

March 13, 2011

Dear Friends,

I am so excited to begin my ministry at Christ Congregational Church. From the day I read your church profile, I knew I wanted to be a part of what you are doing to cultivate the promise and potential God has given you. CCC is a vibrant family of faith that dares to dream of new possibilities. As we begin a new chapter of the CCC story, we are poised for growth. It is time to sink our roots deeper into the nourishing presence of God. It is time to bloom and blossom and extend the grace of Christ to a hurting world.



“Direct my steps according to thy promise.”

Psalm 119: 133

As we think about our giving to the church, I want us to consider the impact our gifts can make. I hope you know that as you give to the church, you empower us to do great things. Yes, we pay staff and operate and upkeep our buildings and grounds. With our gifts, we build our community, give to mission, and educate our children and youth. Beyond all this, your giving helps us grow into the promise.

Let's grow a church in which all who enter know of God's lavish love . . . a place where we are reminded that God calls us and knows each of us by name. Let's grow a church where the presence of the Spirit renews, refreshes, and challenges us. It is a church that doesn't have all the answers but asks the right questions . . . a church deeply rooted in, and arching towards, God's promise.

Let's grow a church where worship is joyful, exciting, and expectant, as well as reverent . . . a place where we can come as we are and know we will be accepted and wanted in this place. It is a church that suffers when you are not here with us. It is a church where people gather to encourage and be encouraged, to love and be loved, to forgive and be forgiven.

Let's grow a church that's not afraid of change . . . a church where we are all sent out to add value to the lives of other people. It is a church where there are no status symbols, where the pastors work alongside the people so that we can all be ministers together.

Let's grow a church that is so vital to the community that it would be missed if it was no longer around . . . a church so blazing in its worship, its quality of caring, its eagerness to reach out to those in need, its commitment to do works of justice, that it can be seen by all and cannot be contained.

This stewardship season, I ask you to continue to give generously to your church—and the church you want to be. Your gifts will nourish us and help us nourish others. Your contributions will help us grow as we enter this new journey together. Your generosity will make an impact for generations to come. I know that you have already blessed CCC in so many ways. Thanks for all you do to help the church live up to our potential. And thanks for your continued thoughtful, hopeful, and faith-filled sharing, as we grow into the promise together.

Pastor Matt Braddock



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