



STATE OF THE CHURCH

PRESENTATION

AGENDA

- Challenges
- Strengths
- Vision & Strategies
- Your Response & Year-to-Date
- The General Budget & Need
- Q&A



THE CHALLENGES REMAIN

- Secularization
- Generational Change
- Financial Stewardship
- Polarization in the Culture

*The four challenges are still with us,
but so are our strengths.*

OUR STRENGTHS

WORSHIP • DISCIPLESHIP • MISSIONS • CARE



MISSIONS AT A GLANCE

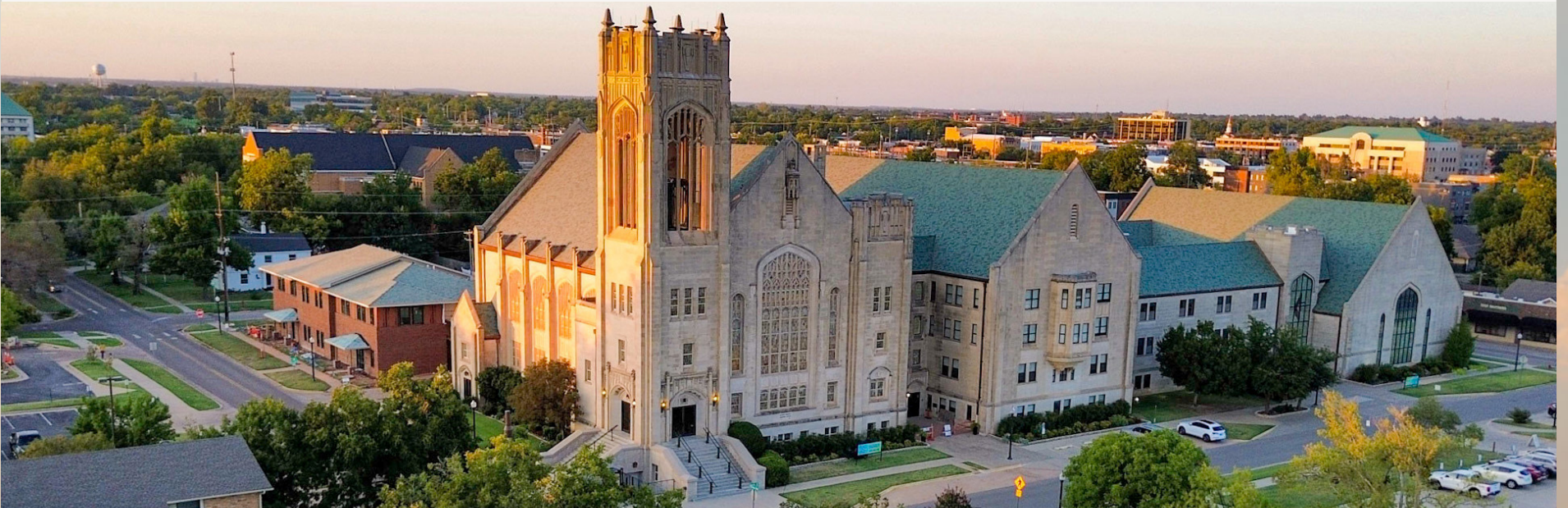
- Food Pantry ($\approx$ 11,000 served/yr)
- \$140K+ Utilities Assistance
- Missions Teams
 - Baton Rouge (97) & Philadelphia (38)
- Tuesdays Together
- Food & Shelter (200+ weekly)
- McFarlin Cottage
- NPS Partner Schools (5)
- Habitat for Humanity
- Project Transformation
- Stamp Out Hunger
- ID Assistance
- Wesley Primary, Tanzania
- CarePortal (new)

CARE MINISTRIES

- Congregational Care Ministers (36)
- Hospital Visitation Team
- Senior Adult Care Team
- Alzheimer's & Grief Support
- Funeral Care

VISION & STRATEGIES

A ONE-YEAR UPDATE



STRATEGY
1
IMAGINING
A LONG
FUTURE

THE MCFARLIN FOUNDATION

Your gift grows
yearly and makes
annual offering to
church.

