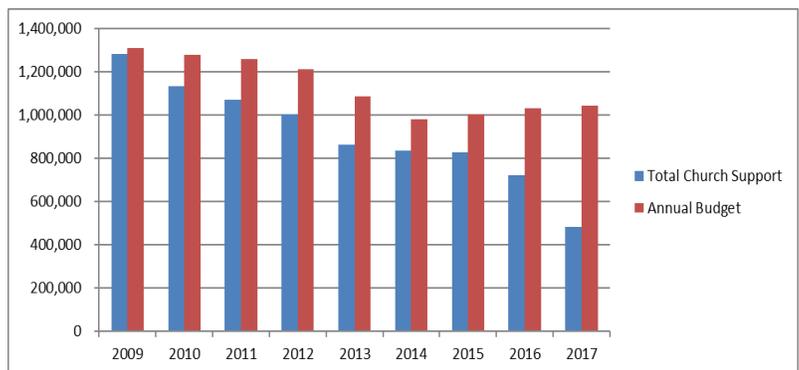


Dear Presbyters,

On the cusp of a new year, we anticipate important and significant change in the life of Salem Presbytery and await with hope and expectation a new and exciting beginning. As you know, our search committee is seeking a transitional General Presbyter and interviews are now underway. Additionally, the Dream Team continues to discern how Salem can best fulfill its ministry going forward so local congregations may thrive. I believe the Holy Spirit is at work inspiring change that will enrich our mid-council and better equip Salem to serve.

As a community of “faith, hope, love and witness” (G-3.03),” your financial support during this time of transition is critically important to our mission as a grounded, connected and growing community. We are looking to the future with expectation and excitement and are counting on you for renewal and revitalization. As discussed in our November 14th Presbytery meeting, revenues in recent years have trended well below our annual budget and church giving does not cover per capita. After discussion, you approved our 2018 budget, acknowledging that a draw of \$200,000 from reserves can and should only be a temporary measure.

I appreciated the comments from the floor and the commitment many of you made to talk with your session about Salem’s mission and your church’s annual pledge. Historically we have been able to draw from a healthy cash reserve, covering per capita from our member congregations and helping fund our ministries. Turning the corner, I ask you to prayerfully consider a 10% increase in giving to Salem Presbytery, in addition to covering your per capita of \$8.58 per member.



The gospel understands the church as a “spiritually organic reality.” John tells us the church is connected like a vine to its branches, and Paul says the church is like that between a human body and its head. As a member of Salem Presbytery you are part of an important relational network of over 24,000 members and 268 clergy spanning 19 counties in central and northwest North Carolina. Together we are a visible witness of the whole church, called by a covenant of faith to promote the worship, fellowship, care and outreach of our members and congregations.

I am grateful for your ministry and appreciate the pastoral care you provide the members of your congregation and your work within our presbytery. Please help support Salem during this important time as we vision a future full of hope and promise for the churches of our region and our church at large. Copies of this letter will also be sent to your mail box, along with a 2018 pledge card.

Yours faithfully,

Sam Marshall, Executive Presbyter

We as Salem Presbytery strive to be a visible witness to Jesus Christ, **REACH** to equip and strengthen our congregations and leaders for ministry in the world, **EQUIP** and to inspire and model local and global mission, **SEND**.