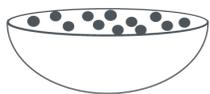
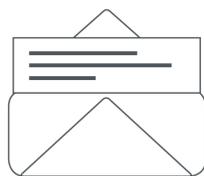


WAYS TO *give*



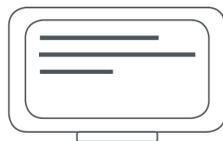
OFFERING
IN THE PLATE

MAIL
1350 OAK RIDGE TPIKE,
OAK RIDGE, TN 37830



TEXT
865.685.4239

WEB
FUMCOR.ORG/GIVE



Together in Christ

First United Methodist Church of Oak Ridge
www.fumcor.org

1350 Oak Ridge Turnpike, Oak Ridge, TN 37830
865.483.4357

An Overview of Church Finances

This resource is provided for those of you who want more information about our 2021 “Together in Christ” stewardship campaign or statistical details about our congregation’s finances. Within, you will find:

- questions & answers about our 2021 campaign goals and budget
- a financial overview chart, comparing 2020 (so far) with previous years
- a chart showing our history of “underspending the budget”
- information on our 2020 estimated giving numbers
- graphs comparing our major ministry areas
- an overview of our budgeted and designated mission giving
- an overview of our designated and endowment funds

Please do not hesitate to contact our church office if you are interested in more information about these or any financial subjects.

What is the name of our 2021 Financial Stewardship Campaign?

Our 2021 financial stewardship campaign is entitled, “Together in Christ.” If asked to describe the past seven months, we would need to use words such as disruptive, painful, surreal, and lonely. And yet, the upheaval of our COVID-19 quarantine has also awakened us to the many blessings we have taken for granted. Among the greatest of those overlooked gifts has been the joy of gathering together for worship, study, and fellowship.

Followers of Jesus have always taught that we are connected by more than custom and ritual; we are one in Christ, bound together by the Holy Spirit. 2020 has been the year when we were forced to rely on that great promise. It has been difficult to be apart for so long —BUT this year we have also seen members and friends care for one another in unprecedented ways. We thank God that we have been “together in Christ;” we celebrate that we continue to be “together in Christ;” we rejoice that regardless of what lies ahead, we will always be “together in Christ!”

How is this year's financial campaign different from last year's?

Unlike the past, when we passed out multiple materials on Sunday mornings, we have consolidated all the relevant information into this one campaign brochure and are making it primarily available online at our website. However, we are more than happy to mail a printed copy of this brochure to anyone who requests it.

Instead of encouraging people to bring their 2021 Estimates Of Giving to worship on a singular Commitment Sunday, we are asking everyone to send in their Estimates through a variety of ways. You can mail your estimate of giving card, email it to the Finance Office (lbowen@fumcor.org), or call the Finance Office with your Estimate.

When is Commitment Sunday?

Sunday, October 18 will be our official Commitment Sunday, and we encourage everyone to turn in their Estimates Of Giving prior to that day.

What is the goal of our "Together In Christ" financial campaign?

Our goal for this campaign is to receive 290 Estimates Of Giving for at least \$1,200,000. To provide some perspective, last year at this time we received 278 estimates of giving for approximately \$1,154,000. In 2019, we received 264 estimates for \$1,060,613. By encouraging those who currently give to prayerfully consider increasing their giving by 1% and asking those who have not made an Estimate Of Giving in the past, we believe we can meet our goal.

Our Finance Committee set this bold goal because they believe we face a once-in-a-lifetime moment, like all churches around the world. Many small churches who found themselves without the capacity of providing quality worship recordings are now closing. And yet, the world needs the teachings of Christ and the comfort of the Holy Spirit more than ever!

Our congregation stands in a unique place — capable of providing high quality in-person and live-streamed contemporary and traditional worship. We have also learned the value of offering educational and discipleship opportunities online. Now is not the time for us to pull back or be hesitant. Now is the time for the people of God to boldly move into new ministry areas and offer the gospel in creative ways.

Designated and Endowment Funds Overview

Our designated funds have a value of \$1.2 million as of August 2020.

Our Designated Funds are Comprised of:	
Minister's Housing fund	\$ 658,225
Church Reserves	\$ 190,220
Trustees Funds	\$ 206,255
Non-Budget Mission Funds	\$ 72,861
Other Designated Funds	\$ 207,002
TOTAL DESIGNATED FUNDS (Aug. 2020):	\$1,199,002

We have Endowments at Holston Conference valued at \$1.218 million as of August 2020. We utilize the earnings for the purposes specified by the given endowment.

