


2019 STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN

THEREFORE

- LOVING CHRIST.
- LOVING ONE ANOTHER.
- LOVING THE CITY.



¹⁹ THEREFORE, BROTHERS, SINCE WE HAVE CONFIDENCE TO ENTER THE HOLY PLACES BY THE BLOOD OF JESUS, ²⁰ BY THE NEW AND LIVING WAY THAT HE OPENED FOR US THROUGH THE CURTAIN, THAT IS, THROUGH HIS FLESH, ²¹ AND SINCE WE HAVE A GREAT PRIEST OVER THE HOUSE OF GOD, ²² LET US DRAW NEAR WITH A TRUE HEART IN FULL ASSURANCE OF FAITH, WITH OUR HEARTS SPRINKLED CLEAN FROM AN EVIL CONSCIENCE AND OUR BODIES WASHED WITH PURE WATER. ²³ LET US HOLD FAST THE CONFESSION OF OUR HOPE WITHOUT WAVERING, FOR HE WHO PROMISED IS FAITHFUL. ²⁴ AND LET US CONSIDER HOW TO STIR UP ONE ANOTHER TO LOVE AND GOOD WORKS, ²⁵ NOT NEGLECTING TO MEET TOGETHER, AS IS THE HABIT OF SOME, BUT ENCOURAGING ONE ANOTHER, AND ALL THE MORE AS YOU SEE THE DAY DRAWING NEAR.

HEBREWS 10:19-25

► SOME OF THE MOST IMPORTANT WORDS IN THE BIBLE...

...are those little connecting words like “and,” “but,” “or,” and “because.” One of the most important connecting words in the Bible is the word “**THEREFORE**.” So often, it is a signal marker that God has done something wonderful and powerful for which we may take joy, experience growth, and give thanks.

In Hebrews 10:19, the Bible reminds us that Jesus Christ has opened the way to God for us, and that He himself is working for us and speaking to God on our behalf. Wow! What a priceless gift.

So what should we be doing while Christ is laboring for us? Last May, the Leaders of First Presbyterian Church decided that the best way for us to respond to what God has done for us is to pursue the Kingdom vision of Jesus Christ by Loving Jesus Christ, Loving One another, and Loving the City. Our vision is based on three commands that our Lord gave to his disciples: to love the Lord Our God with all of our heart, soul, mind and strength (Matthew 22:37); to love one another as Christ has loved us (John 13:34) and to love our neighbors as we love ourselves (Matthew 22:39).

The word “**THEREFORE**” stitches God’s promises to our lives. Our faith begins with the recognition that by creating us and saving our lives through Jesus Christ, God has given us everything we have—our lives, our families, our friendships, even our work. **THEREFORE**, we must use what God has given us to use to Love Jesus Christ, Love One Another and Love the City.

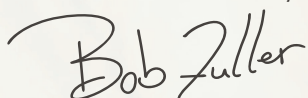
In old shorthand notation, the symbol for “**THEREFORE**” was a triangle of three dots or points (∴). Each one of the dots represents a point of our mission, united by our gratitude to God. When we look at this symbol, I want us to consider how God is calling us, as families and as the congregation to respond with our financial resources, time and expertise.

The word “**THEREFORE**” (∴) is an important word, but it cannot stand alone. How is God calling us to complete these sentences in 2019?

- God drew men and women to San Antonio with the mission to teach people His word, **THEREFORE**...
- God has preserved this church for 172 years through prosperity and hardship, **THEREFORE**...
- God has set us in the center of the city, **THEREFORE**...
- Jesus Christ has called us to “Love God, Love One Another and Love the City,” **THEREFORE**...

We need every family in the church to share the blessings God has entrusted to our care. Our church is investing in the future of God’s work through Children’s and Youth ministry. We are providing pastoral care to those who need it. We are providing local ministries with resources and people, and we are providing opportunities for the First family to enjoy fellowship together. Most of all, we are spreading the good news of Jesus Christ. **THEREFORE** (∴), I am asking each one of you to join Morgan and me in prayer that thanksgiving for God’s love would take over our lives, and challenge us to respond as never before.

Grace and Peace,



Senior Pastor

● WE LOVE JESUS CHRIST...

...THROUGH WORSHIP AND EDUCATION.

As a vibrant community of faith in Jesus Christ, FPC is committed to learning and teaching the Bible, growing in discipleship through worship and discipleship education.

Worship is the center of our life together. Whether through the Traditional Sanctuary worship, Contemporary worship, inspirational music, or the special services that mark holidays and the high points of our life together, the development of authentic and inspiring worship is a key part of our vision. By participating in worship, we make a public declaration of thanks to God while sharing Christ's truth and glory to the world. Through our radio and internet ministries we are expanding our reach and sharing the gift of God's kingdom with the city.

We believe that the Word of God shapes the People of God for the Mission of God. Our Discipleship Education ministries provide tools and truth for Christian growth. Becoming involved in Christian education ministries is a great way to show love for Christ and know him more through his teachings. This includes engagement in Sunday School and Bible studies for adults, young adults, youth and children, as well as extracurricular programming such as Vacation Bible School, Urban Plunge, lectures and retreats. Your commitment to providing your presence, talents, time and knowledge to engage in God's word is vital. In 2019, we plan to be fully staffed for our mission by calling a new Director of Children's Ministry and a new Director of Young Adult and Women's Ministry.





