

Dear Sterling UMC Brothers and Sisters,

I think we can all agree that our church is doing great things. Whether it's here in our local Sterling community, or in support of ministry efforts outside of our region, or within the walls of our building serving members and visitors, we are touching people's lives in the name of Jesus Christ.

I think we can also agree we couldn't do all these great things without your contributions and your pledge to provide the financial support for our church. On behalf of the Finance Committee and the staff I would like to thank you for your contributions and the continued fulfillment of your pledges.

Review of our year to date financial position at our most recent Finance Committee meeting showed a developing deficit projected to increase at our current levels of giving and operating expense. We felt that we had approved a conservative budget this year and though our lay leadership and staff have been good stewards by keeping expenses currently under budget, some needed issues are not being addressed, and our contributions are not keeping up.

The salary need of our still relatively small staff has increased with the addition of our greatly needed Director of Youth Ministries and Communications who is re- establishing a thriving youth program here at SUMC and fulfilling a Next Level Innovations recommendation. A second NLI recommendation, our Director of Discipleship position, remains unfilled.

Our recent building renovation greatly improved our presentation, but the infrastructure that surrounds it is aging as is continually evident by leaks, damaged ceiling tile, and grass growing in our parking lots.

We have built a home here with which to do God's work now and in the future. We want to continue our ministries to meet our goals of serving and fulfilling lives in Christ.

I would like to personally ask you to help us close this developing gap and finish 2019 closer to where we conservatively expected to be. This is not a desperate call for assistance and I want to assure you the sky is not falling! Just like our buildings, sometimes our financials need maintenance to avoid an urgent repair. I am hoping that you will prayerfully consider increasing your giving as we close out our year.

In Christ Together,

Ron Gallihugh

Finance Committee Chairman