

stewardship 2021



Renewing

HOPE

Nurturing

COMMUNITY

Welcoming

YOU

TriConChurch.org



UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST
a just world for all

Dear TriCon Friends,

The year 2020 has been a most unusual one for all of us and for the church. We have been unable to meet in person for many months, but we have endeavored to stay connected through ZOOM worship services, meetings and forums, weekly emails, the monthly Newsletter, cards, notes, and phone calls.

Your financial support through these challenging times has enabled the church to retain staff and maintain worship. As we embark on our Stewardship campaign for 2021, we are once again asking for your faithful commitment to allow the work of the church to continue and flourish in the coming year.

We have chosen the theme of **COMMUNITY**, signifying our common purpose as stated in our by-laws: “to worship God; to preach, teach, and live the gospel of Jesus Christ; to experience Christian fellowship and unity within the church and the church universal; to celebrate the sacraments; to render loving service toward all of God’s creation; to work for righteousness, justice and peace.”

Within these pages, you will discover what our church community means to some of our fellow parishioners and we hope you will be inspired.



GOD is calling us

to be a **nurturing community** of

faith

that **HONORS GOD** through
service & mission



community

Sing to God a new song, for God has done marvelous things. Let the floods clap their hands; let the hills sing together for joy.

Psalm 98

There are many lessons we are learning in these difficult months of physical distancing, not the least of them is that we are social creatures. We are sustained by community, find strength in our connection to one another, and discover a regenerative faith that produces endurance, hope, joy and generosity. We are finding that our faith strengthens our resilience and invites innovation and opportunity to “sing to God a new song.” It is your continued faithfulness in supporting TriCon Church that fuels this ship of light. Let us rejoice because God has done and is doing marvelous things!

Rev. Bob Brown, Senior Minister

from gratitude to generosity

We have so much to thank God for. In particular, I thank God for sustaining our church through the changes this year has brought us. We have had to let go of a lot – our usual way of doing things, beloved who have died – and through it all, God has been so close. Remember, Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever (Hebrews 13:8); and our church is not going anywhere. The fellowship we share is as crucial as ever. May your gratitude to God increase your generosity.

I have held many things in my hands, and I have lost them all. But whatever I have placed in God's hands, that I still possess. —Martin Luther

Rev. Gail Miller
Minister of Congregational Life



TRIcon

community



welcome

*Welcome is a word used often in our worship services each Sunday, and for me, the word **welcome** is what our church is all about!* (Hank Haff)

TriCon Church is committed to extending an extravagant welcome! No matter who you are or where you are, in your life and in your journey of faith, you are welcome here!

It is our collective lives that turn small gifts into colossal ones, and, it is our collective lives that essentially make the difference in how this world not only survives but in essence, flourishes. (Sally Clutter)

nurture

There are seasons in our lives when our spirit is strong and we have the ability to nurture others ... then there are other times when the spirit is depleted and we need to be nurtured. When you are feeling alone, spiritually adrift and exiled, a caring, non-judgmental and nurturing community like TriCon is essential medicine in the care of the soul. (Greg Howes)

We believe that God is calling TriCon Church to be a nurturing community of faith.

relationships

The relationship Tom and I have had with TriCon over the past many years is the most long-standing relationship we've had outside of families. We treasure the support it provides us as well as the challenges it sets before us. (Susan Bates)



A person is a knot in a network of relationships.

(Raimon Panikkar, priest, scholar, teacher)

connection

It is such a gift to know that the church and all of you are there for me, for each other, for our community, and for our world. I am so grateful for that love and support, and with it, I can begin to imagine the world that I want to live in post-pandemic, and then take steps to create it.

(Leslie Ackles)

mission

What begins within TriCon's family of faith is a ripple that does not calm out to still waters but moves to join other ripples until a tidal wave of love reaches to the ends of the earth. (Amy Pasley)



In this age when accusations of misinformation, shaming, nativism and fear seem to dominate our headlines, I believe that God asks us to let our moral compass be set by a higher power. Our moral guidelines come from something outside of and bigger than ourselves. We are beholden by our faith to love ALL people and

serve them in the name of God and in the model of Jesus.

(Shirley Huettig)

diversity

I am grateful for the love and understanding that I feel from the TriCon community and our acceptance of divergent points of view; TriCon encourages multiple viewpoints and is stepping up to these challenges.