● WE LOVE ONE ANOTHER... ...THROUGH COMMUNITY FELLOWSHIP AND CARE.

It is through fellowship and care that church becomes family, and we are committed to strong, family-style ministries to foster intentional, deep relationships. This includes our efforts to hold programs and evening events directed at fellowship, such as "House of Prayer," "The House" young adult ministry, "KEYS" (Older Adult ministry) and numerous special events throughout the year. Our Women of the Church ministry has always been an important part of the life of the church. In 2019, we are committed to renew and rebuild our Men's Ministry.

Our Congregational Care ministry works to serve by providing compassionate, confidential care to those who experience a wide diversity of human needs. This includes Stephen Ministers, Deacons and Elders who provide companionship, friendship and prayer for those experiencing challenges such as serious illness, hospitalization, or the death of a loved one. Other programs such as "Powerful Tools for Caregivers" provides programs which support those caring for the elderly and afflicted. This fall we are launching a new initiative, "Care Clusters," which will involve engaging groups throughout FPC in fostering a culture of care, connection and communication, and we look forward to your support and involvement! We will expand on our active commitment to marriage and family care through our partnership with the "San Antonio Marriage Initiative," and we are also developing "Divorce Care" ministries for those who are dealing with life on new terms.



● WE LOVE THE CITY...

...BY SERVING THE CITY THROUGH CHRIST-CENTERED PARTNERSHIP AND STRATEGIC SUPPORT.

FPC has a legacy of supporting, both physically and monetarily, a vast number of established and new missions and ministries, both in our neighborhood and throughout the world. The difference our organizations and individuals make continues to change communities for the better.

For example, we were instrumental in establishing the "South Texas Alliance for Orphans" (STAF0), which now involves over 20 additional churches since 2016. Our YPM Mission trips to the Yucatan have involved construction and improvements to a university, as well as providing school supplies and other items for children in need. Your participation helps us to serve the cause of mental health through spiritual partnership by hosting weekly care groups through "NAMI" (National Alliance on Mental Illness) as well as providing food for the body and soul through our "Loaves and Fishes" partnership ministry and "Monday Evening Bible Study" with the "Faith Based Institute." 2019 will also mark the beginning of collaboration with the "San Antonio Christian Hope Resource Center."

2019 is going to be a year of Connection. Our goal is to involve more of our covenant partners serving directly with our mission partners for transformation in the city and around the world. We believe that we can exceed our giving to ministries of compassion and witness, and we also believe that God will mobilize 709 of our covenant partners to share and show the gospel with 5000 people, through short-term mission teams and local mission action over this year.

► COMMITMENT SUNDAY IS NOVEMBER 18

Therefore...

"Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work." 2 Corinthians 9:7-8

HERE'S HOW.

Pray. Ask God to open the door for you to give generously to the ministry of First Presbyterian Church in 2019.

Make a Commitment. Trust that God is at work in the church and that the gifts you give will not be wasted, but will be used to spread God's Word and His love. Giving to the church is special. Bringing our gifts together is an act of humility that amplifies our impact as it exalts our Lord.

The money we give to support the work of the church is the foundation of our giving. The Bible sets the foundation for our giving as a "tithe" or ten percent (10%) of one's income. If you cannot reach it this year, begin where you can and set your goal to move toward that mark. For first-time pledgers who cannot give an entire tithe, we suggest starting with 5% of income and commit to increase by 1% of your income each year toward achieving that goal. All Christians should strive to tithe, and beyond with additional offerings as opportunities arise.

Get involved in a church ministry. Find a way to serve God by serving others and sharing your faith. We encourage everyone to serve through participating and assisting in our numerous ministries, programs and courses, or utilizing your much-needed skills and talents through volunteering. Whether serving on a mission team, assisting in youth activities and outreach, or providing volunteer support on Sunday mornings, your church family has a place for you.

Give generously and make a Faith Commitment. A "Faith Commitment" is a pledge of financial support that helps the church responsibly plan and budget for ministry and mission work each year.

Faith commitments can be made by doing one of the following:

1. Visiting our website at www.fpcsanantonio.org/give
2. Filling out the attached commitment form and bringing it to the service of dedication on Sunday, November 18. You may also mail it to the church office, drop it off, or place it in the offering plate on any Sunday.



THEREFORE

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In response to God's generous gift and by faith, I/we intend to support the ministry and mission of First Presbyterian Church San Antonio with the following gift to its 2019 operating budget:

\$_____PER
(Please check one)

☐ WEEK

☐ YEAR

☐ MONTH

☐ OTHER _____

FOR ANNUAL TOTAL OF:

PLEASE PRINT NAME(S):

ADDRESS:

EMAIL:

PHONE:



First Presbyterian
CHURCH OF SAN ANTONIO

LOVING CHRIST. LOVING ONE ANOTHER. LOVING THE CITY.

404 N ALAMO STREET, SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS 78205-1918
OFFICES LOCATED AT AVENUE E NEAREST MCCULLOUGH