

John Knox
Presbyterian Church

2022-23

Mission Giving & Stewardship

Dear Friends,

It is a wondrous thing to consider the mission of God in the world.

God's mission is the plan, the strategy, the purpose of God in engaging the world. When sin marred the beautiful Creation of God, rebellion replaced contentment; division, despair, and death became entrenched in human experience. But graciously the Lord purposed to redeem the lost world in the person of Jesus Christ. It is "a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in [Christ]" (Ephesians 1:10). The mission of God in Christ is redemption and reconciliation—the reuniting of Creation with our Creator.

Today the power of sin continues to wreak havoc in the world. Ungodly spiritual powers would divide us from each other, erode our trust, and supplant our faith. Yet God is at work: the mission of God to restore and unite us in Christ continues, and it will prevail. The Church of Jesus Christ is called to join its Lord in this unifying and redeeming mission. Indeed, as the Body of Christ and followers of our risen Redeemer, we embody this mission.

As I ponder our life together at John Knox, I strive to remember this grand purpose for the life of the Church, lest we fall into the consumeristic trap of thinking that the church exists merely for us. To be sure, we all receive great value from our life at John Knox, and these blessings increase and deepen the more we invest in our life together. But all that we share in church—the worship, the fellowship, the learning, the joy—ultimately serves an even greater purpose than our blessing. The Church exists to fulfill God's mission, announcing the gracious rule of God's love in Jesus Christ and inviting all people to join in the rich fellowship of this love.

The more we claim this purpose—God's mission—as our own, the more we are transformed into the Church that God can use for this saving work.

I pray that God will lead us to embrace this calling with faith and joy. Thank you for your prayerful consideration of our church's life and ministry, and your commitment to it.

Faithfully yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Gordon".

Becoming a Church for God's Mission

Worship

In worship we claim our primary identity as children of God and followers of Jesus Christ. The Spirit unifies us in the praise of God's glory and opens our minds and hearts to the truth of God's Word. In a world with so many competing voices, and with activities that would distract or dislocate us, our worship of God locates us, centers us, and grounds us.

*O come, let us sing to the LORD;
let us make a joyful noise to the rock of
our salvation!*

*Let us come into his presence with
thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to
him with songs of praise!*

Psalm 95:1



In worship we encounter our God, present our lives in offering, and experience our ongoing transformation into people equipped to respond to God in all our living. Our worship of God transforms us into the Church for God's mission.



Fellowship

Each time we gather, we enjoy the opportunity for deep and authentic communion with each other and with God. We are created for relationship, and the fellowship of the Church becomes the context for our growing together into the people God dreams of. Welcoming new people into our fellowship not only introduces them to a supportive community; it also engages them with the One whose love we share and whose mission we serve.

*"Where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them."
Matthew 18:20*

Responding to God's call . . . Sharing in Christ's mission

Like the lives of its members, the life of a congregation involves both stability and flexibility. One's character develops over time by facing challenges, adapting to new circumstances, and developing capacity. The trials of the last three years have revealed our resilience and forged a stronger desire to serve our neighbors in God's name.

So far in 2022 God has given us the grace to:

Retire our mortgage

The blessing of God and the focused dedication of many donors helped us complete our Mortgage Elimination Campaign in only three years (from a balance of \$459,000 in June 2019).

Complete major capital projects

This summer John Knox replaced our Fellowship Hall roof and HVAC units as well as repaired and paved our parking lot. We completed these projects without incurring any debt.

Welcome new members and increase worship participation

Momentum is building as people regain their footing and resume their participation in the church's activities. Over 20 new members have joined the church already in 2022—thanks to God's grace!

We have no mission but to serve
in full obedience to our Lord;
to care for all, without reserve,
and spread Christ's liberating word.

Fred Pratt Green
"The Church of Christ in Every Age"
Glory to God, Hymn 320, stanza 5

Looking ahead to 2023, we prayerfully hope to:

Offer a Respite Care Ministry

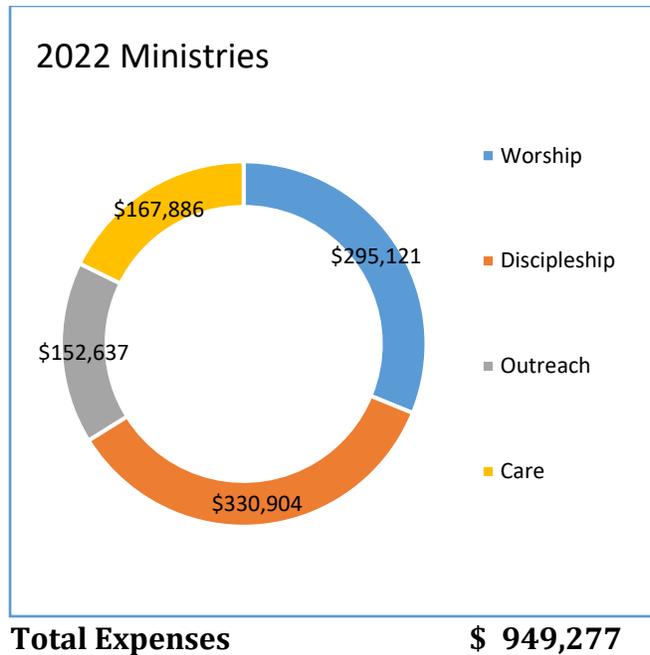
We trust that this year will allow us to begin a weekday ministry of fellowship and nurture for older participants with cognitive needs. This program would provide caring fellowship and stimulating activities for participants, as well as much-needed relief for their family caregivers.

