Grove United Methodist Church

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March 2023

Dear Members and Friends of Grove United Methodist Church, Greetings from the Grove UMC Finance Committee!

Thank you for your support of Grove UMC, especially in the last two years of a global pandemic. We made it through this terrible time and the church continues to minister to our congregation and those in need. Highlights of those efforts in the last two years include:

Locally. Support of Radford's Homeless and Hungry.

Grove worked with Unity Christian Church in its <u>Community Table</u> outreach by providing volunteers to cook and serve every other month for this once-a-week program. We also contributed \$5000 to help with the cost of the food.

Grove distributed \$5000 in gift cards through the <u>Radford City Public School system</u> to needy families at Christmas time.

<u>Grove's Community Thanksgiving Dinner.</u> Grove continued its annual preparation of nearly 300 meals for the community on Thanksgiving. The past years found us providing the food as a pickup only operation.

<u>To Our House.</u> Grove supported New River Community Action's program to shelter the homeless.

Regionally. Support of Southwest Virginia Counties to Tazewell and Buchanan. Grove provided "flood buckets" of cleaning supplies and over \$2000 to people in these counties devastated by flooding.

Globally. Support of war-torn Ukraine. Grove sent \$5000 to the United Methodist Disaster Relief fund for Ukraine.

These efforts emphasize the importance that past and current members place on outreach ministry. They were supported either by members who have given funds to Grove as part of their estate or by current members through special offerings and/ or special projects.

Our annual Operating Budget includes both fixed and estimated expenses such as salaries, utilities, insurance, and support for ministries of nurture, outreach, and witness through Grove UMC, the New River District and Holston Conference. For the past three or four years, we have operated with several thousand dollars of deficits between our income and expenses. We have been fortunate to cover these deficits with funds from the Paycheck Protection Plan (PPP) related to the COVID pandemic and renting our lower level to the Radford City School System for their pre-kindergarten program. As of June 2022, PPP COVID funding is no longer available and rental income to Grove UMC ceased as our Radford City School pre-kindergarten classes returned to McHarg Elementary and their newly renovated rooms.

In November 2022, the Finance Team, a part of our Administrative Board, asked for budget requests for 2023 from Boards, Teams, Groups, Classes, etc. within Grove. Each was asked to provide their goals for 2023, how these goals were to be accomplished, and the amount of funding requested with an explanation for the use of these funds. All requests were provided to members of the Administrative Board and incorporated into the 2023 Operating Budget which was approved by the Administrative Board in January. The total for the 2023 Budget is \$230,269, 19% larger than the 2022 budget, but still 8% less than five years ago.

We ask that you prayerfully consider how God is calling you to support Christ's mission and ministry through Grove United Methodist Church in 2023. Please complete the attached commitment card and return to Grove as soon as possible. You may return your commitment card by regular mail to Grove United Methodist Church, 1020 Tyler Avenue, Radford, VA 24141, place it in the offering during our regular 10 AM service, or email a copy of the card to radfordgroveumc@gmail.com.

In addition to your financial gifts of faithfulness, we also request you indicate ministry areas or interests you would like to be engaged with as God calls you to support Grove through your prayers, presence, spiritual gifts, service, and witness.

Thank you and God bless you as we together enter another year with Christ in ministry to the world.

Pat Brown

Finance Chair, Grove United Methodist Church



1020 Tyler Avenue Radford,VA 24141 Phone: 540-639-2807

Name:	
	□ My/Our Presence
Address:	□ My/Our Service
	□ My/Our Gifts \$ /week
	\$/month
	\$/year
Phone:	□ My/Our Witness

Our Vision:

We are a community of believers who welcome all. We seek to follow the example of Jesus Christ in our daily lives. We worship, study, share our faith, fellowship, and apply our talents and gifts to serve others.