



Dear Westminster friends,

In 1983, as virtual newlyweds, Lucy and I visited churches in Salem looking for a church home. Among several others, we visited Westminster and were impressed by the location, the pastor, the people we met or knew, and the music program. Westminster had a pipe organ. We decided to go to the first choir rehearsal that fall. As rehearsal started, the choir presented choir director Wally Johnson with an over-ripe banana pierced with several birthday candles. After rehearsal, we were invited to join the group at Paddington's for celebratory pizza, beer, music and dancing. Truly a different kind of choir. We joined, and shortly thereafter, joined the church. It has been our church home ever since and we have both served in numerous capacities plus raised our son and daughter here. They both went on the church mission trip to Hogar Infantil in Chiapas, Mexico, before going off to college and their careers.

In 2004, I joined the Long-Range Planning Committee and became chair in 2005. The committee was tasked with developing a plan for expanding our building. We hired a consultant in 2006 to help develop a Feasibility Study and Masterplan. At the end of 2007, the Long-Range Planning Committee was dissolved, and two new committees were formed: a Building Finance Committee, chaired by John Brosy, and a Building Committee that I chaired. During the final design and construction phases, our committee worked diligently, meeting every two weeks for two years, and delivered the project on time and under budget.

To make this expansion possible (which included adding fire sprinklers and an elevator), we applied for and received a loan from the Presbyterian Synod of the Pacific. As a commercial-type loan, it has been renewed every five years, with the last renewal in 2023. The Congregation has been faithful and generous in contributing to the loan repayment. At this point in time, with a little extra effort, we could pay off the loan well ahead of the estimated 2033 payoff date. Having helped shepherd this dream, project and loan for twenty years, I could hope to help guide Westminster through the final loan payoff and a "mortgage burning."

If total pledges of \$225,000 are received during the next two years, we could pay it off in 2026. Lucy and I will do our part to see that happens and would urge all members of the Congregation to do the same. Attached are some FAQs, a pledge form, and instructions for pledging.

Sincerely,

Bill Foster, Chair
Budget and Finance Committee

