



# Finding Home

## Stewardship 2019

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

# What does the word “home” mean to you?

Beyond a physical structure, home may be a sense of safety and familiarity, a sense of belonging, or a sense of knowing that you are cared for. Some of us may still be seeking home; many in our community and beyond are aching for it.

This sense of home is present in God’s overflowing and unconditional love for us, not only providing security and acceptance, but also empowering us to share God’s love and serve others. Our Stewardship theme this year is *Finding Home*, because your pledge to Westminster will strengthen this sense of home among us, welcome others to find their home with us, and help others find their home through us.

Our commitment to welcoming, supporting and protecting our immigrant neighbors continues to expand, and our buildings and grounds require upkeep in order to host annual events like the PACEM homeless shelter and special events like the Parkland students’ March for Our Lives and the Beyond Pink and Blue conference. Finding home also includes support for our pastors to preach the Word of God, administer the sacraments, provide courageous witness to love in the face of hate, and lead, teach and empower us to serve Christ and share God’s love. In 2019, we will call a new Associate Pastor to lead our social justice and University ministries. This will require a significant financial commitment.

Beyond these works, there are countless other ways your faithful generosity will guide us and our neighbors home in 2019. The following pages give a glimpse of the ways in which we may all find home.



*Your pledge helps us and our neighbors find home through:*

- ◆ Worshipping God together and relating God's Word to our lives and the world around us through celebration, reflection, reverence, prayer and music;
- ◆ Singing to the glory of God with the help of our wonderful music leaders, three choirs, and talented musicians;
- ◆ Organizing joyous events like our summer concert series and multigenerational musical;
- ◆ Maintaining our Taylor & Boody pipe organ and pianos;
- ◆ Supporting Westminster's Lectureship Series with speakers like the Reverend Floyd Thompkins and Professor Valerie Cooper;
- ◆ Welcoming visitors and new members to Westminster;



- ◆ Supporting our new lay readers program, our ushers, and helping maintain the pews and sound system in our Sanctuary.



**Worship and Music**

*Your pledge helps us and our neighbors find home through:*

- ◆ Helping one another grow in faith across generations;
- ◆ Supporting over 20 Christian education teachers who have heard and responded to God's call to work with Westminster's young people;
- ◆ Helping our youth gather in safe, trusting, loving environments to explore their faith and make new church friends;
- ◆ Supporting the week-long Journey to Adulthood (J2A) Pilgrimage for our 9th and 10th graders and the Young Adults in the Church (YAC) Mission Trip for our 11th and 12th graders;
- ◆ Staffing the church nursery;
- ◆ Providing educational opportunities for adults that help them grow spiritually and respond to needs within the wider world;
- ◆ Supporting the Opening Doors class and our Tuesday evening Bible study.



# Christian Education



*Your pledge helps us and our neighbors find home through:*

- ◆ Our Pastors and Deacons who provide spiritual, emotional, and physical support to members of the congregation;
- ◆ Home visits, communion for the home-bound, and lifting each other up through prayer;
- ◆ Meals prepared for families experiencing illness, loss, or the birth of a child and providing transportation to those who need rides to and from church and medical appointments;
- ◆ Our prayer shawl ministry which provides a tangible expression of care and concern to members of our congregation;
- ◆ Fellowship activities throughout the year, including Sunday Fellowship Hour, Fellowship on Tap, CROP Walk Lunch, Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner, Maundy Thursday Supper, Worship in the Courtyard, Thanksgiving Pot-luck at Common Grounds,

the summer Pickin' and Picknickin' event, the Adult Luncheon, the new Member Picnic and, new this year, the Men's Breakfast Group and dinner conversation groups.



**Pastoral Care & Fellowship**

*Your pledge helps us and our neighbors find home through:*

- ◆ Advocating for God's justice in Charlottesville and the wider community;
- ◆ Sharing God's love with students, faculty and staff at the University through meals, volunteering at Common Grounds, and active participation in the many UKirk programs;
- ◆ Working for justice involving issues of gender identity and sexual orientation;
- ◆ Addressing specific and systemic problems associated with racism in our community;
- ◆ Supporting the work of our Presbytery and our many mission partners, providing benevolences of 20% of our pledges to organizations like the Alliance for Interfaith Ministry, Habitat for Humanity, IMPACT, PROSAMI, The Haven, and scholarships for our Child Care Center;
- ◆ Supporting and advocating for inmates in our area jails and prisons;
- ◆ Helping the Green Team maintain our status as an Earth Care Congregation;

- ◆ Maintaining buildings and grounds so that we can provide space for groups like AA and La Leche.



# Mission & Outreach



## Step In! Step Up!

Stewardship is using gifts God has entrusted to us to do God's work in the world, to love God and our neighbors. Through this, we worship God. Giving grows our faith. Your financial commitment to Westminster provides the resources necessary to support our mission and ministries.

Westminster is blessed to have very generous members and friends. In 2018, 237 households made a financial pledge. If you have not pledged before or have not done so recently, we ask you to give faithful consideration to *Step In* to love God and our neighbors through our ministries and sustain our active congregation.

If you regularly pledge – thank you! As you consider your pledge for 2019, we ask that you prayerfully consider whether you could *Step Up* and increase your pledge to a level that reflects the many blessings that God has bestowed upon you.

With your pledge, you will support *Finding Home* in God's love, acceptance and forgiveness.



# Our Pledge Goal Is \$940,000!

Details available on request; please call or email the church office.

*Please return your pledge card by mail to:*

Westminster Presbyterian Church

400 Rugby Road

Charlottesville, VA 22903

You may also bring your pledge card to Westminster on Pledge Dedication Sunday, November 4, 2018. If you would like to make your pledge online, please visit:

<https://www.westminsterva.org/giving/>.