



Investing in a Just Future

Mount Auburn Presbyterian Church

December 2018

Dear Friends,

Our recent celebration of 150 years of ministry gave us many opportunities to see how God has blessed this congregation and called us to be a blessing to each other.

We stand in a legacy of love and justice.

MAPC has long been a faith community of welcome for those who are unwelcome elsewhere and a community of justice for the oppressed. In recent years our energy and resources have:

- Advocated successfully for greater LGBTQ equality and inclusion in our denomination and city.
- Initiated conversation with our Presbytery that introduced the importance and urgency in becoming Earth Care congregations and advocates.
- Supported a wide range of social justice organizations serving vulnerable persons with our finances, hands on work and offering a “home” as our space sharers.
- Opened to others our beautiful sanctuary for concerts and programs, inviting others to share in our joyful spirit.



We are poised for the future, ready to move forward.

Bringing our past work together with the ideas and vision you shared with us recently, we are ready to take the next bold step in our ministry.

“Investing in a Just Future” priorities come from interviews, surveys and group meetings with many members of our congregation and has been approved by Session.

In developing our plan, we asked ourselves these questions: How can we build on our values of inclusion, conscientious living and doing more for the most vulnerable in our community? How can we build on what we do best? How can we make a difference?

We live by the words “For whom much is given, much is expected.”

When we see a need, among our congregation members or the community at large, we are ready to pitch in to help. **“Investing in a Just Future”** positions us to do more, better. Here are the three focus areas identified with you:



Social Justice Pastoral Residence

There are many new recently graduated seminarians who find it difficult to land a first church job, especially those who are LGBTQ. MAPC will establish a special residency program to provide an opportunity for a qualified candidate to get real life experience in our welcoming, progressive environment and serve our growing needs.

Earth Care Stewardship



One of the single most critical issues of our time is climate change. Reducing our carbon footprint is not just a matter of practicality (and it is as our church facility’s utility and energy costs increase), but a matter of moral responsibility. **“Investing in a Just Future”** enables us to take our commitment to and advocacy for sustainability and the earth to the next level.

Partner in Helping the Homeless



We have a strong commitment to a broad range of social 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. Homelessness and the need for affordable housing have sparked our attention. As we have learned more, and continue to learn more, it is evident we can play a more significant and positive role to change lives of those in need in our community.

These priorities are linked by a common principle – conscientiously building strength, respect, support and advocacy for our congregation, our earth and others.

We will be sharing more information and details about these focus areas in the coming months through this special newsletter, on our website and in scheduled meetings. We hope you will add your voice to our discernment and be an enthusiastic supporter as we share our faith journey together – as we continue **“Investing in a Just Future.”**

Yours in Christ,

Rev. Stacey Midge, Pastor
Bill Bogdan, Co-Chair
Mary Carol Melton, Co-Chair

Help, Thanks, Wow!

Please consider this contribution opportunity prayerfully. Respond to what the spirit is calling you to do to support our faith community and our responsibility to others. We will provide special prayer and meditation opportunities, together too.

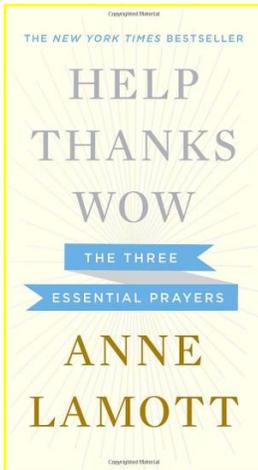
The simple prayers offered by Anne Lamott from her book *Help, Thanks, Wow!* provide guidance to us. About prayer, Lamott says: *“Prayer is private, even when we pray with others. It is communication from the heart to that which surpasses understanding. Let’s say it is communication from one’s heart to God. Or if that is too triggering or ludicrous a concept for you, to the Good, the force that is beyond our comprehension but that in our pain or supplication or relief we don’t need to define or have proof of any contact with.”*

So . . . in charting our future...

We need your help – everyone’s help. We are in this together.

Our thanks to you – for your prayerful consideration and the gift you feel called and empowered to provide.

And Wow! – think of what we can do together, for each other and for others.



Your “Investing in a Just Future” Committee

Campaign Chairs	Bill Bogdan Carol Melton
Commitment Response	Jane & Bill Hopewell
Events	Rev. Stacey Midge Van Ackerman Rob Bell
Communication & Information	Lynn Hailey
Contact Care	Marlene Muse
CREATE	John Hancock Susan Ingmire
Leadership Gifts	Julie Cunningham
Major Gifts	Bill Muse
Plan Administrator/Enlistment	Clare and Larry Williams
Prayer	Valerie Bernardino Judy Lindblad
Finance & Stewardship	Susan Thomas

Members of the committee are able and happy to answer any questions you might have. Feel free to reach out to them.