

The Diocese of South Dakota



The Right Reverend Craig B. Anderson

21 November 1988

Mrs. Ruby Stewart, Treasurer
RR 2 Box 106A
Madison, SD 57042

Dear Ruby,

In presenting this year's challenge to you, I want to emphasize the word "challenge." 1989 will be a challenging year for all of us as we pray and work toward increased unity.

Unity is grounded in trust which presupposes mutual understanding. My sense is that we need a deepened understanding in our Diocese of church finances and stewardship. As a result, I want to challenge you:

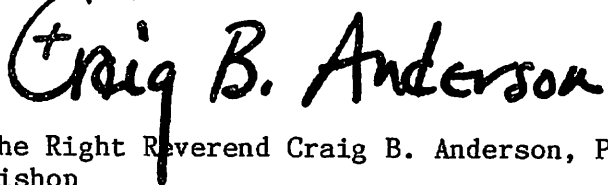
1. To teach and model stewardship in your Church and not be hesitant or afraid to talk about money with the leadership and members of your congregation. Members of the Diocesan Council signed a declaration that they are tithing or working toward the tithe. I challenge you and your Vestry/Bishop's Committee to make the same pledge.
2. To teach the basics of parish, diocesan and National Church finances. My experience has been that if church members understand church budgets, they are trusting and can be challenged to give. If they don't understand the basics of church income and expenses, the opposite is true. Attached are 1989 diocesan income and expense diagrams. Please teach these and develop something similar for your own parish/mission. Those entrusted to your care have a right and responsibility to know, given our obligation to tithe.
3. To teach outreach as an aspect of stewardship and mission by pledging your diocesan commitment as a minimum of giving. Stated simply, if all churches meet their 1989 challenge, we will have the funding to reinstate program, mission support and commission and committee askings for 1989. Diocesan program is dependent upon congregational support! As a Diocese, our first payment is to fulfill our National Church assessment. I am asking that you do the same with your diocesan obligation.
4. To teach commitment by reviewing your financial commitments as a Church family. Look at the church checkbook. Does it reveal a giving congregation committed to outreach and mission or a congregation committed to survival and the status quo? The primary means of outreach is your diocesan pledge. As a Coalition 14

Page 2, Stewardship Letter, November 21, 1988

Diocese, our guideline is 25% of net disposable income. In the same way that 10% of income is our tithe as a norm of the Church, 25% of our expenses for outreach is normative for our church.

In the foregoing four challenges, I am challenging you to teach and model the meaning of commitment. Knowing of your personal commitment, know of my pledge to support your teaching and prayers for you and your church family.

In Christ,

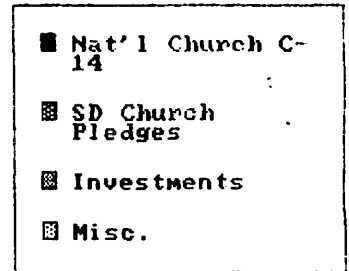
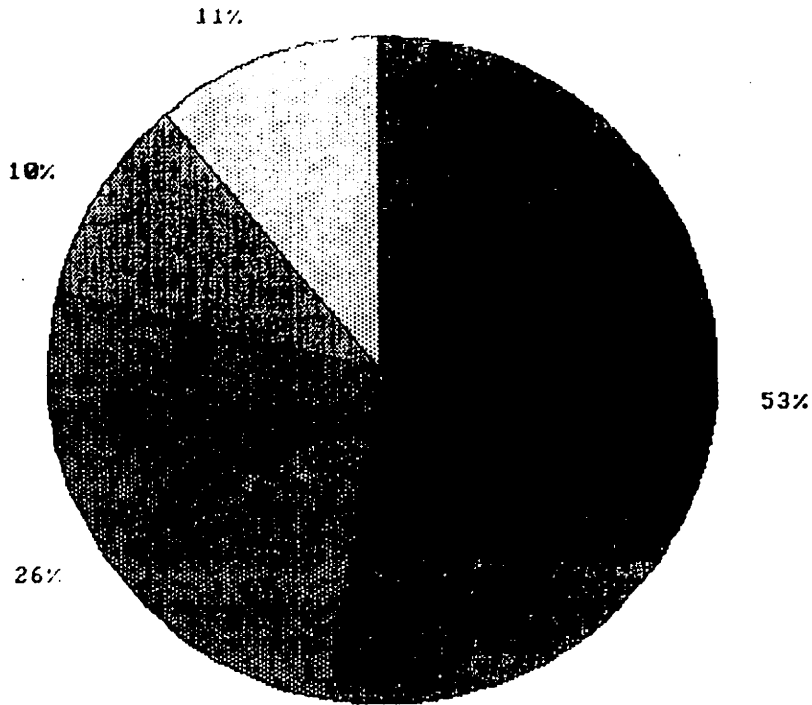
A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Craig B. Anderson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "C" and a small cross-like mark above the "i" in "Craig".

The Right Reverend Craig B. Anderson, Ph.D.
Bishop

vs

David B. Anderson

1989 Income



1989 Expense

