

# Forward by Faith

## 2009 Fall Financial Stewardship Campaign

Grand Island Trinity United Methodist Church

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Recently, in the 10:45 worship we closed with the song, “Here I Am, Lord.” It was a deeply spiritual moment for many present that morning by the sound of the singing. I (Melanie) closed my eyes during the chorus and let the sound of your voices surround me as we sang the words, “Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have heard you calling in the night. I will go, Lord, if you lead me. I will hold your people in my heart.” Such powerful words! They reflect our commitment as Christians to follow where God is leading us.

As your pastors, Jay and I believe that all Christians are called to serve in some way. That song speaks to answering Christ’s call in our lives and in the life of the church. It would be difficult to imagine how one could be a follower of Christ and not answer Christ’s call to us. We pray that each one of you is finding a way to answer Christ’s call in your life.

The scriptures tell us that we are all given gifts in varying measure that we are called to use for the work of Christ in the world. You might have the gift of teaching, someone else might have the gift of prayer, another might be gifted with a hammer and saw. Christ calls us to use those gifts so that His love might become a reality in this broken, hurting world. We are called to do our part and there is great joy in doing so.

One of the ways in which ALL Christians are called, is to give financially to the work of Christ in the world. With out a doubt, we have used at least some of the gifts God has given us to make money; which in turn we use to provide the necessities of life for ourselves and our families. The scriptures remind us, that as people of faith, we commit ourselves to give back to God a portion of our income.

One of the ways that we as people of faith keep a healthy perspective on our money is by giving some of it away. Jay and I are both advocates of proportionate giving – the discipline of giving away a significant and set portion (percentage) of our money. If you don’t already do it, we would encourage you to move toward the Biblical practice of giving away a tithe (10%).

Finally, please know that we would both be happy to discuss the issue of Christian service and financial giving with you personally. As you consider the call of Christ in your own life, we hope that you will choose to support the church to the extent that you are able.

Grace and Peace,



### **FINANCE COMMITTEE:**

**Bruce Schreiner, Jay Vetter, Melanie Adams,** Tom Graves, Ron Underwood, Sam Reynolds, Gail Leetch, Derek Apfel, Phyllis Miller, Pat Langer and the Board of Trustees.