



November 13, 2019

Dear Friends,

Faith, fact and feelings. I have found in my experience that these are the three primary things which motivate generous giving. A faithful few give to the church because of their sincere faith. They base their giving on the generosity they have experienced from God and see giving to the church as an act of faith. These are the folks who give a tithe because they believe that this is what the Lord requires, and they have experienced the joyful blessing of selfless giving. Their stories are inspiring and their dedication to Christ's church runs deep.

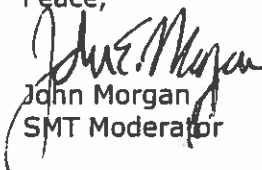
Other faithful folks are motivated by facts. They give because they see the good work which is being accomplished in the church. They love to see pie charts and graphs about where their contributions are doing the most good and how our mission dollars are reaching those in need. Good management of resources is important to them and thoughtful stewardship.

Then there are those whose feelings about the church lead them to give generously. They are moved by the spiritual and human impact the church is having on people's lives. They look into the faces of their sisters and brothers and want to build relationships that will share the love of Jesus Christ. They give so that the church can be a place where all can experience the joy of Christian fellowship and the sacred worship of the Lord. Our giving is often the combination of all three.

Please consider faith, fact and feelings as you prepare your church's pledge to the work of the Presbytery of Eastern Virginia. Give out of faith, because we are called as members of this body of Christ to support the work of the larger church. Give because you know that all you have comes from God.

I believe the facts show that our Presbytery is on solid footings and continues to faithfully manage the resources you give to our work. The Council and Stewardship Ministry Team have been working hard to use your contributions to continue the endeavors of the Presbytery, strengthen churches in need and reach out in mission to our partners. Our General Presbyter, Rev. Liza Hendricks has been tirelessly guiding and directing our mission as we move into a new era of ministry. And finally give because of your feelings for this community of faith. We are a connectional church and we need to support one another through the challenges which are before us. Give so that our connections may be strengthened and that we might share the joys and the sorrows of our brothers and sisters who labor beside us.

Please seriously consider your financial commitment to the Presbytery of Eastern Virginia. Consider increasing your pledge even if only a modest amount so we can continue to share the Lord's work in this place.

Peace,

John Morgan
SMT Moderator

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