*Your Gift
Multiplied*

Your Gift



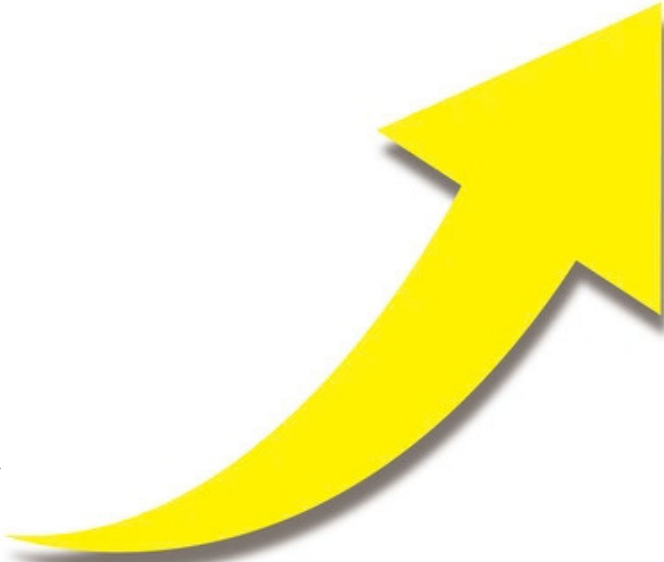
THE MCFARLIN FOUNDATION

\$27-30M

Goal

***to cover annual
\$1M Property***

\$8M Today





STRATEGY

2

**LEADING
FROM
STRENGTH
& FROM THE
CENTER**



STRATEGY 3

**OUR FOUR
CENTRAL
PRIORITIES**

1ST PRIORITY

INVITING EVANGELISM



2ND PRIORITY

ENERGETIC NEXT GENERATION MINISTRIES

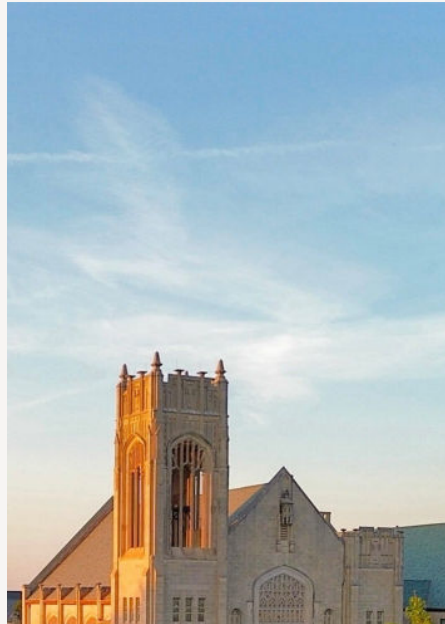


3RD PRIORITY

INSPIRING WORHSIP

2021 → 2025
Avg. 385 → 636

Aug 23 '25 = 544
Aug 23 '26 = 700+



Easter 2026
1,709 (up 11%)

Now on pace to
avg. 690 this Fall

4TH PRIORITY

INNOVATIVE CHURCHING





Prayers
Presence
Gifts
Service
Shine

STRATEGY

4

**REINVESTING
IN THE
BASICS**

FINANCIAL UPDATES

HOW WE ENDED 2025 & YTD 2026



2025 YEAR ENDING

- \$3.34M Expenses
- \$3.31M Income
- \$35,000 Short (1%) from Contingency
- Also, held back \$50,000 from UMC

As said last year, we needed a little bit more.

PLEDGES AFTER OCT. 2025 YOUR RESPONSE FOR 2026

- 312 Pledges & **20 new pledges**, *still down 11*
- **110 Pledges Increased** (Avg. 19%)
- 2026 pledges up **\$118,532** (+6.7%)

McFarlin is showing financial strength so far this year.

YEAR-TO-DATE 2026

- August: Income at 104%
- September: Income at 100%

*A year ago, a deficit.
Today, we are meeting the budget.
That is the difference your response made.*

Ministry with Fewer Staff

2020 to 2026: from 56 to 45 positions
46.6% of our budget

Healthy ratio of staff to budget is 45-55%
Best for church this size: 50-52%

We are at the low, lean end of the spectrum.

