To: Fellow Disciples of Christ

From: Your Stewardship Committee

Re: 2017 Stewardship Campaign, “Living Our Vows”

Praise God! We give thanks for sixty years of ministry as the congregation of Aldersgate United Methodist Church. Thank you for your prayers, presence, gifts, service and witness, that make Aldersgate a nurturing church that fosters the Holy Spirit’s warming of hearts everywhere. Just as we were boldly organized in 1956, we continue boldly today to spread the love and gospel of Jesus Christ in our local community, our region, and the world.

We connect with our brothers and sisters near and far by involvement in missions and ministries of all different types. For example, we address hunger and other basic needs through efforts like food pantry support, backpack meals, and help for the homeless. We offer emotional and spiritual support by providing classes, meeting space, and Stephen Ministers for those seeking help with loss, addiction, and other life changes. We open our doors and invite the community to recreational activities that promote healthy living. We assist those in other countries by partnering with local ministries on site, to strengthen their initiatives to serve and grow their communities.

We continue to grow as a congregation, deepening our personal relationship with Jesus Christ. Collective worship, small groups, fellowship groups, Sunday school classes and family programs encourage us to draw closer to each other and to God. We worship together, support each other, and share in the unending blessings that God bestows on us.

Much has changed in sixty years, but God’s providence and protection is unwavering, and our mission remains the same: to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. As a local church, we provide the most significant arena through which disciple-making occurs. With God’s help, may we continue in the example of our congregation’s pioneers, to trust, obey, and follow the urging of the Holy Spirit, and step out in faithful fulfillment of our vows.

When we join Aldersgate United Methodist Church, we pledge to faithfully participate in its ministries by our prayers, our presence, our gifts, our service, and our witness. These vows will be the focus of our **2017 Stewardship Campaign, “Living Our Vows.”** Each week, from **October 2 through October 30**, we will focus on each one of these vows and how it relates to our walk as obedient people of faith.

The stewardship campaign will culminate on the same day as our celebration of the 60th anniversary of our formation as a congregation. To help us celebrate, our District Superintendent Carol Goehring will deliver the sermon on our Diamond Jubilee Sunday, the final day of the campaign October 30. Please note that October 30th is a fifth Sunday and plan to join with us at a single 10:30 worship service in the FLC followed by a fellowship meal.

Please begin praying about how you will respond to God’s call to generosity for next year. We hope that you will complete and return the attached form, indicating your willingness to give to the 2017 General Fund. An option for a gift toward Retirement of Debt beyond your gift to the General Fund is also offered. Forms may be returned to the church office immediately or throughout the campaign, or at the Diamond Jubilee.

On behalf of Aldersgate United Methodist Church, your Stewardship Committee thanks you for your prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness.

Joyfully In Christ,

Keith Porter and Rev. Dr. Homer Morris

**Aldersgate United Methodist Church**

**General Fund & Retirement of Debt**

***Living Our Vows***

Dear Aldersgate United Methodist Church Family:

It is my / our intention, circumstances permitting, to participate in the Church’s Stewardship Campaign and make a commitment in the amounts and manners indicated below:

**My / Our Commitment for the 2017 General Fund:**

$ Weekly for 52 weeks $ monthly for 12 months

$ Annually $ (a schedule of your choosing)

This represents a total commitment for the 2017 Operating Budget Fund of $

Continue Electronics Fund Transfer (EFT) - YES\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_ Establish New EFT - YES \_\_\_NO \_\_\_

**My / Our Commitment for the Retirement of Debt:**

I am / We are committing to Second Mile Giving beyond our General Fund Giving to the Retirement of Debt: My / Our commitment is described below:

$ Weekly for \_\_\_ weeks $ Monthly for \_\_\_\_ months

$ Annually for 1 year $ Annually for years

$ (Schedule of your choosing) – Please describe below:

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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This represents a total commitment for the Retirement of Debt of $

Continue Electronics Fund Transfer (EFT) - YES\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_ Establish New EFT - YES \_\_\_NO \_\_\_

**DESCRIPTION OF COMMITMENT(s), IF OTHER THAN CASH**

(Appreciated assets…real property, stocks, bonds, personal property, etc.)

Print Names:

Signed: Date:

Email address: Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

It is understood that commitments may be adjusted at any time by contacting the church treasurer.