



Money Matters

ILLINOIS CONFERENCE
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Friday, August 27, 2021

Weekly Insights into generosity, Conference finances, and being stronger together.

Nobody Likes a Grumpy Giver

UCC Daily Devotional from August 14, 2021

Written by Kaji Douša

Give liberally and be ungrudging when you do so, for on this account the Lord your God will bless you in all your work and in all that you undertake. - Deuteronomy 15:10 (NRSV)

Your pastor probably doesn't think they're so good at raising money.

Your pastor probably is expected to raise a whole lot of money.

Your pastor is likely to be terrified of raising money.

"Inspiring generosity" and "unleashing giving potential" sound lovely. And they are. Our spirits leap when we are generous and pastors love a leaping spirit, I think. Well, I do, anyway.

Leaping spirit gifts are a joy.

The tough ones are the gifts that land with a thud.

Picture the gift with a rope attached to it. *Bam!* The gift is given but can always be tugged away. If pastor preaches on that forbidden topic. If the musician doesn't play Ol' Rugged Cross every month. Or if the pastor *doesn't* preach on that required topic or if the musician plays the Ole' Rugged Cross one more time...

A checklist of requirements that accompanies giving becomes a cord around the heart, making it hard for a spirit to leap as we tether our giving to our expectations.

But gifts to the church are not for the pastor. They are for God.

My recommendation? Align with a community and then make your peace with it. Gifts aren't made to decisions, they are made to the place you have decided God is at work.

This brings cheer. If your gift makes you grumpy – are you in the right place?

Prayer

May my spirit leap as I think about your generosity, O God. May my gifts do the same. Amen.



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

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And we *Celebrate!!!*

Consolidation Progress at the Westchester Office!

In an effort to be better stewards of our finances, the Illinois Conference is in the process of consolidating our Conference offices to be both more efficient and effective in serving our local churches. A reconfigured office space, as well as Conference structure, will allow us to use our time and resources more wisely. Part of this process involves going through everything in our office spaces, reorganizing and sorting through what we have, scanning files so they can be stored electronically (**THANK YOU TO OUR VOLUNTEERS HELPING WITH THIS!**), and lots more! The picture shows some of the amazing progress our new Support Staff have made already. Just a few weeks ago those shelves were full!



Support the work of the Illinois Conference with your gifts today!

Who we are

The Illinois Conference of the United Church of Christ is made up of all of the churches, members, clergy and covenant partners affiliated with the United Church of Christ in the northern half of Illinois.



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