HOW THE BUDGET WORKS

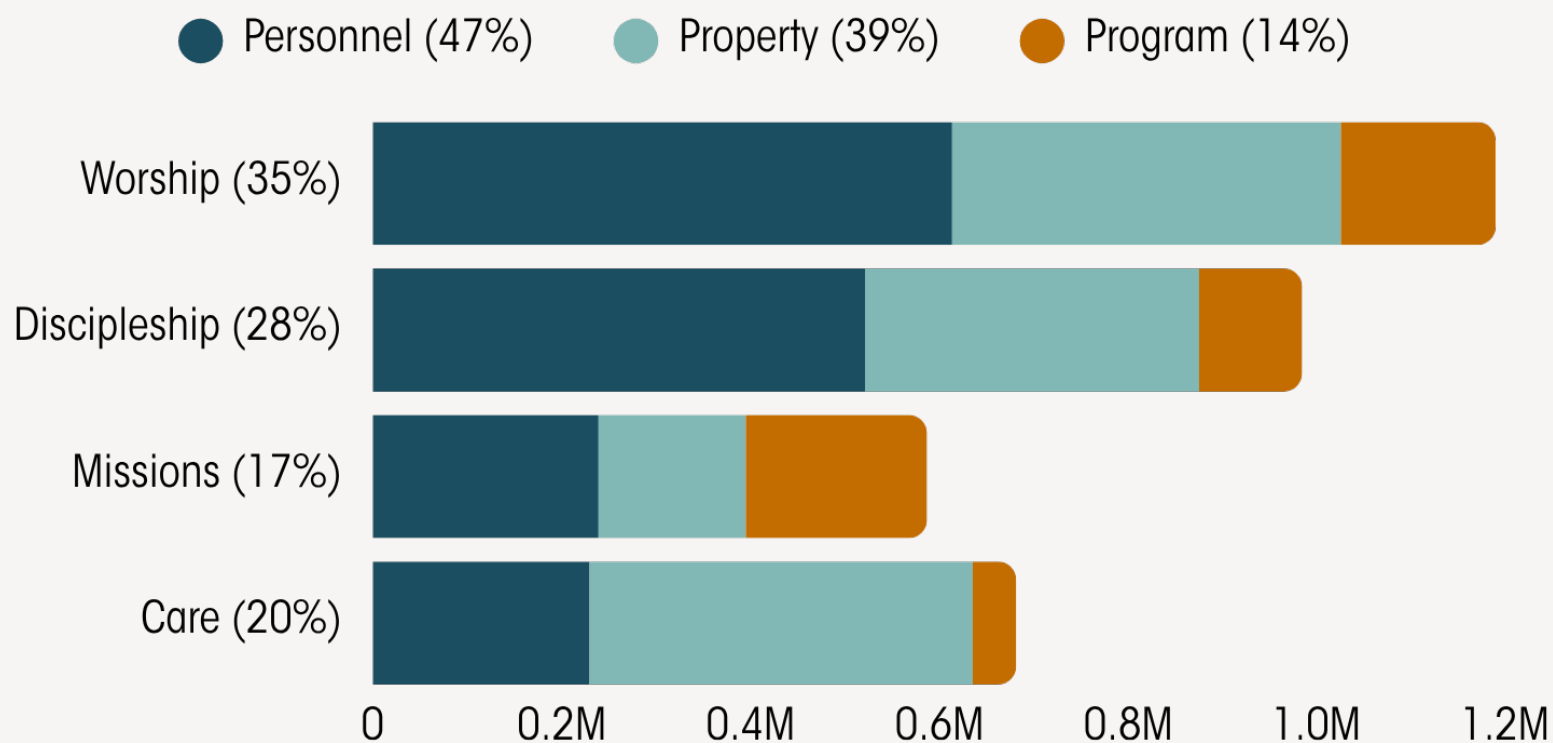
ACCOUNT	MINISTRY / EXPENSE
MINISTRY INCOME	
4000	Pledges and Contributions
4010	Loose Offerings
4020	Facility Use and Rentals
4030	Other Income (Interest, Miscellaneous)
	Total Ministry Income
WORSHIP & MUSIC	
5000	Traditional Worship
5010	Modern Worship
5020	Music Ministry (Choir, Instruments, Licenses)

