new shoots to break forth here long after we are gone.

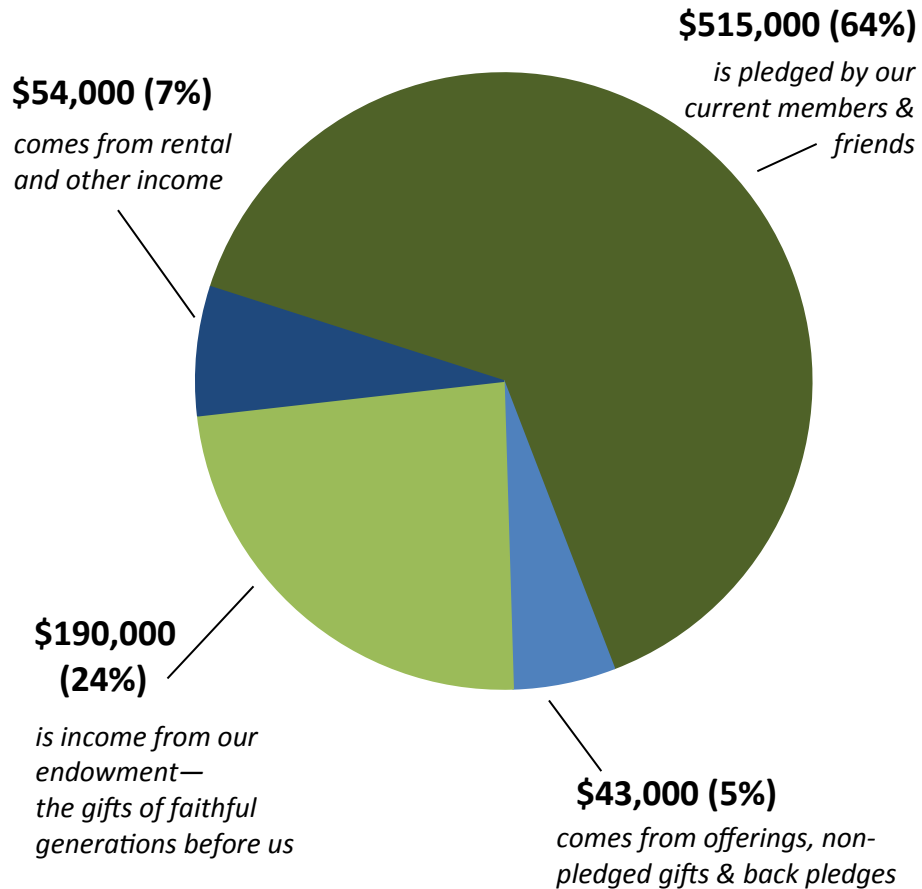
Your Brothers and Sisters in Christ,
Rev. Will Burhans and The Financial Resources Ministry Team

**Questions about the next steps to pledging?
Turn to the back cover for important information about the
Stewardship Campaign for 2018.**

How are the ministries & mission of our church made possible?

The ministries and mission of First Congregational are almost entirely supported by the generosity, energy, and commitment of its members and friends - present and past. The more we give of ourselves, the more we are able to do together to make God's love and grace real in the world!

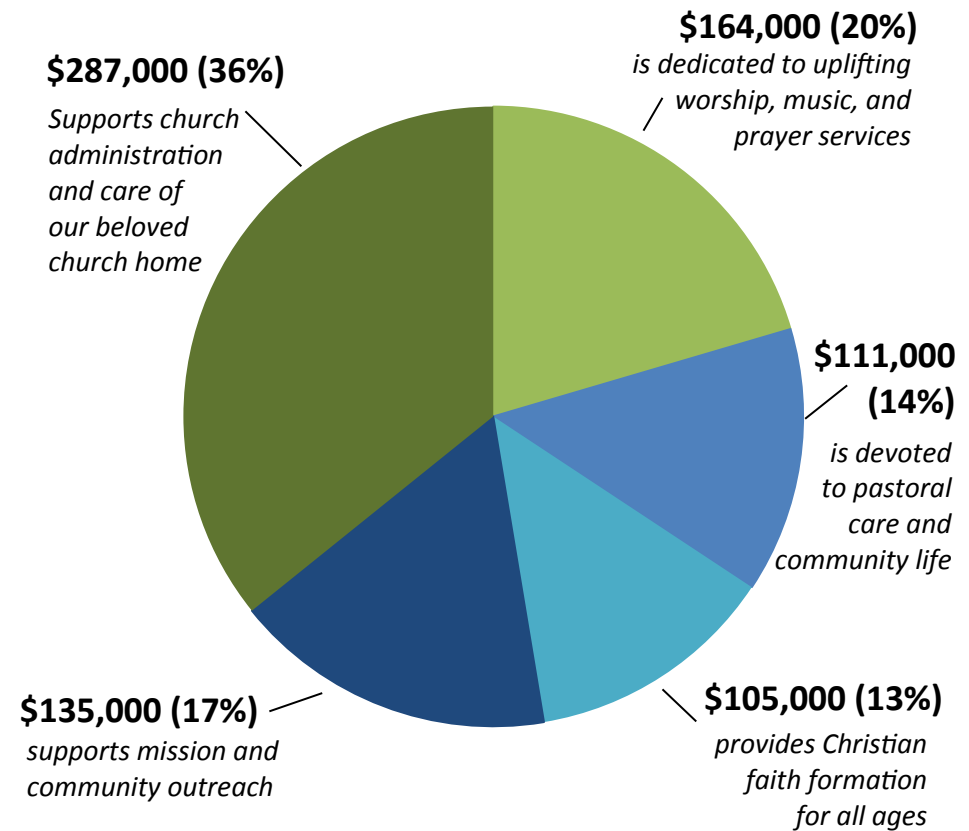
Sources of Funds (2017 Budget): \$802,000



