

January - February 2019

## Answers to your questions



### Why is MAPC embarking on this special investment program?

Mt. Auburn Presbyterian Church has a long and powerfully impactful history of advancing the spiritual life of our members and friends, providing strong support across a variety of important social justice organizations, and making a difference in our local community and denomination.

We want to continue to act as a congregation in a focused way to make a meaningful difference. That means having a plan and the financial resources to realize our vision, dreams, and shared values. That is what ***Investing in a Just Future*** is all about. It's different and separate from annual contributions and pledges you make to keep our church operating day to day.

This effort will fund several important and new initiatives identified by members of our congregation and our church leaders. There will be volunteer opportunities too, for your time and talents.

### How will the funds raised be used and who makes the decisions?

Three areas have been identified by your church leadership (Session), with input from members of our congregation. We will continue to seek your input and that of all in our congregation as we move forward. The key areas are as follows:

#### 1. ***Supporting and growing our congregation by nurturing new leaders with a Social Justice Pastoral Residency***

We know there are seminary graduates who may have difficulty finding a position because of their sexual orientation, gender identity, ethnic background, physical ability or other conditions. Also, as our congregation changes and grows, we seek to serve emerging individual and collective needs. We propose the development of an ongoing two-year residency to give such individuals an opportunity to share their gifts with us, to learn, and to provide service in a nurturing, loving, inclusive congregation. The selected candidate will support our pastoral, progressive education, and community outreach programs. Session and our pastor will identify a recruiting, interview, and selection process. Funding from ***Investing in a Just Future*** and the Rosevear Fund will help get us started with a pilot program.

#### 2. ***Leading Earth Care Stewardship.***

Climate change is one of the most important and pressing issues of our time. Reducing our carbon footprint is the right thing to do morally and has practical benefit, too. This will fund changes to our church facility to reduce our energy costs and our carbon footprint. And, further, as an Earth Care congregation, we will take our story and experience to other churches in our local Presbytery and beyond, to serve as an example, advocate and catalyst for broader change and stewardship in the denomination, the wider Church, and society at-large. Projects to be funded have been identified by our Earth Care team with support from Building & Grounds and approved by Session.

#### 3. ***Partnership for positive community impact to provide Justice in Housing***

We have a strong commitment to a broad range of justice issues, but many of you have said you are ready to dig in deep, to focus so we can make a meaningful, visible difference. The issue confronting many in our community is finding safe, secure, and affordable housing for themselves and their families. It impedes their ability to succeed. We will invest in Cincinnati Scholar House. It is a transitional learning-living program that will equip low-income single parents with the support they need to complete post-secondary education and improve their work prospects. The goal is to end generational poverty for those enrolled in this program. Cincinnati Union Bethel will operate the program. Christ Church Cathedral is a partner. We have budgeted up to \$200,000 for this project. You will hear more about how our congregation can personally engage as volunteers.

### Is my commitment (pledge) tax deductible?

Contributions are tax deductible. How your contribution affects your personal taxes, specifically, depends on your overall tax status and situation.

## How can I make a commitment (pledge) and when do I have to provide the funds?

We would begin accepting contributions starting April 1, 2019 and asking that pledges be completed by March 31, 2022.

You can make a commitment several ways:

- Pay your commitment (pledge) weekly, monthly, annually or all at once. It's up to you.
- Break up your commitment (pledge) and pay a certain amount each year until you complete your total commitment. We are asking that your commitment be completed within three years, but we can extend for a longer period if necessary.

Commitments or pledges can be paid by:

- Check or cash
- Electronic funds transfer
- Online (via our website and through the Presbyterian Foundation)
- Donation of stock

We can provide details and assistance on how you can contribute through these various options.

## Are there other ways for me to give?

While not typical, some people in campaigns like this have donated assets as they begin to simplify or downsize their lives. Examples include valuable artwork, vintage or valuable automobiles, or even second homes no longer needed. If you decide to go in this direction, let us know so we can determine how this would work best for you and for MAPC.

In addition to making a pledge for *Investing in a Just Future*, please consider designating MAPC in your will and let us know your intentions. Our congregation has benefited greatly from personal gifts like this before.

## What happens if I make a pledge and my financial circumstances change? Am I obligated to fulfill my pledge?

As you prayerfully and thoughtfully consider your pledge, we hope you will make a commitment that reflects your love, hopes, and belief in MAPC and our mission. If for some reason your financial circumstances change, of course we will accommodate any adjustment you may need to make.

## How will these projects affect MAPC's operating budget? And what happens if we don't raise all the money for *Investing in a Just Future*?

These are special projects designed to accomplish specific things. They are not part of our current operating budget. Looking forward:

- The Earth Care projects will help future budgets by reducing not just our energy usage and carbon footprint, but mitigate utility and maintenance costs too, which typically increase every year.
- If successful, the Social Justice Pastoral Resident would become a part of our regular staffing budget at a future date. Funding this position now will both help meet our current needs and enable us to grow our membership, which is critical for the ongoing viability of our church.
- Our housing initiative is a partnership effort outside our annual operating budget. It is meant to deepen our mission work in the community through the commitment of financial resources and volunteer opportunities.

If we fall short of our goal, we will review these initiatives and determine the adjustments necessary. We are hopeful that we will be successful.

## Is it possible for me to talk to someone about this in a confidential manner?

Financial matters require a high level of confidentiality and trust and we truly understand that. We can connect you with someone who can answer your questions in a confidential manner. Reach out to one of us and we will make those arrangements.

*If you have questions about **Investing in a Just Future**, please reach out to Rev. Stacey Midge, Bill Bogdan or Mary Carol Melton, co-chairs; or any member of the committee. We leave you with this from Luke 6:38:*

*“Give and it will be given to you. Good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured back to you.”*