

Subject: A Heartfelt Update on Our Church's Financial Stewardship

Dear Beloved Church Family,

As Elders, we come to you with transparency and trust. We are grateful for your faithful partnership in the mission God has given us, and we want to be open about the challenges we face as stewards of His resources.

As we reach the halfway point of the year, we want to share an important update about our church's financial health. So far, giving has not kept pace with the needs of our ministry. As of the end of June, we are just over \$7,000 behind where we had hoped to be, which puts us significantly off track from our 2025 financial goals. Our congregation approved a monthly budget of \$42,000 in December, but we've only met that amount in two of the past six months. While we had hoped to begin rebuilding our reserves this year, the reality is that we've had to draw from them instead. At this point, we are able to cover our fixed monthly expenses but have very little margin beyond that. We are actively and carefully monitoring our spending and will continue to do so as we move forward.

We share this not to burden you, but to invite you into honest fellowship as we seek God's guidance together. Scripture reminds us of the joy and blessing of generous giving. In 2 Corinthians 9:6-7, Paul writes, *"Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver."* Your generosity fuels our shared mission to love our neighbors, serve our community, and proclaim the Gospel.

We also take comfort in Malachi 3:10, where God invites us to *"Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this," says the Lord Almighty, "and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that there will not be room enough to store it."* This promise encourages us to trust God's provision as we give faithfully.

We ask for your prayers as we navigate this season. Please pray for wisdom for our leadership and for God to move in our hearts as a congregation. If you are able, we humbly encourage you to prayerfully consider your giving. Every gift, given cheerfully and sacrificially, makes a difference in advancing God's kingdom through our church.

We are committed to financial transparency and wise stewardship. We will be happy to answer any questions or discuss our budget further at the business meeting this Sunday following the worship service. Thank you for your love, faithfulness, and partnership. Together, let us trust God to provide as we seek to honor Him with all we have.

With gratitude and hope,
Doak Taylor, Ryan Phillips, Mark Donohoe, Josh Weems, Keith Grissom
Elders of Lifepointe Fellowship