How are our financial resources used to support our ministries & mission?

100% of the dollars we contribute through pledges and other gifts support the ministries and mission of First Congregational. Beyond the budget, members and friends also give generously to direct appeals at Easter and Christmas and special offerings and events that support neighbors in need.

Uses of Funds (2017 Budget): \$802,000*



*Amount is comprised of all church expenses, including salaries for the Ministry Team and Staff, allocated across the above ministries and mission segments.

Community Outreach & Service

Outdoor Church, Habitat for Humanity, Dwelling Place
Refugee Immigrant Ministry, justice advocacy
Blessing of the Animals, Service of Light, Ashes & Grounds
youth & adult mission trips

"FCCW has been a sanctuary for me; has guided me spiritually, supported me and prayed for me during the many ups and downs I've experienced throughout the past year and is a congregation who shines God's Love in every interaction. It is truly a special church which I look forward to being able to help serve and minister to others as they have to me during the past year. I am blessed to call FCCW my church home."

- Jessica Brand





Worship, Music & Healing

Lead Pastor, Assoc. Pastor, Music Minister & Health Minister
 Sunday & seasonal worship, healing practices, vigils
 caring network, Children's Chapel, pastoral care



"The worship service at FCCW is always moving, and often, profoundly so, from the depth of spiritual challenge in the sermons to the stunning music and deeply caring warmth of the congregation. Indeed, the UCC affirmation that God is still speaking can be felt in our commitment to love and serve and to be the face of compassion and justice and forgiveness. It is a privilege to be part of this church. We are very grateful."

- Teresa Cader and Jerry Mechling

Spiritual Growth & Faith Formation

Minister of Christian Faith Formation
church school classes, youth programs & family events
small groups, Bible study, embodied prayer
centering prayer, Adult Faith Formation Ministry

"Our sons have gotten so much out of the youth activities at FCCW. From the mission trips to inner-city Philadelphia and rural Alabama, to Forum on Sunday nights, FCCW has provided a way for them to explore their values, help others, and have a great time with their peers in a unique setting separate from the everyday pressures of adolescent life."

- Kathy and Clint Kendall





Infrastructure
Sexton, Office Manager & Bookkeeper
building/grounds upgrading & beautifying, insurance,
utilities, supplies, copier, postage, mailings,
website, telephone, internet

*"We are fortunate that God blessed us with holy places where our faith community can grow: the beautiful sanctuary and its magnificent organ, Ripley Chapel, the Reno Garden and wherever it is that we gather together to serve in love."
- Mike and Laura Bailey*



Our deep, broad roots bear plentiful fruit!