Welcome a new Director of Youth Ministry

Earlier this year Jessica Meggs concluded five years of vibrant service, leaving a strong foundation for our ongoing ministry to middle-school and high-school students. We trust that God is raising up a new leader for our youth ministry.

2022 Mission Funding (Current) John Knox Presbyterian Church

<u>Ministry Expenses</u>	<u>2022 Budget</u>
Administrative	\$ 68,758
Christian Education	\$ 21,100
Christian Mission & Outreach	\$ 40,050
Evangelism, Nurture, Fellowship	\$ 8,300
Property & Operations	\$232,750
Worship	\$ 10,320
Personnel	<u>\$567,999</u>



Major Ministry Divisions*

Worship \$295,121 31.1%
Our chief end is to glorify God and enjoy Him forever. Our worship invites us to grow as people who behold God's glory and ascribe God praise.

Discipleship \$330,904 34.9%
Jesus instructs us to make disciples. As His followers, we seek to grow in the faith and to equip people of all ages to do the same.

Outreach \$152,637 16.1%
Our service to Christ demands our service to the world. We are given the Good News to share in word and deed, to neighbors near and far.

Care \$167,886 17.7%
(Evangelism, Nurture, Fellowship)
Jesus says, "By this they will know you are my disciples, if you have love for one another." Our care embodies the love with which God loves us and the world.

*Allocating personnel, administrative, and property costs among program areas.

Other ministries supported through your gifts and offerings

Greer Relief
Habitat for Humanity
United Ministries
Interfaith Hospitality/Transitional Housing
Meals on Wheels
Safe Harbor
Triune Mercy Center
Thornwell

Foothills Presbytery
Presbyterian Communities of SC
UKirk Furman Campus Ministry
Presbyterian Disaster Assistance
Presbyterian Hunger Program
Self-Development of Peoples
Community Cloud Forest Conservation
(Guatemala)

God's Mission . . . Our Commitment

We invite you to respond to God's love with your commitment to our service in Christ's name. Please pledge your financial support for the 2023 ministry of John Knox Presbyterian Church.

How do I pledge?

First, pray about this commitment and its meaning in your life and in our church.

Then complete the enclosed pledge card, place it in the return envelope, and return it to the church, either by mail or in person.

You may also pledge at any time electronically. Look for the link in our newsletters, or go to the church's website (johnknoxpres.org) and complete your 2023 pledge form.

When do I pledge?

As soon as you are ready to do so! Members and friends of John Knox are invited to **pledge at any time**, and the sooner the better! Your timely response now will help us build momentum for our ongoing and future ministry. The earlier you pledge, the clearer picture our Session has for planning next year's ministry.

We will be celebrating our commitments during a time of dedication in worship on **Sunday, October 30**.

Why pledge?

1. Pledges of financial support allow the church to plan more accurately.

Our church gratefully receives all gifts, pledged and unpledged. But our budgeting for the next year is most accurate when we can depend upon the good-faith estimates of those who intend to give. Your pledges help us plan responsibly and staff appropriately.

2. Pledging helps givers to honor their priorities for financial commitment.

Some people are reluctant to pledge, fearing that they will be unable to keep their commitment. But those who do pledge usually find that this commitment reminds them of their intention. Expressing our commitment ahead of time reduces the chance that unforeseen events will derail our intended support.

3. Our faithful commitment to Christ's ministry deepens our sense of God's unfailing commitment to us.

Committing ourselves in faith shows that "we get it." Having experienced God's faithfulness, we trust God's faithful care in our future. Responding in faith demonstrates and deepens our trust in God.

A Prayer for Our Church
Ephesians 3:16-21

I pray that, according to the riches of his glory, he may grant that you may be strengthened in your inner being with power through his Spirit, and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, as you are being rooted and grounded in love.

I pray that you may have the power to comprehend, with all the saints, what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

Now to him who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, for ever and ever. Amen.

Cover image: Photomosaic of John Knox member portraits superimposed over a neighbor's photograph of a rainbow over John Knox Church. May this image remind us of the promise of God's saving love for the world and of his sure provision for our lives in his service.



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