CAPITAL CAMPAIGNS

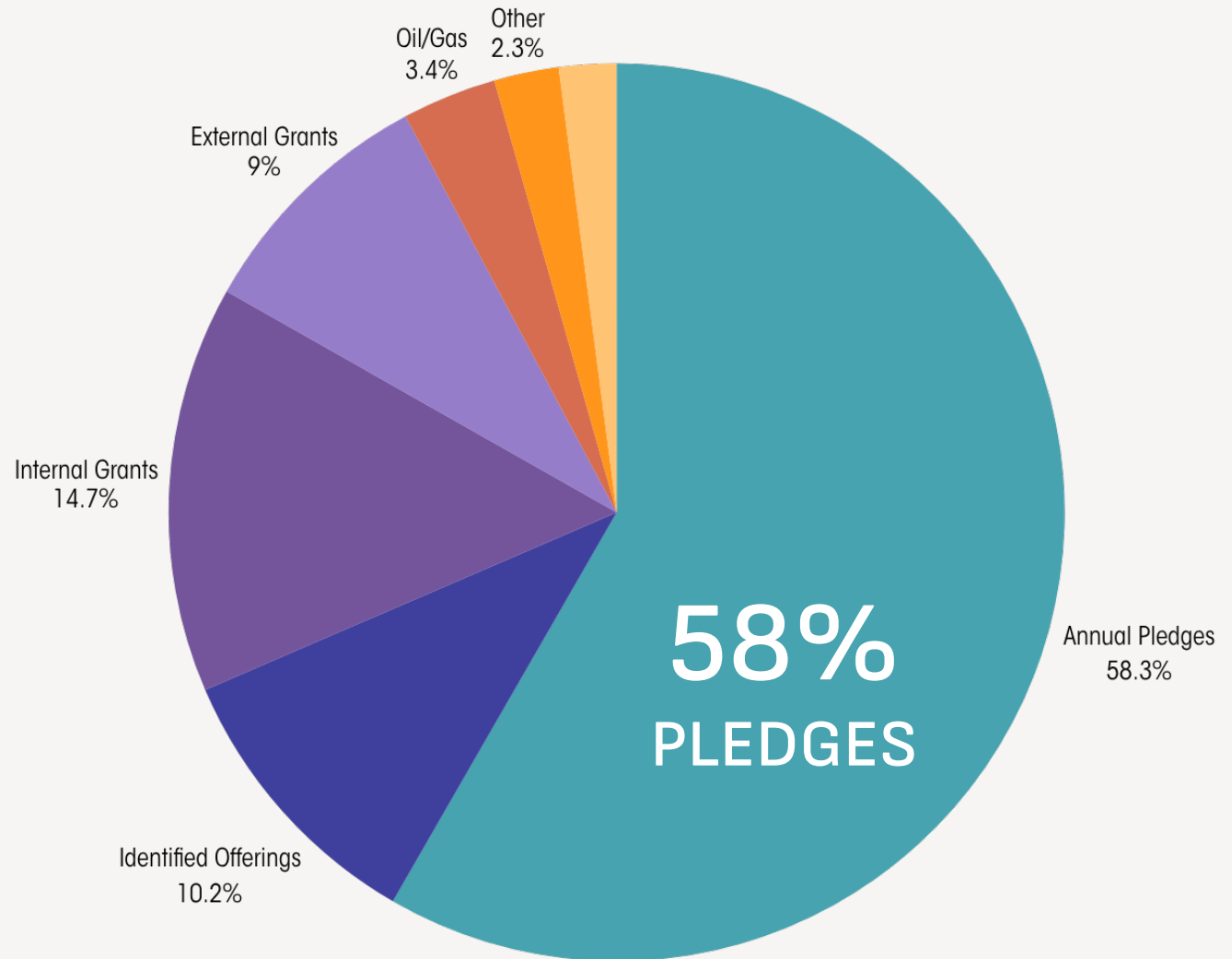


Annual General Budget – 2026 \$3.4M

PEOPLE, PROPERTY, & PROGRAMS



WHERE DOES THE MONEY COME FROM?





