

A LETTER FROM REV. MILLER

(delivered on Sunday, September 28, 2014 during Worship)

Today the Stewardship Team will launch the 2015 Stewardship High Five Adventure. Your team will speak to you more about this at the offertory, but I'd like to say a few words about it, as well. I think we know that MCC churches don't have the financial resources of most mainline churches. There is no denomination budget. You bought this property and made the payments. You replaced the HVAC units and repainted the blacktop. You fund our ministries to this congregation, to the homeless, to people in crisis, our Thanksgiving baskets and Christmas families, our food pantry, our work with people with HIV and Trans social and support, and our outreach. Nobody pays my salary but you, or our Music Director's, or our bookkeeper's.

As your Stewardship Team speaks later about giving, please bear in mind that stewardship is a spiritual discipline – one that allows us to practice generosity, humility, and surrender – and it is an act of social justice – one that allows us to make an impact in the lives of people who are hungry, marginalized, disenfranchised.

And as our stewardship grows, this church will also grow beyond the necessities, beyond its shoe-string budget. We will become a church able to pay the full part-time salaries of our staff. We will become a church able to imagine and implement a social services ministry. We will be limited only by our imaginations.

Thank you for the incredible generosity that has gotten us here. And thank you for your commitment to and your trust in your Board of Directors.