Endowment-Generated Funds Available for Spending	
2020	\$29,700
2019	\$25,650
2018	\$22,950
2017	\$19,400
2016	\$18,400

The increase in available endowment-generated funds (earnings) over time is the result of more endowments reaching the \$25,000 minimum balance for three years — providing a stream of income from the average market increases over a rolling three-year period. Spending is used for various purposes including scholarships (ministerial and otherwise), general church use, music, pastoral visitation expenses, library funds, etc. — whatever is deemed when the Endowment is established.

2020 Designated Fund Spending

Non-budgeted expenses can be covered using designated funds, where appropriate. Designated Funds are those monies contributed towards a specific ministry and can only be spent on that ministry. If these funds are not spent during the year, they can be used the next year. When our congregation was forced to move to virtual worship in the middle of March, much of our designated spending was placed on hold. However, there are three highlights from this year's designated spending we want to share.

For a complete listing of our designated funds, please contact the Business and Finance office.

Highlights of Designated Fund Spending in 2020 (to date)		
	Received	Spent to date
Community Assistance Fund	\$20,445	\$18,800
Monthly Mission Special	\$11,677	\$10,911
Wednesday Community Meals	\$23,800	\$10,050

Designated Spending by Year (Average of \$512,649/year 2014-2019)		
2014	\$553,029	
2015	\$502,817	Start of 2nd floor renovation work
2016	\$775,790	Includes completion of 2nd floor renovation
2017	\$515,325	
2018	\$366,742	
2019	\$362,188	

What is our proposed 2021 General Budget?

That is hard to say at this time. Our Church Council members set our budget each year according to three things: 1) our total income from the previous year — because it represents hard data about our congregation's giving patterns; 2) the number and amount of Estimates of Giving going into the next year compared to the year before; and 3) "soft" data, such as the number of new families joining vs. the number leaving, number of deaths, what is going on in the community, the energy and enthusiasm of our congregation, etc. Our leaders will not have the amount of total 2020 income information until a few weeks into January. After our leadership has that and the other data it needs (number of Estimates of Giving, etc.), then they will set the total 2021 budget. We anticipate that happening at the first Church Council meeting of January 2021. HOWEVER, since our Church Council has already said their goal is to reduce our budget by at least 2% each year, and this year's budget is \$1,450,980 (compared to 1,491,136 in 2019), a good guess is that our 2021 budget will again be similar to this year's budget.

Why is the goal of our 2021 stewardship campaign different from the anticipated amount of our 2021 General Budget?

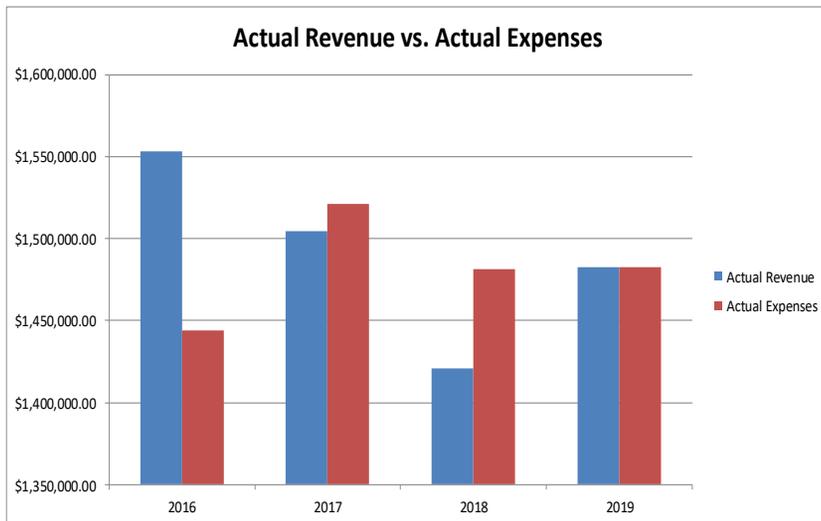
The reason our campaign goal is different from our eventual budget is that some who faithfully give do not provide an Estimate of Giving. While the Bible teaches our goal as God's people is to give a "tithe" (meaning 10% of our income) to God's work, scripture does not mention making Estimates Of Giving. Some tell us they are uncomfortable making an estimate since they are unsure what their income will be in the coming year. Others indicate they don't like any form of "debt" and avoid it whenever possible. There are probably other reasons as well. We are extremely grateful for all those who give, whether they provide an Estimate Of Giving or not. We certainly do not want anyone to feel bullied into making one. However, Estimates Of Giving certainly help us plan our budget with more confidence.

We simply want to remind everyone that if you need to adjust your Estimate Of Giving in the middle of next year because your financial situation changes, we understand. Think of it this way: how would you feel if your employer told you the company will pay you a salary next year, but she couldn't tell you what that would be? Even if you know the employer and company are trustworthy, trying to make a budget in that situation is difficult. The same is true for the church. So, we encourage everyone to consider making an Estimate Of Giving for 2021.