what if love
Shines Generously

CRUCIAL ACTIONS

YOUR CHURCH NEEDS





ENGAGE & PARTICIPATE IN THE 5 BASICS

**PRAYERS, PRESENCE, GIFTS,
SERVICE, & SHINE**

BE A LEADER

ENCOURAGE LEADERSHIP



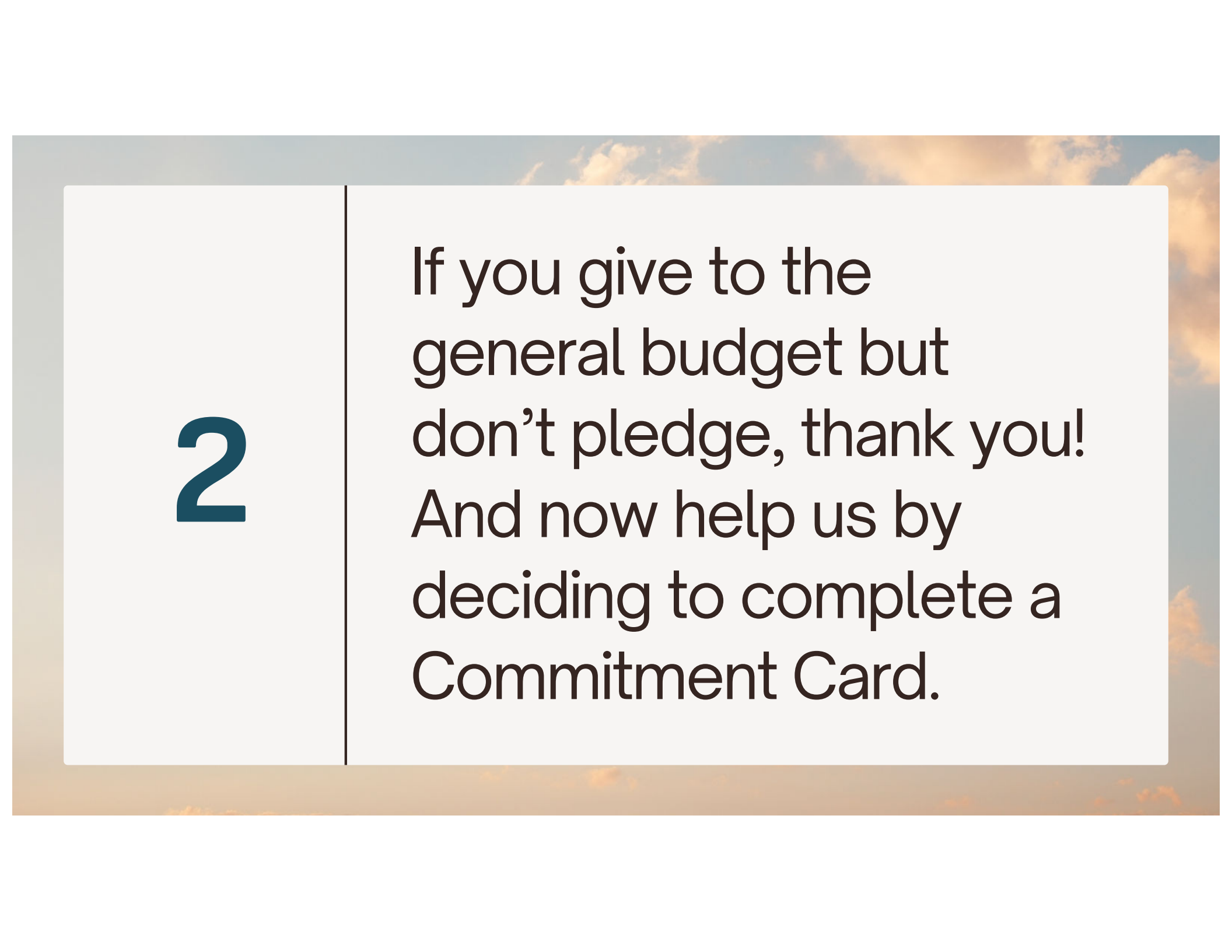
BE GENEROUS TO THE GENERAL BUDGET

**So, KINDLY CONSIDER THESE 3
EFFECTIVE ACTIONS...**



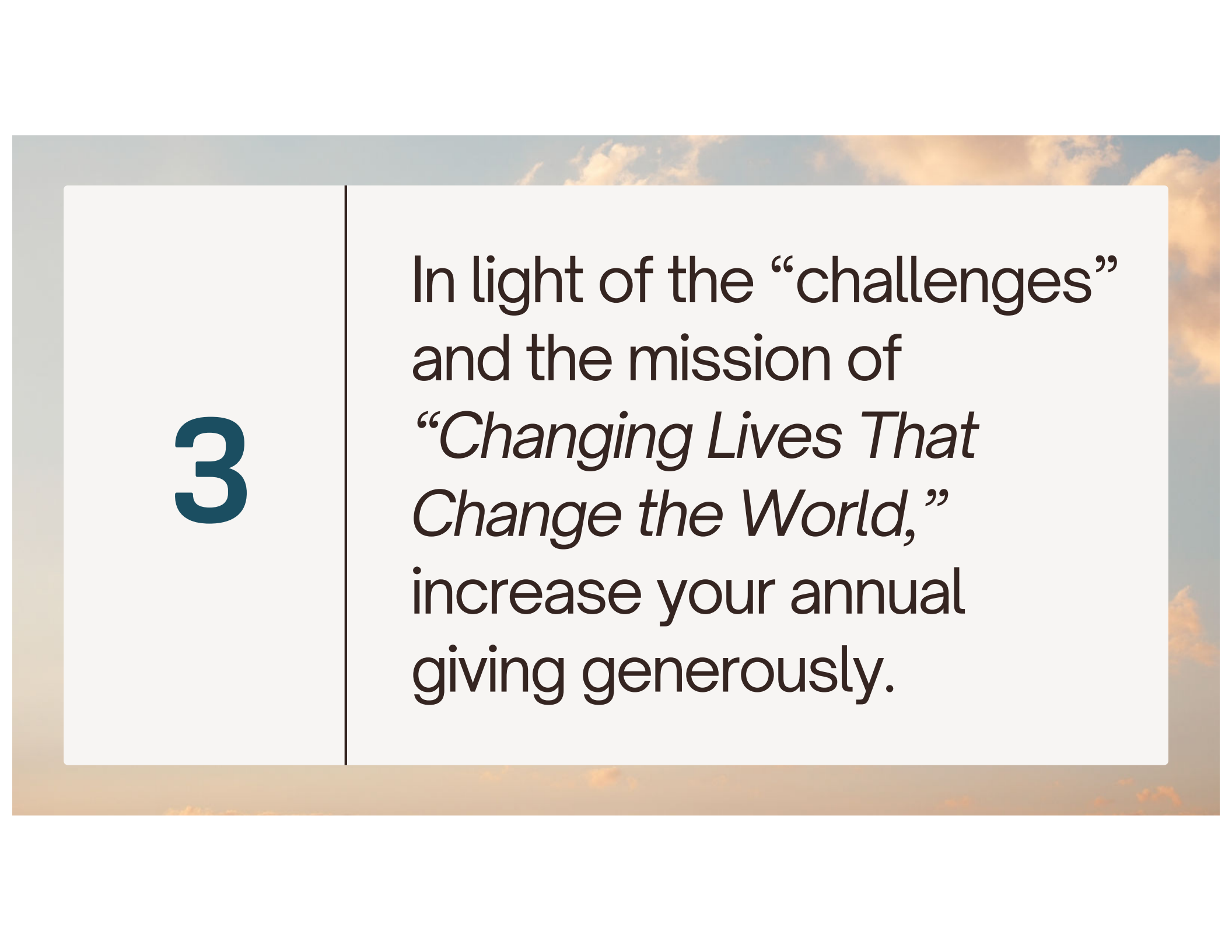
1

If you are not yet giving to the general budget, begin to pledge and give regularly.



2

If you give to the
general budget but
don't pledge, thank you!
And now help us by
deciding to complete a
Commitment Card.



3

In light of the “challenges”
and the mission of
*“Changing Lives That
Change the World,”*
increase your annual
giving generously.