(Fred Kinch)

Unity is not Conformity -- at TriCon Church, we are diverse in background, experience, sexual orientation, heritage, political beliefs, even theology. But, we are united in purpose.

value

Today is your lucky day, I've got a great investment tip for you -- TriCon Church! I'm telling you, you cannot go wrong. It's been paying dividends for years. It's delivered in good times and in bad. In fact, I'd say it performs particularly well in bad times. I think there is something about adversity that really highlights two of TriCon's best performing attributes: Faith and Hope. (Paul Mahoney)



God is calling TriCon Church to honor GOD through service and mission.

If the church is a business, it is a rare one where you are both free to participate and free to set your own price. The important thing about value is that it is intensely personal; no one can tell you what something is worth to you. Consider the many ways the church brings value to you; contemplate your personal value and then name your price. (Jon Rennert)



***Your beliefs become your thoughts,
Your thoughts become your words,
Your words become your actions,
Your actions become your habits,
Your habits become your values,
Your values become your destiny.***

(Ghandi)

giving

Giving is receiving; not giving and receiving. The change in one tiny word makes all the difference. Our church needs full participation always, but especially now, during these times of stress. The front doors are closed, but the church is open. (Barbara Stevens)

You go to your country club because you love to play golf; you go to town meeting because you want to make your town a better place to live; you go to a garden club meeting because you enjoy working with the soil; you go to work to earn a living and hopefully to enjoy utilizing skills you have acquired. There is only one place you go to become a better person, a more loving, thoughtful and giving person. And that is church. We get enriched here.

(Bob Lawson)

I have found that among its other benefits, giving liberates the soul of the giver.

(Maya Angelou)



My hope is built on nothing less
than Jesus' blood and righteousness
I dare not trust the sweetest frame
but wholly lean on Jesus name

finances

All in all, the church remains on solid financial ground. While our building is closed, the staff are still working, either in the church office or from their homes.

Building expenses are somewhat reduced - no need for munchkins, printed bulletins, and large quantities of toilet paper and trash bags! However, most of the expenses of maintaining the property continue. We have also strived to maintain support for the many mission agencies who depend on us. And, understandably, we have needed to spend more on technology to keep up in this new virtual world.

Income is down as the LEAP School has closed their operation in our facility and we have been unable to accommodate other renters. Plate donations from visitors to our worship services are no longer being received.

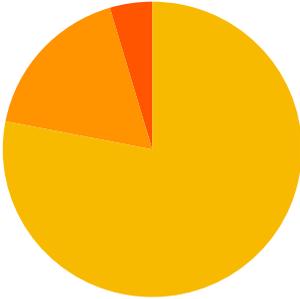
Thanks to the faithful support from parishioners who continue to pay their pledges and send in donations, and due to the solid endowment funds that have been built over the years, which produce income that is vital to balancing the budget, we will finish 2020 in a healthy financial position.

As we head into 2021, the church needs your pledges and gifts, now more than ever -- they provide **80%** of the total income. We look forward to the time when we can return to in-person worship, but for now, we remain

united in **community**.

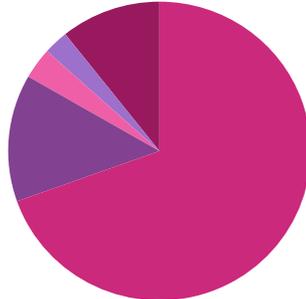
● Pledges & gifts ● Endowment
● Rental Income

INCOME



● Personnel ● Property ● Programming
● Administration ● Mission

EXPENSE



Please consider a **3%** increase in your pledge to allow the church to weather this season, maintain our ministries, cover increased technology costs, allow for a modest cost-of-living increase for clergy and staff, and sustain mission giving.

We are aware that some in our community have been effected significantly by the pandemic and are unable to keep up their prior level of giving. If you can do more, this is the time; your generosity is needed and appreciated. If you have not pledged in the past, please prayerfully consider showing your commitment and support by making a pledge this year.

Please return your pledge card or make an online pledge through our website triconchurch.org by November 15th. Together, we will make 2021 a year of renewed hope, faith, and community!

Our Stewardship Team

Jon Piper, Chair; Jake Brown; Amy Bruning; Jeff Campbell; Liz Crowell; Judy Walpole; Woody Woodman

TRICON

Trinitarian
Congregational Church

54 Walden Street
Concord, MA 01742
www.triconchurch.org



TO: