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Dear Brothers and Sisters of Wesley Church:

Greetings from the Finance Team and blessings in anticipation for what lies ahead in 2019.

Back in April, our leaders gathered for a retreat to discuss our relational connection and its impact on the generosity of the church.

Actions desired from the Finance Team were:

More financial and stewardship education: To that end we offered a six-week class titled Financial Faithfulness. We plan to offer Financial Peace University this year.

More communication: We as a team speak with you, write to you, and make the budget and financial statements open to all.

Testimonials: These are an important part of communication and we think we should offer these more often. Anyone in our church family is welcome to volunteer to offer a testimonial.

In January, Andy asked for a special offering for the District Challenge regarding our apportionment. The district offered a \$1000 match. Thanks to your generous response, we raised more than \$3500 plus the match! Your finance team is encouraged and sees this as a positive sign that we take our obligations seriously. Thank you and congratulations!

Giving, as measured in current envelopes, remains steady in 2018 vs 2017. While this is an encouraging sign, we want to remind everyone that challenges lie ahead. There are many repairs, maintenance, and improvements we need to undertake on our nearly 25-year old church home. Rich Chambers maintains a careful list of building needs, and this list is reviewed on a monthly basis.

We have been moving slowly, but making progress on offering electronic giving through the website, on a new mobile app, and directly through your bank (this has been operating for some time). Hopefully these methods will help to encourage faithful giving at Wesley, as they have at other churches.

Currently we are working together to complete our budget for this year. Reminder, please note: We are still accepting Estimate of Giving cards for 2019. These cards are available on the **Connections Corner Table** near the office in the Atrium. This information is so very helpful when the finance team meets to form the budget, which includes funding church ministries and operations. The budgeting process is more accurate when individuals step up and give consistently either electronically, or by putting their offering in their giving envelopes.

God is calling us as a Finance Team to do more at Wesley Church. We can best answer this call by adding passionate, motivated members to our team. If you, or someone you know, might be interested in giving of their time and talents by joining the finance team, or serving specifically in the areas of communication and stewardship education, please speak to Pastor Andy or any member of the Committee on Nominations and Leadership Development.

Thank you and generous blessings,

Your Wesley Church Finance Team.