

St. Paul's United Church

2018 Stewardship Campaign

Inspiration

For 60 years, people have come through St. Paul's doors seeking inspiration, or forgiveness, or grace, or just understanding. Babies have been baptized. Newlyweds have kissed. Families and friends have mourned those who died. And everyone has been offered cake or coffee at some time. We have built homes for those without. We help shelter those in need. We knit quilts for sagging shoulders. We seek justice for this world and for all the people in it. Above all else we preach, and hear, and repeat the primacy of love. Above all else, love.

If we act thoughtfully and intentionally as stewards of this message, this mission, this church, this love, then 60 years from now St. Paul's will still be here. Not just standing here, but shining here as a vital beacon of hope, blazing here as a torch for justice, acting from here to make a difference in our community and in distant places such as Zambia, Angola, and Uganda. Even the solar panels on our roof will be shouting the message of love!

I hope I have inspired you. Please take time to reflect on the importance of St. Paul's to you, to your family, but also to this community and this world. Consider the value of nurturing our mission so that it will stay vital for years to come.

Campaign Goals

The goals of this Stewardship Campaign are three:

1. To raise \$360,000 in givings from the congregation in 2018.
2. To increase by 10 the number of households using PAR to give. (Pre-Authorized Remittance (PAR) is the automatic transfer to St. Paul's of a set amount on a monthly basis from one's bank account or credit card.)
3. To have 125 households on PAR or to have submitted a pledge for givings in 2018.

If we achieve these goals, we will have put St. Paul's on the path to the financial stability we need to be vital and relevant in our worship, programming, outreach, pastoral care, and spiritual nurturing. We will have improved the reliability of our revenue stream and we will have broadened engagement amongst our congregation in the responsibilities of financial stewardship.

Three Things You Could Do to Help Us Reach our Campaign Goals:

1. **Sign up for PAR** (Pre-Authorized Remittance). If you're not ready to commit to PAR, then you could Pledge to make a certain amount of offerings in 2018. PAR/Pledge forms are available at the Church, **or** just contact the Office (780-436-1555). **Bonus for you!:** If we can match a donation to your name (e.g. With PAR, personal cheques, or personalized envelopes) you will receive a charitable tax receipt. For many households this means an income tax credit worth **up to 50% (!)** of your donation amount (consult your own situation).
2. **Rise to the challenge.** If you are set up for PAR already, great! Why not take a look at the amount you are giving and compare it to the Suggested Model for Giving (see below). If you're under the suggested amount, you could try to rise up to it – just contact the Office by email or phone to do so.
3. **Go over and above.** Not everyone is going to be able to meet the challenge posed by the Model for Giving. In order to meet our financial goals this would mean others have to give *more* than suggested by the Model for Giving. Are you able to go over and above? If so, we need you!

BONUS: Many outreach / mission programs rely on generous **directed** givings from individuals to help meet their needs. Examples include the Mission and Service Fund, Faith Lift Campus Ministry, the Racecourse School for Orphans in Zambia, and Garneau Food Security. Take a look at what you give to St. Paul's and now challenge yourself to give a bit more, and direct this *additional* money to one or more of these outreach / mission programs. By contributing a fixed amount on a regular basis, you will help reduce the fundraising burdens of these groups – **and** of course you'll be supporting a great cause! (Challenge: For every \$1000 you donate to St. Paul's, donate an extra \$150 to an outreach program!) Easy to do with PAR!

The Model for Giving

3% for St. Paul's: Simple, Fair, Sustainable.

The model is based on three principles: Simple, Fair, Sustainable. It is quite simple to do the calculation(s). It is rooted in a universal concept of fairness -- contribution should be according to ability. And the model has been carefully constructed so that were we all to follow it, our campaign goals would be achieved.

What it is not: The model is a suggestion, **not** a requirement, **not** a rule. There will be no audit, no income verification, no phone calls, no! You are always a loved, accepted, and important part of St. Paul's whether you give a million or zero, whether you follow the model exactly or dismiss it outright. The only people who will know what you give are yourself, and the very small team at St. Paul's who need that information to put together charitable tax receipts and to conduct revenue forecasting.

What to do with it: Take a quick run through the calculations and compare your current annual givings with the amount suggested by the Model. Then take time to reflect on these questions: If I were to raise my givings to meet the Model, what impact would that have on my household budget? (Bear in mind that most people qualify for an income tax reduction worth up to 50% of their charitable givings.) If I don't rise to the challenge, what are the implications for St. Paul's? What if many others also do not rise to the challenge? Would there be enough people willing to contribute MORE than the model suggests? Am I in a position to be one of them?

These are not necessarily easy questions and the answers may not come quickly. Take time to reflect and to wonder. Be intentional. Ask questions by contacting Jim Smythe or the St. Paul's office.

The Model for Giving -- St. Paul's 2018 Stewardship Campaign

If you consider St. Paul's United Church to be your "home" church, then please we need your financial support. We propose that your annual givings to St. Paul's be **3% of your household's income** (Line 236 on your Tax Return). Include income from everyone in your household. Subject to the following 4 modifications:

1. **Consider** deducting large out-of-pocket health care expenditures from income before applying the 3%
2. **Consider** reducing your givings by \$500 per dependent (e.g. child, or infirm adult) in your household
3. If your household volunteers its time to serve St. Paul's, then **consider** reducing your givings accordingly: \$300 if you serve more than 30 hours per year; \$600 if more than 60 hours; \$900 if more than 90; etc.
4. If your household net worth exceeds \$2 million, increase your givings above the base amount by 0.25% of your net worth that exceeds \$2 million.