

November 6, 2025

Greetings all:

Yes, a Stewardship Letter. The Mission Council is sending this letter to all, asking that we celebrate the years of 2025 *and* 2026! How might we do this?

To celebrate what is and what might be is the heart of Christian stewardship. This intentionality reminds us that we live in God's time, though surrounded by our time. We believe God to be "yesterday, today, and tomorrow," and leaning into this belief exemplifies how we strive to navigate each gift of a day. Believing God to be fully invested in today makes living into "God's tomorrow" our mandate.

"Yesterday," we weathered great changes and, in that time, began to clarify how we see who we are and what we have, paving the way to focus on the future. We are confident that our current resources will be sufficient to accomplish our 2026 budget and mission goals. Now, let us live into this budget.

Our 2026 Covenant Form is revised just a bit, reminding us of our shared mission and ministry, providing broad points of support, and in bold letters allowing our congregations to be a part of our presence here in our neighborhoods, counties and cities, state, nation, and world. We are called to be that expansive in our vision!

The Mission Council requests that our discussions always begin by asking: "*As children of faith, have we truly shared our blessings with our siblings?*" Let us set aside our fear that God will not be in the tomorrow, that we will not have enough, and instead seek to be the blessings to our neighbors, near and far, and to know what we do matters greatly in this time.

During my travels in this "temporary" role, I have witnessed that our congregations, no matter what we think we may know about them, are in "good spirits." Or, perhaps stated correctly, "in *the Spirit*." While we all have plans for tomorrow, may we also focus on what we and our siblings in Christ can accomplish together, trusting always in our Lord.

Our contributions of time, talent, and tithe are one manifestation of our hope. Change has come to many in our presbytery, and making sense of that change together, by our mutual support of presence, mission, and ministry, is our greatest asset in seeking God in the everyday.

As each session determines its response to this letter, I do request a thoughtful discernment, focusing on whether or not your reply captures the hope I have seen in so many of our congregations. This is not just another "stewardship season." No, rather, this is THE stewardship season! It is truly a time that God has made! Let us rejoice in it and be glad!

Prayers and blessings,

Rev. Kerry Foster, Temporary General Presbyter and Bridge Stated Clerk