



## Answers to your questions about Above & Beyond 2017

**September 20, 2017**

Dear Church Family -

This is in response to a few questions some have had for Pastor Leo about the "Above and Beyond" giving plan that was introduced during last Sunday's worship service and to provide more specifics on this financial effort.

### Background

Before the offering time last Sunday, September 17, Pastor Leo said that "we have fallen about \$65,000 short on giving so far in this year and we anticipate that at current levels the shortfall would grow to \$100,000 for the full year". We are asking for extra gifts in order to meet that need. This is giving 'above and beyond' your current giving level (beyond your pledged and regular giving). Raising the goal amount would be cause for celebration during our 40th Anniversary next month. Pastor Leo and Lupe, our leadership on Finance and Church Council, along with their spouses, and three others have committed a total of \$33,000 to the cause, so we are well on our way!

### Is There a Suggested Amount for My "Above and Beyond" Gift(s)?

My simple answer is that you should give 100% of the amount you're willing and able to cheerfully give. How much God has financially blessed you? Can you create the margin to go above and beyond and give an additional 1% of your Annual Income? Prayerfully consider what is possible and respond as the Holy Spirit moves you. We recognize that folks are in different places financially and have differing abilities to participate. All amounts are welcome, needed, and will be put to meeting the goal. You can look at the income based giving table that may help as you consider what you are called to give. ([table link](#))

### "Above and Beyond" Giving Instructions

When you make out these gifts, please be sure to put "Above and Beyond" in your check memo, or please select the "Giving Above and Beyond" choice from the drop down if giving your gifts on-line (<http://bearcreekumc.org/giving> ). If you wish to commit additional future gifts to the cause, please either e-mail the amount(s) to [finance@bearcreekumc.org](mailto:finance@bearcreekumc.org) or call the church office (281.463.2330) and ask for Marsha Dupree our Finance Manager, and she will add your commitment to our total raised for "Giving Above and Beyond".

Catch me on Sunday if you have any questions or reach out to Pastor Leo. The church office staff can also help direct your questions and needs.

Thanks!

Rick Wilson  
Finance Chair - Bear Creek UMC