

Sabbath Economics Challenge

August 21, 2020

Hope Church Friends,

Three years ago, we began meeting as a small group drawn by our common interest in exploring Chad Myers' concept of Sabbath Economics. Myers draws his principles from the biblical story of manna in the wilderness. The overarching theme is that in God's economy everybody has enough and nobody has too much. Recall that those who did not trust God's promise and accumulated more than they needed found that manna spoiled in their jars overnight.

We, of course, are not living as meandering herders and subsistence farmers. Yet the biblical principle remains: Where do you draw the line between enough and having too much? We have been applying this question to our own households. The answer isn't always financial, but where it was, we agreed to set aside those funds for a community blessing of some sort.

Last year Consistory agreed to allow us a Sabbath Economics Fund under Hope's supervision in which to hold the funds we were reserving. Guidelines were created and it is now time to disperse 50% of the reserve. This year that amounts to \$600.

At its August meeting, Consistory approved a dispersal of \$600 for the Good Samaritan Ministries Eviction Diversion Program. Additionally, Consistory proposed and approved a \$600 match. Consistory also approved our request to challenge the congregation to match these funds.

So, we are inviting you to join us in making this gift. Our experience has been that our faith has grown by this experience of challenging ourselves to live in closer harmony with our convictions. There has been only one rule: Giving has to be a gift; if you can't do it with joy, don't do it. There is no standard or template for evaluating where to draw the line between enough and too much. Yes will be an honest answer for some. No will be an honest answer for others.

If you choose to make a matching gift, your donation can be made to Hope Church. Make your check out to Hope Church with a notation on the memo line that the funds are for the Sabbath Economics Challenge. Direct your gift to Karla Kammeraad-Bos in the church office. Donations will close September 6th.

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