

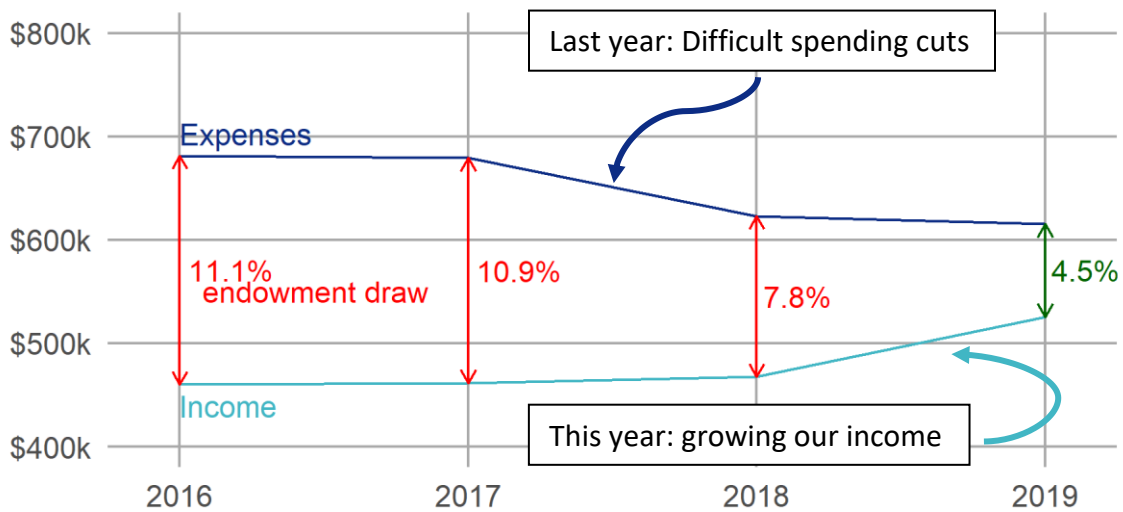
# Our Path to Financial Sustainability

*We the people—individually and together—we are the church.*

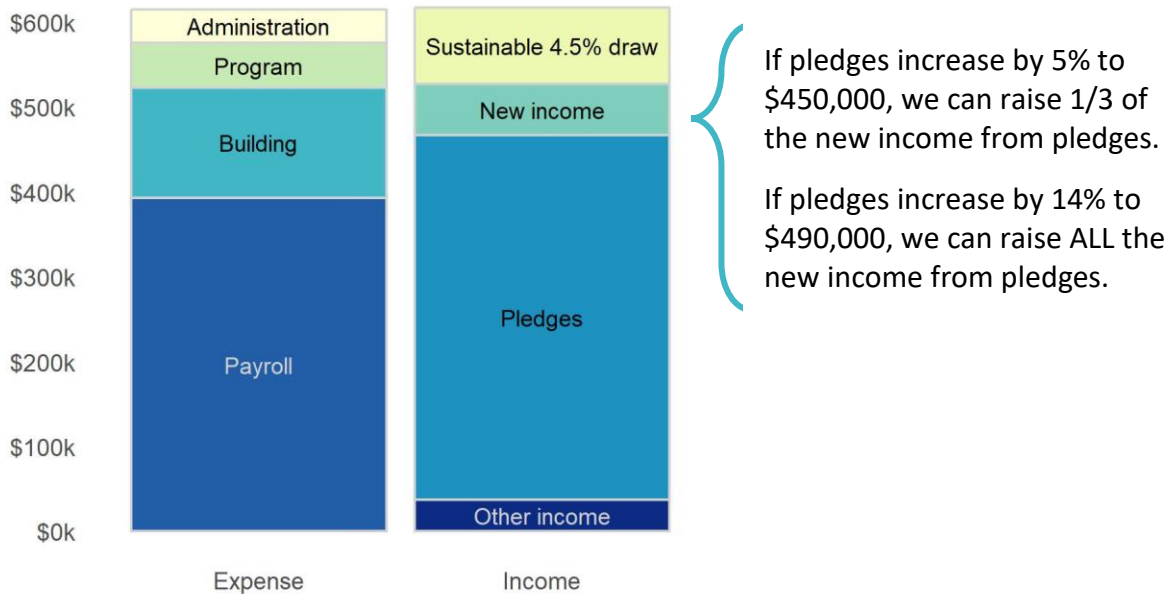
**Last year, we achieved remarkable progress toward our long-held goal to close the sustainability gap:**

