



Urban Grace
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Dear Urban Grace Family,

I hope and pray this letter finds you well. I am grateful for each of you and I continue to be encouraged and inspired by what a wonderful community we have at Urban Grace. I am constantly reminded of what a unique and vibrant church we have as more and more folks ask to hear our story. In the last year the story of our church was told in the annual report of the ninth largest foundation in the world (The Lilly Foundation), the success of our capital campaign was shared in press releases, and I was invited to Seoul, South Korea to share about Urban Grace at the largest Presbyterian church in the world. That's wild! Yet no matter where we're sharing our story, we are consistently met with gratitude and appreciation for how we share the love of Christ with our community.

Our church year is almost over and before it ends we will be spending a few weeks in worship reflecting on the last year, on who we are as a church, and where we're going together. We call this "stewardship season," but the focus is not so much on why everyone needs to give but more on who we are and how we need one another to continue to serve our city.

It feels a little bit weird to be excited about stewardship (it's certainly not what I expected when I decided to become a pastor). But over the years, I have grown to love this season of sharing. I am excited to get to tell you all more about the history of this place, about how our church inspires me, and how we need one another's support to continue to grow as a church. It has become one of my favorite times of the year!

Over the next few weeks we will retell the story of First Baptist and Urban Grace, we will hear from people about why Urban Grace matters to them, and we even planned an extra Sunday to share more detailed (and entertaining) updates about our ministry to the congregation and the city. The Trustees wanted to make sure that we give ourselves enough time to share about our ministry and how our support enables the church to serve. Stewardship will begin on November 10th and culminate on November 24th when we will invite you to commitment your time, effort, and finances. Between now and then, we'll be mailing out an annual report with practical and financial details about how the church is doing, how we are investing in ministry, and what we have planned for the coming year. This will be accompanied by a letter from the Trustees and a pledge card to be returned on the 24th.

In the meantime, if you have any questions about stewardship feel free to reach out to any of us. Our treasurer, Michael York, would be happy to share about the financial position of the church, Jen Dean, our Director of Operations, has all the info on electronic giving, and I'm more than happy to chat about any other questions you might have.

May God's grace and peace be with you all.

Rev. Ben Robinson, Pastor