



The First Presbyterian Church of Ulysses

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Dear Friends,

We are off to a wonderful summer and we are excited about the end of school, graduations and summer vacations. What may surprise you is that we are also starting a new fiscal year for the church. To remind you, the church has committed to shifting its fiscal year to start July 1 and run to June 30. As you may have read in the Grapevine, we are striving to handle this change as smoothly as possible and that means communicating with our congregation. This letter is about how you can financially support the mission of our church in this upcoming year. We are asking for your consideration and pledge via the reply card below during the month of July, and invite you to respond at the Congregational Meeting (after the Barn Service on July 11).

The Session is excited about our opportunities for ministry for this new fiscal year, and has adopted the new 2011 budget accordingly. The budget represents a 0% increase in expenses over the 2010 annual budget and a 6% increase in expenses over the 2009 actual expenses when we did not have a full time pastor for the year. We are all indebted to our Staff, Ministry Teams and Treasurer who work diligently to keep our overhead expenses as low as possible. Over \$21,000 in our budget, or 16% of the total, is directed to mission support largely through our Presbytery. We are also grateful for the directed giving of our members that is received each year in addition to this budgeted mission support. It is our desire, enabled by your generous ministry and giving, to keep mission support as high a percentage of our budget as possible.

So how can you be involved? In addition to volunteering your time and spiritual gifts, we are relying on your essential financial support and have a specific request about the new 2011 budget. At the current giving levels, we anticipate our 2011 expenses will exceed income by about \$4,500. We've held our expenses low; should we reduce mission to balance the budget? Is that God's hope for FPCU and your role in it? Only you can decide but as a congregation we have a valiant history of aspiring for more. About \$8,300 of our planned mission support is our "Per Capita" obligation to the Presbytery, or about \$45 per church member. If 100 church members (not families) pay their own Per Capita of \$45, *in addition to their planned annual giving*, then we should be able to balance the budget and sustain our mission.

We are now half way through fulfilling the commitments many of you made in your giving pledges for the 2010 calendar year. Kindly use the response card below to communicate to the church your intent for the remainder of the pledge period. We are presenting you with three options: You can provide a new full annual pledge for July 2010 to June 2011, you can provide an updated 6-month pledge from January 2011 to June 2011 after your current annual pledge is completed, or you can continue your pledge at the same rate you've been giving through June 2011 until the next pledge year starts.