General Budget Overview

Approved Budget	Actual Revenue	Actual Expenses	Surplus/ (Deficit)
2015:	\$1,550,596	\$1,508,720	\$41,876
2016:	\$1,553,270	\$1,443,901	\$109,369
2017:	\$1,504,543	\$1,521,058	(\$16,515)
2018:	\$1,420,718	\$1,481,546	(\$60,828)
2019:	\$1,482,807	\$1,482,807	-0-
2020:	\$1,450,980	TBD	

At the end of August 2020, we had received 74.24% of our expected income toward our \$1,450,980 budget, with 67% of the year complete. These numbers do not include any Payroll Protection Program funds the congregation received from the federal government. So, we CELEBRATE how faithful our congregation has been during this difficult year.



We always hope to have more revenue than expenses, and in 2015 and 2016, our income exceeded our spending. In 2017, our income dropped (fewer “estimates of giving”), but our expenses did not, resulting in a \$16,515 deficit. In 2018, our year-end deficit grew to \$60,828, leading the Finance Committee and Church Council to establish a goal of reducing our budget by at least 2% each year. We achieved that goal, with our budget dropping by 3% in 2019 and 3% in 2020. However, it should be noted even in years when we ran a deficit, we spent less than what we had budgeted.

Budgeted and Designated Mission Giving Overview (2019)

BUDGET Support	\$90,515
Children/family/worship, education, healthcare, substandard housing, etc.	
ABOVE-AND-BEYOND BUDGET Support	
Monthly Mission Special Offering	\$16,780
Mission Fundraiser (internal)	\$20,790
UMCOR USA and World (Disaster relief)	\$4,332
Mission Endowment Projects	\$1,900
Clean Water for the Home	\$6,300
Community Assistance Support	\$22,250
Sager Brown Kit Project	\$827
Wednesday Community Meal	\$3,314
Christmas Shoppe	\$4,636
TOTAL Non-Budgeted Giving	\$81,129
TOTAL Mission Giving:	\$171,644

Each year, as part of the budget, we set aside money to support a variety of local, national, and international missions. In addition to this budget funding, we regularly fund missions and mission projects outside the budget.

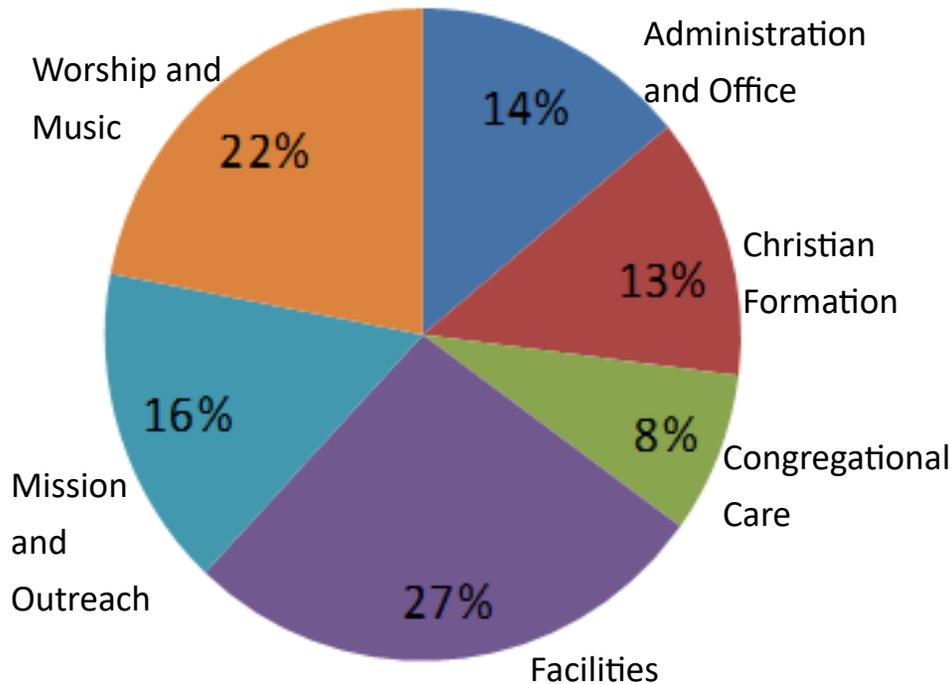
We also serve locally, volunteering through initiatives such as our own weekly community meal, Tabitha’s Table, Second Harvest, Ecumenical Storehouse, Food for Kids, ADFAC, Boys & Girls Club, and the Morgan Scott Project.

FUMCOR has traditionally supported adult mission efforts at destinations including: Talanga Honduras, UMCOR Sager Brown Depot in Louisiana, Panama, and Puerto Rico.

