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October 14, 2021

Dear Members and Friends of Potomac Presbyterian Church:

As we launch the Potomac Presbyterian Church 2022 annual Generosity Campaign, we reflect on 2021 which has been a rewarding year in the life of our Church. This is encouraging since we are in the second year of the pandemic. Pastor Emily, the entire staff, and so many members have ensured that a variety of PPC ministries are able to serve our members and friends, as well as those in the community. The accompanying brochure lists many of these activities.

However, trudging once again through a pandemic year continues to be a great challenge. Many of this year's activities were online. Worship services and classes are now held in person, with careful Covid protocol, as well as online, to meet everyone's interests safely. These hybrid options have come with increased costs and demands on our dedicated staff.

PPC has sufficient investments to meet long term capital expenditures for major building and related expenses. However, annual pledge and gift income has been inadequate to meet planned operating expenses. The 2021 annual operating budget was balanced late last year only by reducing some committee requested expenses. Also, a planned part time staff addition could not be funded. We need to maintain and to build the ministries of the Church in order to ensure a vibrant and sustainable home for current and new members in the future, as generations before have done for us.

Our church family is much like our own family at home. New family members arrive at birth. As they grow up, they take on added responsibility within the family. Similarly, we are all called upon to take on added responsibilities at each phase of our lives in our Church family, as the resources that God has bestowed upon us allow us increasingly to contribute our experience and financial resources over time. Each generation is encouraged to step up in place of those who've gone before.

Why do we need an increase? As we emerge from this pandemic, PPC is developing exciting plans to continue existing ministries and to create new ministries. These vital plans will both attract new members and insure the long-term viability of our Church and its mission. Remember that our staff is leaner than just a few years ago. *We seek new and increased funding by \$100,000* for crucial new ministries including:

- A Communications and Outreach Specialist, to enhance PPC's presence in our community, increase participation in programs, and spread our ministry,
- A staff member dedicated to our congregational care and visitation ministry, so we can better care for all with Faith, Hope and Love,
- Enhancing our technology to improve and expand our hybrid ministry, and
- Improving our physical space; such as for outdoor shaded fellowship and classroom areas on the patio, to make it even more inviting and to ensure comfort and safety.

Our broad mission varies from providing a foundation of faith in Jesus for the children of our young families, to encouraging one another in faith and Christian witness, to comforting and healing at the time of illness and death of loved ones. Whether you are a member or frequent visitor, please consider what the Church means to you and your family. We need your help, in a meaningful way. Imagine what we can do together if we all step boldly forward to meet these needs with a large increase?

Are you giving to the church, *as Jesus asked - what is a significant amount to you?* The coming year is unique and deserves fresh, compassionate consideration! Should you, and would you, *please consider a significant increase? Would an increase in your annual giving by \$1,000, \$3,000, \$5,000 or more, or somewhere along that continuum, better match your financial capability?* Most members of the Generosity Committee and Pastor Emily have committed to a significant financial increase! *Can we count on you?* If that is not feasible, then please consider an increase of at least 8%.

We urge you to make your gifts in the form of a pledge, which allows the church Leadership to anticipate the available resources when planning for ministry expenses in the coming year. Please refer to the brochure or the church website for pledge instructions.

A very sincere thank you for your past generosity. *Your financial support funds the church's operations; our church is dependent on our continuing and increased generosity.* It is crucial in delivering the vibrant and vital ministry God is calling forth from us. Thank you for your support especially in 2022! When we work together as a faith community, and with God's help, **we may then rekindle the gift of God that is within us**, and grow our ministries on our journey toward, **Caring for ALL with Faith, Hope and Love.**

In Christ, your Generosity Committee: Jeanie Bissey, Jan Cookerly, Mike Dager,
Chris Dowd, Gregg Johnson (Chair), Paul Mamalian, Pat McMillen, Elsie Reid & Ed Tennent

"Rekindle the gift of God That is within you.... "

2 Timothy 1:6