



Kirk Family,

What a joy to be your Interim Pastor! This is a profoundly gifted and exciting church. There is so much to celebrate and be proud of. Other churches I served have been much older – 100, 150, even 200 years old. So for me, working at the Kirk feels like working with a bunch of teenagers – so much energy, so much joy, so much passion! And such an exciting future before it! Kirk in the Hills has a lot to be excited about as it faces the coming years. This is what I have seen so far:

- Members who are energetic, faithful, and gifted in countless ways
- One of the most beautiful church campuses in the country
- An appreciation for magnificent sacred music, led by highly gifted musicians
- An extraordinary commitment to mission
- Committed leaders, who are working hard to make good and sometimes difficult decisions
- Financial leadership that is responsible, careful, and sometimes even frugal
- A staff that is professional and gifted in their areas of expertise.

In this time of transition, I am not here to “keep the motor running,” but to keep this strong church moving forward. This momentum will help set the stage for the success of your next Senior Pastor. I am working with the leadership of the church to develop thoughtful plans for 2023. Some of the areas we will be working on are clear. With generous giving, in the next year, we can move forward in these areas:

- Laying the groundwork for a successful pastoral search process
- Expanded pastoral care for our many members in need
- Enhanced support for our excellent music programs
- Sustaining a gifted staff through fair wages and benefits
- Growing our youth and family ministries.

Your gifts will make these enhancements, and more, possible. If our members are willing to increase their pledge by 8 to 10 percent, 2023 will be a great year.

As an Interim, at times I need to be very candid. If the Kirk stays flat in our giving, areas of the Kirk’s ministry and mission will decline. Waves created by the pandemic, inflation, global market fluctuations, transitions, and a 75-year-old building are the most obvious difficulties we will face. The endowments are helpful, but they are not enough. Keeping the Kirk sailing through this flood of challenges requires a partnership of generous giving by the congregation.

Let me say clearly, with our members increasing their pledges by 8 to 10 percent, we can have a great year. I invite you to pray about that. See if God is empowering you to help us move forward in this way. Remember – it wasn't raining when Noah built the ark. Now is our time to build the budget that will help us weather any storms in the coming year. Every pledge matters. Thank you for doing your part!

Sincerely,

Dr. McDonald

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Andrew McDonald". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "A".

**Rev. Dr. Andrew McDonald**  
Interim Senior Pastor  
Kirk in the Hills