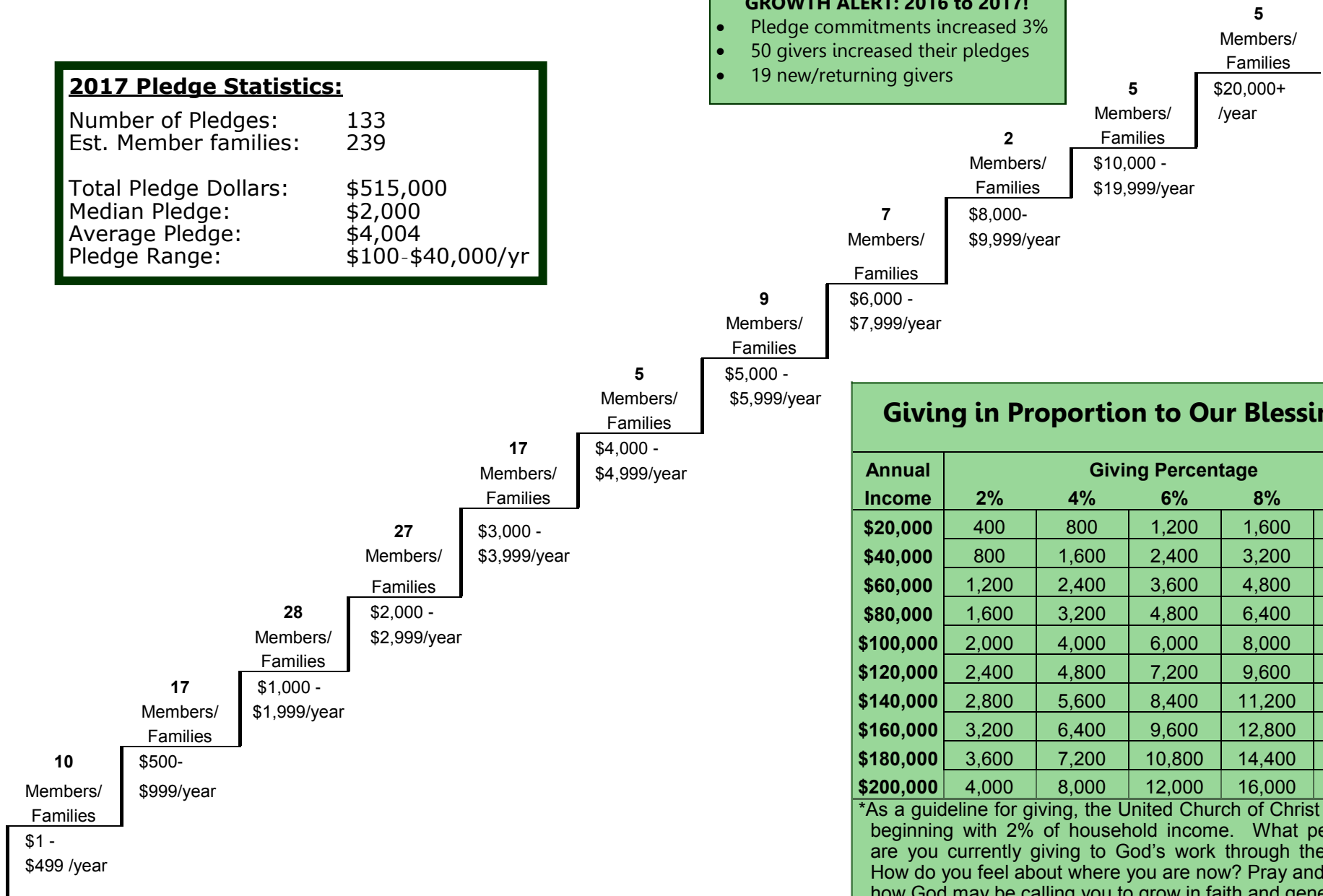
Thank you for your on-going active participation and generous giving!

2017 Pledge Statistics:

Number of Pledges:	133
Est. Member families:	239
Total Pledge Dollars:	\$515,000
Median Pledge:	\$2,000
Average Pledge:	\$4,004
Pledge Range:	\$100-\$40,000/yr

GROWTH ALERT: 2016 to 2017!

- Pledge commitments increased 3%
- 50 givers increased their pledges
- 19 new/returning givers



Giving in Proportion to Our Blessings*

Annual Income	Giving Percentage				
	2%	4%	6%	8%	10%
\$20,000	400	800	1,200	1,600	2,000
\$40,000	800	1,600	2,400	3,200	4,000
\$60,000	1,200	2,400	3,600	4,800	6,000
\$80,000	1,600	3,200	4,800	6,400	8,000
\$100,000	2,000	4,000	6,000	8,000	10,000
\$120,000	2,400	4,800	7,200	9,600	12,000
\$140,000	2,800	5,600	8,400	11,200	14,000
\$160,000	3,200	6,400	9,600	12,800	16,000
\$180,000	3,600	7,200	10,800	14,400	18,000
\$200,000	4,000	8,000	12,000	16,000	20,000

*As a guideline for giving, the United Church of Christ suggests beginning with 2% of household income. What percentage are you currently giving to God's work through the church? How do you feel about where you are now? Pray and consider how God may be calling you to grow in faith and generosity.

Next Steps

Prayerfully decide how much you will pledge to be a part of the 'deep roots, new branches' programs planned for 2018 and complete the enclosed pledge card.

Turn in your pledge card during Sunday morning offering on or before November 12th, Pledge Sunday.

Will you be away? Send a confidential email to first.congregational@verizon.net or mail your pledge card to the church office on or before November 12th.

Questions? Contact members of the Financial Resources Ministry Team—Tom Roche (Chair), Mike Bailey, Becca Beltz, Doug Clarke, David Peretti or Jennifer Wilson, or Church Treasurer, Bruce Lauterwasser.

To learn more about the Stewardship Campaign and pledging, visit fcc-winchester.com/giving.

