



Flossmoor Community Church

Where Christ is Central and Diversity is Cherished

Over the past several months the Finance Committee, collaborating with Jenny Sykes, Judy Jensen, the Governing Board, Stewardship, and many others has established the attached budget for the 2018 fiscal year, running January to December. As many of you know, the past few years have seen many challenges, including an overall trend in declining income. It has been our goal to establish a balanced budget, and with much effort we have come very close.

This year's projected expenses total \$852,012.34, with projected revenue totaling \$850,954.36. This leaves us with a small deficit of \$1,057.98. There are some significant reasons that have allowed us to get to this point, and the committee feels compelled to outline those for the benefit of the congregation:

- Revenue projections have been increased in a few key areas, predicated on the idea that we will implement new policies, programs, and practices to support them:
 - **Wedding income:** a policy will be implemented to reinstate weddings for non-members, including market-comparable rates
 - **Regular plate offerings:** Fred has proposed an initiative to increase regular plate offerings, with communications about the progress weekly to the congregation
 - **Community house sharing fees:** fees will be increased to reflect the improved amenities, while still keeping us among the lowest in the community
- A **one-time** line item has been added that reflects moving certain restricted fund amounts from dormant accounts into general operating for 2018
 - The total amount is \$36,110.36
 - This is a one-time fix that greatly reduces the deficit for 2018 only
- Overall expenses have been reduced by \$16,562.75.
 - Program budgets are being closely monitored and the committee has recommended spending strategies be developed
- We are proposing reducing the Outreach budget from 8% of pledges to 6% of pledges, given the current trends.
 - We are establishing a restricted account for Outreach that will be funded quarterly with 6% of actual pledge collections.

We know that this has been a complicated season for the church. The Finance Committee is heartened to see so many on staff and in leadership roles willing to rise to the current challenges. We know that our work is not complete and we still see challenges ahead; we are confident that we, as a church, will find ways, through creativity, discipline, and compassion, to meet them for the benefit of the congregation and the community.