



United Church of Christ United Churches Fellowship



God is Still Speaking,

December 10, 2009

An Open Letter to my Southwest Conference Clergy colleagues and the congregations of the SWC. **Are you ready for a challenge?**

I challenge my fellow pastors and my congregation challenges yours to address the SWC budget shortfall. A Check in the amount of \$142 is being sent from our congregation to the Conference office as our part in overcoming the deficit. The shortfall was estimated to equate to \$4/ person on church roles. Our offering exceeds that guideline.

My wife and I made an extra, sacrificial gift in the amount of \$100 to this effort. I challenge my clergy colleagues to meet or exceed my offering (based on how God has blessed you). I rank among the lowest paid clergy in the conference with \$7,212 per year in base salary. I'm sure many of you can far exceed my gift of \$100.

As many of you know, our congregation is one of the oldest, smallest and poorest in the Conference. Yet we are one of the few Seven for Seven Congregations in the Conference. We tithe to the conference. If we, a congregation who struggles to meet basic needs of members and as a congregation, can reach out to provide additional support to the basic needs of our conference, think of how much more you as clergy and your congregations can contribute.

People don't give to budgets but surely we can articulate the mission of the Conference and our congregations? If we do, surely you can match or exceed our per capita special contribution to OCWM and ending the Conference shortfall. Perhaps we can be a harbinger of increasing the budget back to the levels it needs to be to do all that we are called to do in the Conference.

Our offerings, as congregations, to the Conference set a model for members to follow when they give to the congregation/Church. If we give at the ten percent & above level, we provide a powerful witness.

Yours in Christ,

Got GPS?
Our driveway is
N 31.36542,
W 110.95364

The Church is
N 31.36536,
W 110.95364

GeoCache is here.

**No Matter who
You are or
where You are
on Life's
Journey, You
are Welcome
here,**

Dave

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