- ✓ Through deep spending cuts, we reduced the endowment draw from 10.9% to 7.8%.
- ✓ Plate offerings doubled since we began giving away the plate once a month.
- ✓ We received more than \$430,000 in pledges, exceeding our goal of \$420,000.
- ✓ The number of pledges increased 14% from 136 to 155.
- ✓ The majority (56%) of returning pledgers increased, and the median increase was 17%.

**This year, we can achieve a sustainable 4.5% endowment draw with \$60,000 of new income.**



**Pledges are the bulk of our income.**



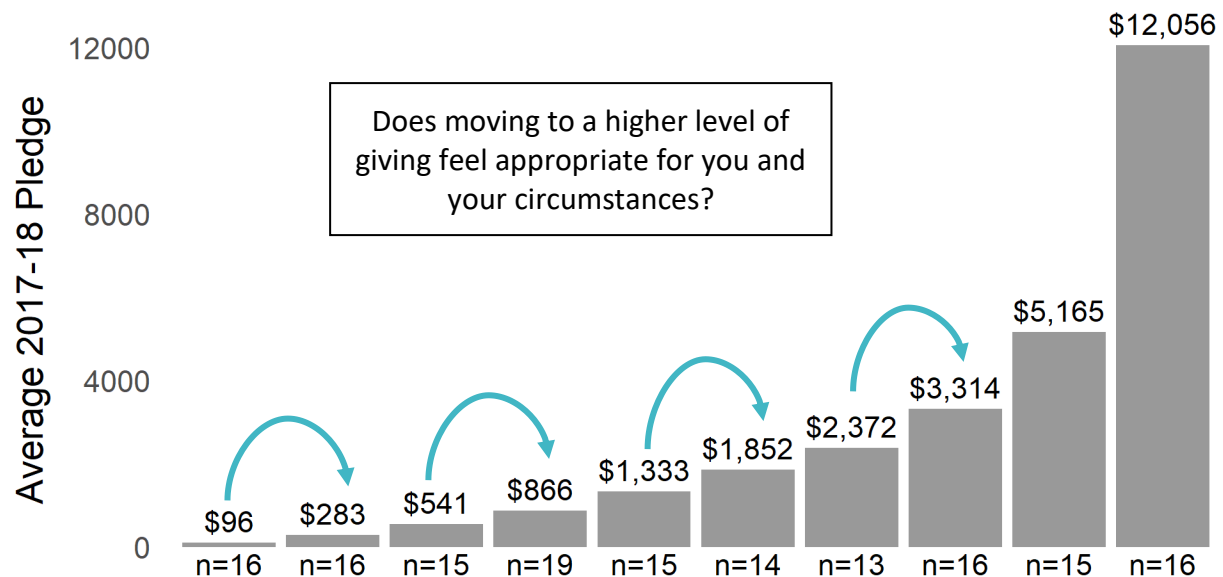
## How can I support this beloved community?

### Step 1 Reflect on the role of First Parish in your life

- How does this community sustain you?
- How does this church add to the fabric of your life?
- What social action and immigration and racial justice efforts have you joined?
- How does it support you in times of struggle and celebrate with you in times of joy?
- What friendships have you formed here, and what have those meant in your life?
- How have you grown as a person since being here?
- How much is being a member a part of your identity?

### Step 2 Consider the context of our pledge distribution

This chart represents our 2017-18 pledges, totaling \$430,000. All 155 pledges are arranged in order by increasing pledge amount and then divided into 10 approximately equal groups of pledges. The *average* pledge of each group is shown in dollars.



### Step 3 Return your pledge form

Pledge by mail using the attached form or online at [firstparishinbrookline.org/pledge-online](http://firstparishinbrookline.org/pledge-online)

Set up recurring payments through your bank or at [firstparishinbrookline.org/give-online](http://firstparishinbrookline.org/give-online)

**We are this church.**