

**Talmadge Hill Community Church
Stewardship for 2016**

Dear Friends,

What we used to call the annual “pledge drive” has taken on a new identity. We see it differently now. As our church has come to this point of maturity, we realize how fully we are all living together in this household of faith.



As members of this household, we each take on some responsibility for its vitality and care. There’s an ancient word that denotes someone who cares for and supports the household—steward, which has its linguistic roots in the Greek word for house. Early Christians used the word steward to refer to those who took care of the three essential elements: hospitality, hearth-keeping and housekeeping.

- Hospitality is all about sharing with anyone who would enter into the great sphere of our household. This is about how we serve the world and demonstrate our care, especially, for the neediest—the hungry, the homeless and the children.
- Hearth-keeping is the spirit of our worship and programming and has to do with creating an inspired sense of “home” for members as well as all visitors. It involves each of us to some degree because without keeping the “home fires burning” we would not have a spiritual community.
- Housekeeping has to do with all the structural things a household needs like a building, managed finances, and a staff of people to give it life.

This letter is an invitation and yes, a grateful request, to commit yourself anew to the stewardship of our household of faith.

Our theme this year is: **Love Generously**. When the members of the household of faith make their love tangible everyone’s life is made better. Talmadge Hill’s household is run with great care. For the extraordinary things that emanate from our small church, we operate on a very lean budget, barely breaking even each year. We need every one of us to support our household.

Enclosed you will find a pledge card inviting you to sign on as one of the Stewards of Talmadge Hill Church. If every one of us accepts the challenge to **Love Generously**, we can expand our ministry, enrich our music, deepen our educational offerings and have an even larger impact on the world’s suffering.

How will you do your part to care for our Household of Faith?

Lovingly,

Handwritten signature of Bill Durkin.

Bill Durkin
Chair, Stewardship Committee

Handwritten signature of Rev. Mich Zeman.

Rev. Mich Zeman
Minister

Handwritten signature of Rev. Carter Via.

Rev. Carter Via
Minister