

THE GENEROSITY OF JOHN KNOX PRESBYTERY

A fairly new group on the John Knox Presbytery radar is the Generosity Task Force. The GTF was formed in 2021 to celebrate the faithful stewardship of JKP congregations, to provide information about the mission and ministries supported by those gifts, and to promote year round stewardship as an alternative to the standard Stewardship drive that often dominates the Fall schedule. John Knox Presbytery has a long history of demonstrating faithful stewardship and generous giving.

As your (departing) Executive Presbyter I can tell you that as I talk with EPs around the country, they speak of Per Capita giving rates in their presbyteries hovering in the range of 75-80%. JKP consistently supports the larger church to the amount of over 90%. A remarkable statistic that speaks to the commitment of our congregations.

Since arriving here I have often said that John Knox is a special place. One of the things that makes it special is the fact that despite the theological and political diversity that exists here, as it does everywhere, the members, leaders, and congregations here value relationships over the egotistical position of being “right” and standing alone.

In Ecclesiastes 4 we read; *“Two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their toil. For if ones falls, the other will lift him up. But woe to the one is alone and falls and does not have another to help.”*

Humanity has long known that working together creates better results. By working together and carrying our own share of the load JKP is able to have vibrant mission in this area. JKP can have the staff and leadership to support congregations, pastors, and clergy in difficult times and celebrate with them in good times. Working cooperatively John Knox can do more than any of our congregations can do alone.

As one of my final acts I want to thank the people who make up JKP for your commitment to one another and to the larger church. Very few churches have the resources to totally support a missionary in the field, but by combining our resources we can help support many such ambassadors for Christ. I want to commend the people of John Knox for your steadfastness in being a part of something greater than yourselves. Finally, I want to encourage you to continue your generosity, reminding your

members of the good work they do, and all that is possible in the days to come.

John Knox is a special place! Don't ever forget that. And please keep on being special. Watch for more details from the Generosity Task Force and use that info to brag on your members and friends. The JKPGTF will remind you of ways to promote generosity throughout the year and celebrate, rather than just enduring a campaign for a few weeks at a time when your minds are on football, deer hunting, or digging out your sweaters.

May God continue to bless John Knox Presbytery!

Chaz Ruark on behalf of the Generosity Task Force