On top of that, we have monthly mission special offerings for a variety of organizations. In 2019, these organizations included: *Blossom Center, YWCA of Anderson County, Family Resource Center, Girls Inc., Plateau Home School, Wesley House Community Center, Hope of East Tennessee, Henderson Settlement, TORCH, Pinnacle Shelter, Crossroads Ministry, and local food pantries.*

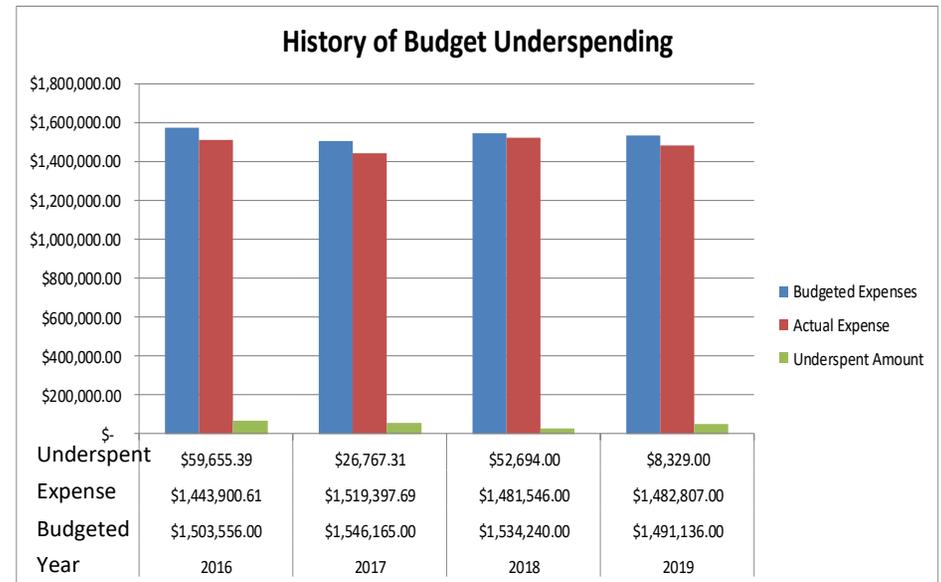
2020 Budget with Staff Salaries Included

As noted on the previous page, the information below incorporates our staff's salaries and benefits under the headings of their service.



Ministry Area	% of Budget	Budget
Worship and Music	22%	\$339,618
Christian Formation	13%	\$182,547
Congregational Care	8%	\$107,876
Facilities	27%	\$378,195
Mission and Outreach	16%	\$230,253
Administration and Office	14%	\$212,491
	100%	\$1,450,980

General Budget Overview



Please notice on the chart above that we routinely underspend the budget. That is not intentional. Instead, your staff dreams and plans programs for the coming year, but not all of these actually occur. Sometimes we find that the church community is not as interested in a given program as expected. Other times, there is simply so much going on that scheduling becomes impossible. Also, as a program start date approaches it often becomes simpler to find ways to cut financial corners. We are always looking for ways to be frugal with your money.

For more detailed information, see the Business and Finance Office.

A Giving Chart

2019 Financial Gifts

Actually Given

Gift Range	# Estimating Contributors	% of Estimating Contributors	Total Estimated Gifts Given	% of Total Estimated Gifts
\$0.01 - \$500.00	16	6%	\$5,812	<1%
\$500.01 - \$2500.00	111	42%	\$161,798	15%
\$2,500.01 - \$5,000.00	55	21%	\$204,584	19%
\$5,000.01 - \$7,500.00	35	13%	\$215,617	20%
\$7,500.01 - \$10,000.00	20	8%	\$180,216	17%
\$10,000.01 - \$15,000.00	16	6%	\$188,549	17%
\$15,000.01 - \$30,000.00	7	3%	\$125,000	11%
Totals:	265	100%	\$1,065,213	100%

In 2018, 308 giving units provided estimates of giving to the budget for \$1,174,512. In last year's 2020 campaign, we ended with 278 estimates of giving for \$1,153,384.

A Percentage Comparison of Major Ministry Areas (2020 Budget)

Notice that in the information below, our staff's salaries and benefits have been separated out for comparison's sake. On the following page, those salaries and benefits are included under the appropriate categories where they serve. We find that having both charts is helpful and enlightening as we make decisions as a congregation.

Ministry Area	Budget \$	Budget %
Staff Salary and Benefits	\$ 867,395.00	59.78%
Building Upkeep	\$ 239,475.00	16.50%
Conference Giving	\$ 108,500.00	7.48%
Missions	\$ 90,515.00	6.24%
Ministries	\$ 97,800.00	6.74%
Office	\$ 26,290.00	1.81%
Outreach/Communications	\$ 16,905.00	1.17%
Finance Committee	\$ 4,100.00	<1%
	\$ 1,450,980.00	100%

