



# TRAVIS PARK

TRAVIS PARK CHURCH

January 10, 2020

*unconditional love and justice in action*

Dear Bishop Schnase,

Grace and peace to you in Jesus Christ! We are praying for you and your Cabinet as we all seek faithfulness and fruitfulness in these challenging and uncertain times.

Enclosed is a 2019 apportionment payment of \$34,400.50. Combined with our monthly payments in January and February 2019, we are submitting a total of 53.5% of our apportioned amount for 2019. After a congregational survey, Church Council discernment, and congregational vote at our December 16 church conference, we are asking that these apportioned funds be allocated to the following categories: Conference Benevolences (\$19,926); Ministerial Support (\$12,160); Pension & Benefits (\$8958); Las Misiones District Causes (\$8,926).

We do not take this action to withhold a portion of our connectional giving lightly. Travis Park has always prided itself in paying 100% of our apportionments in monthly installments, and has consistently worked to be a generous, "Five Star" church for whom local and global mission is core to our passion and calling. We have experienced the blessings of the financial, prayer, and moral support of the wider connection, especially after our October 2019 roof collapse and flood. Travis Park wants to be part of a larger Methodist connection, and wants to excel in giving generously for our shared efforts in mission and ministry together. We do not want to do harm to important ministry and family in Christ in the name of resisting harm.

However, the congregation has decided that we cannot in good conscience fully support a system we consider discriminatory, punitive, not in keeping with the spirit of our Methodist tradition, and most importantly, "incompatible with Christian teaching" when it comes to the full and equal inclusion of our LGBTQ siblings in Christ. We have tried to direct our support to the efforts we most want to participate in. We are also giving directly to some causes that we have in other seasons supported through our apportionment giving. For example, we also voted at our December church conference to give \$5000 directly to Lydia Patterson Institute, since that ministry falls under the "General & Jurisdictional Causes" category from which we are withholding support.

We are hopeful and prayerful about the work of General Conference 2020, and will re-evaluate our practice of connectional giving after that gathering. May the Holy Spirit guide and empower us all.

Thanks be to God, as we seek to give our whole selves and steward all the good gifts God has entrusted to us.

Rev. Eric Vogt, Senior Pastor  
Brock Curry, Church Council Chair

cc: Rev. Kendall Waller; Rev. Greg Hackett