



STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN 2024

October 16, 2023

Greetings and blessings to each and every member of the UPC family!

Thank you for your unwavering support of UPC as we live out mission and ministry to our members, neighbors, and the Austin community. We have much to be thankful for and we also have much to consider as we continue to grow into our goals of being deeply Rooted in worship, Growing through education and service, and Connecting to campus and community.

Earlier this month, your Session met to consider budget priorities for 2024, and we've got some big dreams, including:

- This Fall, our Ukirk campus ministry has been working tirelessly to connect with students in as many venues as possible. But we would love to be able to open up our building for student use more than we can currently. With your help, we could expand our hospitality staffing to create additional opportunities for student ministry.
- This past year, UPC has brought on some amazing new staff members, including our new Associate Pastor Carter Grant and our new Director of Finance & Operations Loree Misch. But as the cost of living continues to increase, we want to make sure that we can continue to support and retain existing staff.
- As you know, our Property and Vision Team is wrestling with some big possibilities for our church property, what it might become, and how it might best serve our collective vision. We want to make sure the PVT has the resources it needs to do its discernment alongside the best possible expertise. Our support now plants the seed for an exciting future.
- Additional goals include broadening and growing our youth program in order to attract more young families, additional funding to expand UPC retreats for women, men, and youth, a modest increase to our building reserves to address maintenance of our aging facility more adequately, and funding to address the increasing needs of Uplift and Micha 6.

We also want to make sure that we have a chance to talk about these goals with you in person. Many of you participated in small group social gatherings this spring and again late this summer

for property and vision presentations and fellowship. I hope you will attend our next series of small group gatherings during October and November to talk more about these 2024 aspirations – and to meet our new Associate Pastor, Carter Grant, in a small-group setting.

There's a lot to be excited about. We launch our 2024 stewardship campaign with a genuine sense of energy by the growing connectedness of our membership and the accomplishments achieved at UPC during 2023. But as the APNC reminded us when they presented Carter for approval, this is a moment that summons all of us. All of these aspirational goals will require help from you – both financial support and your involvement in UPC ministries.

To make your pledge, you can either visit the UPC website (<https://upcaustin.org>) and use the 2024 on-line pledge tool – or you can complete the enclosed pledge form and return it to the church office. Our goal is to have increased pledged giving of at least 5% so we can accomplish great things in 2024!

Additionally, and equally important, is your gift of time and talent. In order to fulfill our mission and continue to execute upon our ambitious goals, we need your valuable help. Please take a moment to complete the enclosed "Member Connection Form - Update" which will outline a number of areas that hopefully pique your interest. A committee member will connect with you and discuss the areas of interest you have indicated an interest in.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration of resources, time, and talent to support the mission of UPC. I encourage you to enter your pledged gift on-line or mail in your pledge card prior to Sunday, November 12th when we will dedicate all gifts to the glory of God. On behalf of the Stewardship Committee, Peace, and Grace to each of you.



Dan H. Ellinor, Chair

"The point is this: the one who sows sparingly will reap sparingly, and the one who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work" 2 Corinthians 9: 6-8