

## Westminster Budget Narrative - Sharing Our Blessings

Matthew 25:35-40 "I was hungry and you fed me, thirsty and you gave me drink; I was a stranger and you received me in your homes, naked and you clothed me; I was sick and you took care of me, in prison and you visited me. The righteous will then answer him, When Lord did we see you hungry or thirsty, a stranger or naked, sick or in prison? The King will reply, 'I tell you whenever you did this for one of the least important of these brothers of mine, you did it for me'".

Our church has a long history of making mission and outreach a priority and we are asking for your support to continue this work in 2018. A portion of your gifts to the church will be used to provide financial support to both local and global programs that provide assistance to people in need. About two thirds of this support is given to Unified Missions through Presbyterian Partnership Giving. These funds support the work of our Presbytery and also provide support to global missions. Mission Co-Workers serving in the Middle East and in Guatemala who have spoken at our church in recent times, shared stories of working with others to seek peace and justice, to provide aid to the sick and hungry and to uplift education as a pathway to improving life in all of these areas.

Our funding of "Local Missions" provides support to a number of non-profits in our community (a full list is provided on our church's website). These programs have been selected to address needs in the following service areas: hunger, homelessness, mental health, youth and child services, refugee assistance and eco-justice.

We also give generously of our time and talent to support local programs. These include Interfaith Hospitality Network where we welcome homeless families into our church ("They made me feel like I was at Grandma's house"), a soup kitchen for the local homeless population, refugee dinners, volunteering at the food banks, and serving as scout leaders.

Finally, there are 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday Donation Drives where our congregation generously supports other various local non-profits not receiving money from our budget.

Mission Statement – "The Mission, Peace, Eco-Justice Committee, on behalf of the Westminster Congregation, provides services and support to meet needs locally and worldwide for those for whom God's peace and justice do not reign, and to protect God's creation. Additionally we educate, advocate and inspire the congregation to become aware of these concerns and opportunities".

Challenge to Do More – Mission spending in 2017 was reduced by over \$10,000 in order to balance our budget. Our challenge budget adds \$4,820 to our mission budget, which would restore about ½ of the 2017 cuts. It also includes \$157 in salary increase and year end bonus for staff.

Dare to Dream budget includes the items in the challenge budget and restores an additional \$5,820 to our 2018 budget, thereby eliminating most of the 2017 cuts.