



*Therefore, be imitators of God, as beloved children, and walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.*

Ephesians 5:1-2, NRSV

Dear Annunciation Family,

I am grateful to have been asked to lead our Stewardship Campaign this year and to spend these weeks with intention as we enter a season of giving. Our theme this year is *Walk in Love*, and it calls us to remember that our greatest gift in community is how we align, come together in purpose and mission. When we walk in the same direction, we can do so many things.

During this season, we reflect on our financial health, sharing openly about the resources needed to sustain our ministry. The Finance Committee has prepared a draft budget of \$580,584 for 2025, a carefully considered amount that reflects necessary adjustments for rising expenses, along with reductions where possible. This budget represents the essential costs required to keep Annunciation running—everything from maintaining our campus and its seventeen air conditioning units to employing the dedicated staff who support our ministries, outreach, and daily operations. It also covers the programs we cherish, from Sunday worship and Christian formation for all ages to Youth Group, mission trips, and community outreach that embodies our love for our Lewisville neighbors. In order to meet this proposed budget, we must increase our collective giving by 25% over 2023 and 2024 levels. Jesus calls us to be His hands and feet, to serve and support one another and our neighbors; by sharing our time, talents, and treasure, we enable Annunciation to continue walking in this calling with strength and compassion.

Each of us hears this call differently, just as each of us has been blessed by God differently. Our talents and training have been gifts freely given to us in Creation so that we may share them with a world in need. How will you feel God's call to walk in love this year? How will you determine how you will share your gifts with God's people in our community? Some of you may wonder how your pledges will create the budget we need; I ask that you consider proportional giving. Proportional giving provides a path forward to understand what each percentage step is worth and the dollar amount impact to your personal or family budget. Giving back to God not a one-year event; it is a life-time journey. Setting a percentage allows you to step up your giving over time. Enclosed is a Proportional Giving chart that will help you visualize your step-up pledge, along with your Annunciation family's step-up pledges, will make our budgetary requirements achievable when we work together.

With this letter you are receiving the invitation to make your promise to the Church for the year to come. Before you fill it out, whether online or on paper, I ask that you pray about it, discuss it with your family, and discern how God is calling you to share your gifts. Pay special attention to both sides of the form and let us know what time and talent offerings you would like to learn more about this year.

Our campaign will end on November 17th, please return your answer to us by then if possible so that we may count your pledge in our Commitment & Celebration Sunday, where your gift will be added to many others to be blessed, broken, and shared with the world. If there is anything I can do to support you or questions I can answer, please do not hesitate to reach out.

Walking with you in Love,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Ron Duncan".

Ron Duncan  
Stewardship Committee Chair