



# UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

God is still speaking,

## COMMUNITY OF HOPE 2018 TIME, TALENT & TREASURE COMMITMENT

### *Calling Attention to Our Blessings*

God is Still Speaking . . .  
inviting us to notice and commit the blessings we have  
to live out the purpose of Madison Christian Community:

**To live faithfully and lovingly  
with God, neighbors, and creation.**



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*The Spirit is like water, fluid, soft, and yielding.  
It overcomes what is rigid and hard. Thus we are  
able to live by the fruits of the Spirit: love, joy,  
peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,  
gentleness, and self-control. ~ Galatians 5:22*

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Through our giving, we support the mission and ministry of God—within and beyond Community of Hope and the Madison Christian Community. We are called to be faithful and effective stewards of our time, talent, and treasure. Generosity is a vital spiritual practice, a response to an abundantly generous God. Our faithful contributions allow us to be bold together in covenanted ministry to be transformational agents with God for the sake of the world.

May you prayerfully consider your responses and discern where you are led to share your blessings of time, talent, and treasure. How has God blessed you through Community of Hope and Madison Christian Community? How will you be a part of ensuring that we can continue to bless? Where do you find joy in a generous heart?

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***Stewardship forms will be received in worship on Sunday, November 12 or may be turned in to the church office in hardcopy or electronically at any time.***

## **Commitments of Time & Talent**

**Name(s)** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ I/we have reviewed and updated my/our Time & Talent offerings in the online Ministry Scheduler Pro (MSP) tool.

*-or-*

\_\_\_\_\_ I/we need assistance with the Time & Talent process.

\_\_\_\_\_ Please have someone contact me at: \_\_\_\_\_  
(phone or email)

*-or-*

\_\_\_\_\_ I/we have filled out a paper Time & Talents form and would like office staff to update my MSP profile, and have include it with my pledge information.

## Commitments of Treasure

**General Fund**—supports *all operational expenses* of Hope’s ministries, including our share of the MCC operational budget and our portion of basic UCC support.

I/we pledge toward the *General Fund* \$ \_\_\_\_\_ per week / month / year

**Designated Benevolence Giving**—giving beyond the congregation for specific programs with which Hope has a long-standing relationship. Our benevolence budget for these programs will be based on pledges. However, we will give to each based on actual monies received. Offering checks for these should be made out to Community of Hope, with the name of the program in the memo line.

*Backyard Mosaic Women’s Project* \$ \_\_\_\_\_ per week / month / year

*Haiti Allies* \$ \_\_\_\_\_ per week / month / year

*Harvest of Hope* \$ \_\_\_\_\_ per week / month / year

*Lussier Community Education Center* \$ \_\_\_\_\_ per week / month / year

*Madison Area Jail Ministry* \$ \_\_\_\_\_ per week / month / year

*Madison Area Urban Ministry* \$ \_\_\_\_\_ per week / month / year

***Special Fund***

*Used for urgent financial needs of neighbors in our community such as rent, utilities, etc.*

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ per week / month / year

I/we have prayerfully discerned and joyfully offer my/our gifts for God’s ministries, understanding that I/we may increase, if able, or decrease, if needed, this estimate of giving at any time during the year.

Signature(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Printed Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

I desire information about adding planned giving to Hope through my will.

## As Followers of the Way of Jesus We Are ...

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Stewards of the Gospel</b></p> <p>For Christians, being stewards of all life begins with being stewards of the gospel. It is in the gospel that we find the meaning of our lives and the purpose of all our endeavors. The word "gospel" comes from the Greek word meaning "good news." This was the word used by the New Testament writers for the great announcement by Jesus of what God was doing for humanity.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Stewards of Self &amp; Family</b></p> <p>Being a steward of one's own life means being responsible in caring for the body and developing the mind. It means being responsible in whatever we do for a living and in how we use money and possessions. And it means being responsible for cultivating the life of the spirit within our own household and extended family.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Stewards of Earth &amp; Space</b></p> <p>Caring for earth and space as the basis of life and as the household in which all humanity must live, protecting the environment against all forces that abuse it, exploit, or threaten to destroy it.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Stewards of the Church &amp; Its Mission</b></p> <p>The stewarding of the life that comes to us through God's grace is the mission on which we are sent as the church. The abundant life for all is the exciting vision for which the church exists and labors as the stewarding community. The abundant life in the Gospel according to John is equated with the "kingdom of God", and Jesus is presented in the Fourth Gospel as the bearer of that life.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Stewards of Society &amp; Humanity</b></p> <p>Being stewards of our society means using our time, energies, and money for directly aiding the afflicted and bringing about justice. But it also means keeping stewardly vigilance over the formulation of tax policies and the expenditure of our tax dollars at local, state, and national levels. The money we pay in taxes, as all of our money, is an extension of ourselves and should reflect, as far as we can have any influence, our values and beliefs. Our stewardship of society is to be a caring and a vigilant stewardship.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Stewards of History</b></p> <p>We are stewards of history when we move into the margin of freedom that we have as individuals and groups to initiate creative acts, foster, reconciliation, generate good, and open up new chapters in history. Above all, we are stewards of history when we acknowledge that it is God who makes both creation and history possible, that God is in the processes of life and in the order of things providing of things providing new beginnings and new opportunities for bringing good even out of evil.</p>

*Table from <http://www.vtcucc.org/stewardship.html>*