



Dear KCC Member/Friend,

February 2025

First of all, thank you! Your generous giving provides extraordinary support to our church and the ministry we share in Jesus' name. You are among 31 households who last year each pledged or gave up to \$1,000 our operating budget in support of our many programs and endeavors, our charitable giving and our service projects, our worship life and our discipleship. Together as a group, your giving combines to provide our church with almost \$8,000, about 4% of its pledge/gift income. Thank you!

This year our stewardship theme is **Imagine Together**. How fitting for this year as we dream and discern how God might be calling us to live out our new mission statement ("Following Jesus, we will LOVE FIRST. Love God. Love people. Love the world.") We have already begun to imagine together:

- We are imagining a future where each and every member deepens their sense of discipleship, learning from Jesus' life and teaching how to be faithful followers in our own.
- We are imagining a church steeped in an atmosphere of celebration, sharing often and easily about our faith, our gratitude, and our hope.
- We are imagining extending our reach to our online congregation (the dozens, occasionally hundreds, of people who connect with us each week through the livestream of our worship service, or via our website, or in a "KCC Zoom Room").
- We are imagining expanding our ministries of care by making the position of "Minister of Congregational Care" permanent, so that the deep compassion and loving care we are known for can be even more strongly supported and offered in new ways.
- We are imagining outreach and advocacy ministries to address immigrant/refugee concerns and environmental issues.
- We are imagining making our building even more accessible even as we make it more secure, so that the sacred space of our sanctuary could be open to the public.

These are among the dreams and imaginings that our congregation has expressed!

And if you look at all we've accomplished in the last few years, there's good reason to believe we just might make some of those dreams a reality! In the last few years, KCC has emerged from the pandemic bursting with energy and ideas. We've started a Community Meal, a concert Series, a joint youth group with Peace Dale

Congregational Church. We've learned about the local history of slavery and accounted for our connection to it through the installation of two Witness Stones. We've launched an effort to acknowledge and repair our relationship to the indigenous land we stand on and its original people. We've convened four KCC Circles, monthly faith/fellowship groups that offer support and spiritual growth to adults. All the while, we maintain vital worship, joyful fellowship, active service and outreach, and pastoral care and leadership. Friends, it is not hard to imagine how God smiles and sings through the music, ministry, love and giving of such a generous and dedicated group of people!

So, this stewardship season, as we express gratitude and appreciation for all the ways that Kingston Congregational Church loves first—and loves well—please make it a priority to prayerfully consider your giving for the upcoming fiscal year starting at the end of June. Please renew your pledge, and if it is within your means, increase your giving and let your imagination take flight! We are a vibrant congregation. We have a gift to give that the world keenly needs. Let's imagine together what it might look like if we followed our dreams and God's Spirit!

Stewardship Sunday is March 1. Please bring the enclosed Pledge card to worship that day to be blessed and dedicated in a joyful service of celebration (it will also be our annual Transfiguration/Jazz Sunday!). And stay for a delicious celebratory brunch hosted by our Fellowship Board.

Grateful to be your partners in ministry,

Rev. Jan for the Stewardship Task Force