GOAL FOR 2026

**FRIENDS, LET'S BREAK THE
\$2M MARK IN PLEDGES**



Create our future!
Make McFarlin a primary
recipient of your time,
talent, and treasure.



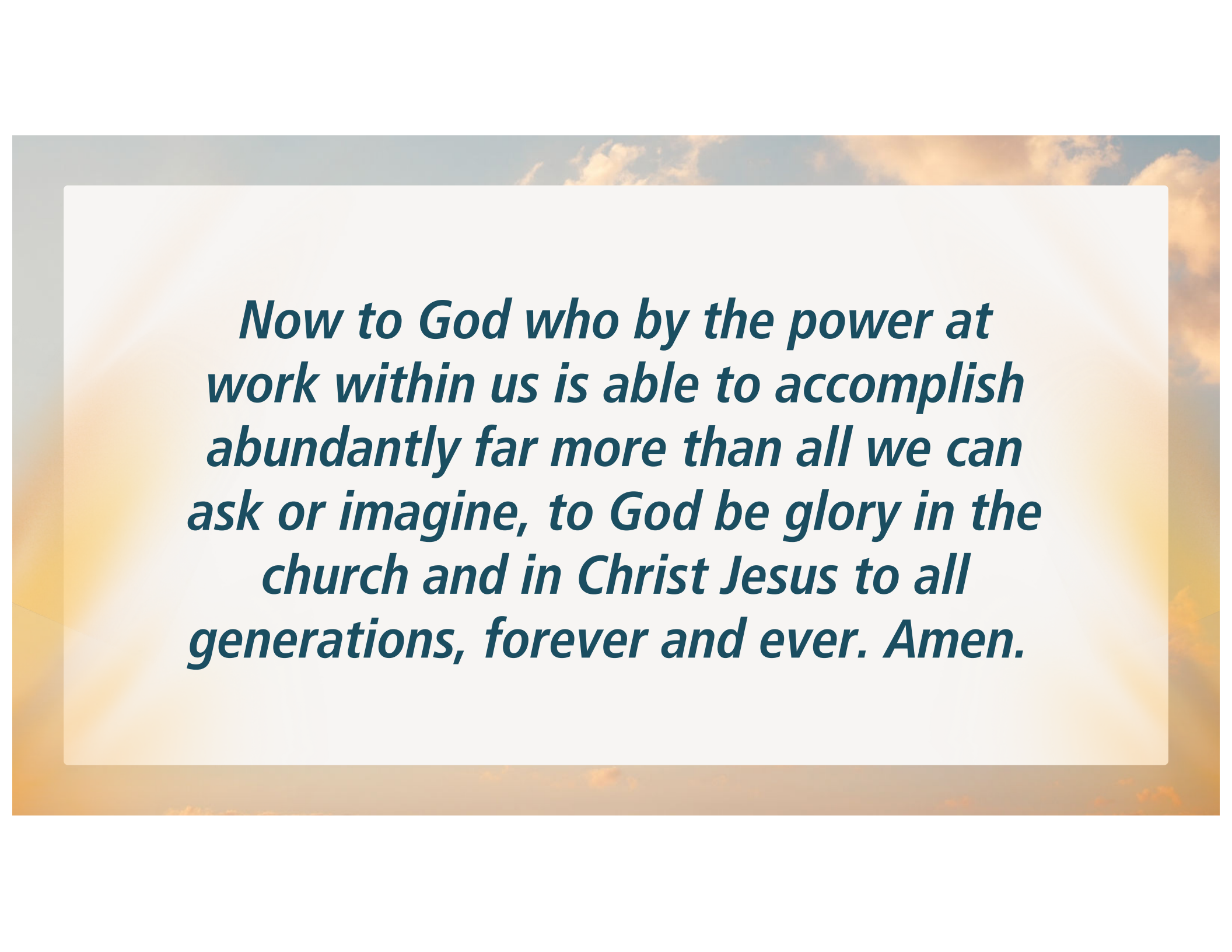
Believe, hope, love—have faith!

Physical and digital Commitment
Cards available near end of October

Commitment Sunday, November 1.

Q&A





Now to God who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine, to God be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.