



CALLED to CREATE
**BELOVED
COMMUNITY** with
EVERYONE

November 2019

Dear Central Friends,

2020 will mark one hundred sixty years since Central's founding as a downtown church: worshiping God, serving our neighbors, creating community, and strengthening the heart of Denver. Our annual generosity campaign helps us continue and grow the dynamic mission to which God has called us.

This year, over 140 of you participated (in person or online) in a budget simulation exercise led by Central member and CEO of Engaged Public, Chris Adams. The enclosed narrative budget and generosity goal reflect your suggestions for expanded ministries and increased financial commitments to accomplish the work to which God calls us. Specifically you asked for broader community engagement, music enhancements, and increased children/youth/family ministries support. At the same time you showed willingness to pay for this expanded mission, by increasing pledge commitments by 8%. In addition, your leadership team is working to increase revenue from building use and decrease unsustainable draws from the endowment.

Last year, the average commitment was \$4100, and the median was \$2600. We know everyone's financial situation is different, and we honor the decision you make about your personal commitment. I invite you to consider Central's value: to you personally, your family, and the wider community. Consider the ways our mission lifts up men and women experiencing homelessness and poverty, offering new opportunities for lives of dignity and flourishing. Consider how our message of God's inclusive love welcomes people of all kinds and creates community broadly and deeply. Consider the commitment we've made to nurturing faith formation at every age and stage. Consider our outward-facing perspective that invites others to join us in God's transforming work. Prayerfully make your response based on God's call to you. We will dedicate our commitments in worship on November 24. The enclosed materials also include instructions for making your commitment online or as a recurring draw from your bank account.

Thank you for helping us develop "2020 vision" as we prepare for faithful resource stewardship this coming year and as we plan for Central's thriving future. Thank you for sharing generously in our mission: *God's call to create Beloved Community with everyone.*

Faithfully,

Pastor Louise Westfall

P.S. Celebrate Thanksgiving in worship on November 24. I hope to see you!