

An Interim's Impressions

I think 2012 is probably a three percent year for First Church, Charlotte.



Your Elders, Deacons and pastors have known since January that some “one-time” contributions would not be repeated in 2012. Some committed members responded to the financial aspect of stewardship with “over and above” gifts amounting to more than \$250,000. In order to provide the same level of service to Christ in the Heart of Charlotte in 2012, that more than \$250,000 will have to be made up.

And then there is the possibility of calling a new Senior Pastor sometime in 2012. The position will have to be funded at a higher rate than was budgeted for 2011 for an interim. Add to that increases in program and outreach needs.

So it looks like a three percent year to me.

Here is what I mean: if we will each, or as a family, give three percent more of our total income in 2012 than we have in 2011, we will be able to do what God wants done through this church in the coming year. Three percent more of our gross income is a decent guide forward.

What if you did not pledge in 2011? Or give? Well, just pledge and give three percent of your gross income in 2012. And in the years to come increase the degree of thankfulness represented in you proportionate giving.

It is not complicated. And it is not difficult to thank the Giver of Life for the gifts of your life.

2012 is a three percent year.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Richard H.". The signature is written in a cursive, somewhat stylized font. The background of the page features a large, faint, decorative Celtic cross watermark.