

[This is a sample of how a narrative budget and annual report might look for a large church.]



Here I Am Lord

STEWARDSHIP 2007



WESLEY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Stewardship 2006 Highlights

Wesley United Methodist Church has glorified God with amazing and wonderful ministries and activities during the past year. Look at a few highlights that represent new or emerging activities, or those that have experienced significant

EQUIPPING MINISTRIES

- Missions continued to represent 20% of the operating budget after excluding operational overhead and debt service costs. We held the annual golf tournament in August, raising a record \$10,000 for Habitat for Humanity. We also initiated FaithWork intended to match members volunteering with missions' service opportunities.
- An Assimilation Ministry was created to connect and integrate the many new members joining our church.
- Evangelism launched Beacons of Light, a neighborhood ministry effort, to enable members to minister to other members within their neighborhoods.
- Great strides were taken in expanding Spiritual Gifts assessment, matching members God-given gifts, passions and talents with service opportunities.
- In its pilot program, 25 WUMC members graduated from UpWord Bound University, a nine-month long Christian leadership development program.

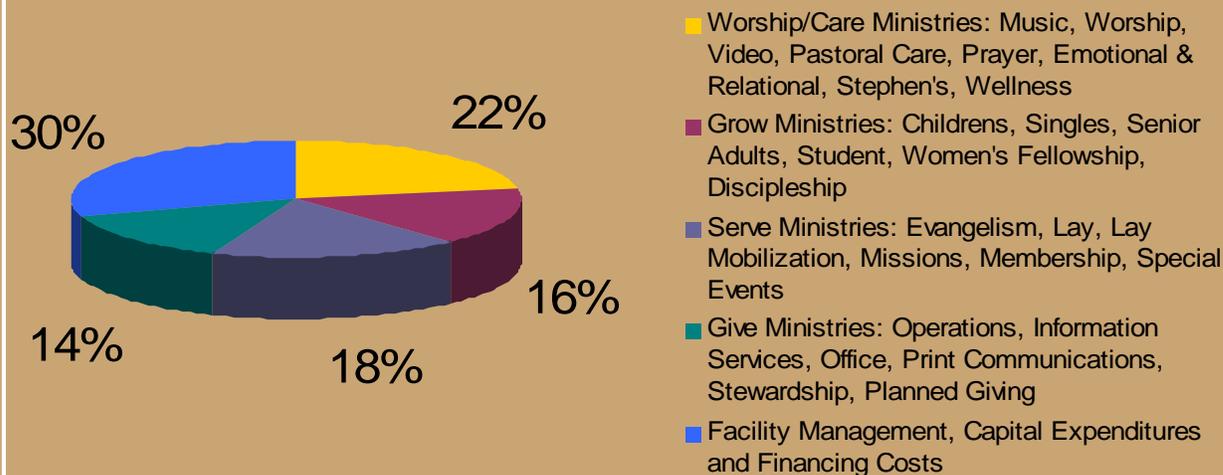
The year-to-date average worship attendance of 677 has increased almost 10% over the same period last year.

GROW MINISTRIES

- More than 200 persons have enrolled in Disciple Bible Study this fall, and more than 95 persons enrolled in Alpha Bible Study in its premier offering.
- In Children's Ministries, more than 120 youth and adult volunteers participated in Vacation Bible Camp. Four new programs were launched including Family Cornerstone, Kids Nite Out, 5th grade youth group and BLAST (Saturday and Sunday evening programs).
- Student Ministries launched Vertical, a mid-week worship experience.
- The Singles/Young Adult Ministry was restructured, and new leadership and servant teams were formed.
- Primetime Ministry for Senior Adults was launched.



Proposed 2007 Operating Budget of \$840,000



WORSHIP AND CARING

- We continued to seek and reach more people for Christ through worship. The year-to-date average worship attendance of 677 has increased almost 10% over the same period last year.
- A Healing Service was held weekly for those seeking comfort and support during difficult life experiences.
- Music Ministry recruited and hired a new Director of Music and provided a number of concerts offering a wide variety of Christian music performances.
- Through Prayer Ministry, we received and prayed for more than 800 prayer requests and sent more than 350 personal notes to those submitting prayer requests.

We received and prayed for more than 800 prayer requests and sent more than 350 personal notes.

GIVE MINISTRIES

- Finance supported Mission fund collection efforts including Share the Warmth, Golf Tournament and Tax Refund offerings in addition to handling memorials, regular operating and building offerings.
- Facilities implemented an on-line web based event scheduling system supporting the custodial requirements for activities that occur each day of the year.
- Information Technology implemented a dramatically improved and informational web-site.



Just how much should I give? What are the ranges at which others give?

Many people seek to base their giving on what the “average” household gives. But defining the “average” household at Wesley United Methodist Church is not easy. We have young singles, retirees, newlyweds, single parents and two-parent families. We have those with limited incomes and those with very substantial incomes.

For this reason, it is best to base your giving not on what the average household might give, but on what God wants you to give. Here are a few principles that might help you as you consider your decision:

TITHING

The Bible teaches us the concept of tithing. To tithe is to give one-tenth of your earnings. The Bible also teaches that this should be the “first-fruits” or the first tenth of what you earn. For those who cannot tithe yet, we encourage you to begin giving proportionately. In other words, determine a set percentage of your income to give to God, making the tithe or tenth your goal.

STEPPING UP

Looking at the table, consider stepping up one level in 2007. For many this would only mean moving up 1% - 4%. The Stewardship Committee has determined that our 2007 proposed budget is well within our range if all of us ‘step-up’ in faith.

COMMITMENT TO CHRIST

Ultimately, your commitment should be reflective of both your income and your desire to live as a committed disciple of Jesus Christ.

Missions continued to represent 20% of the operating budget.



Consider stepping up one level from your 2006 giving.

Congregational Weekly Giving	
Commitment Range	# of Commitments
\$200 and up	12
\$100 to \$199	42
\$50 to \$99	72
\$20 to \$49	111
Less than \$20	63

*ALL GIVING AVERAGED ON A WEEKLY BASIS

Why should I decide to give?

IN GRATITUDE FOR WHAT GOD HAS DONE

“If God will be with me and watch over me...of all that you (God) give me, I will give you a tenth.”

— *Jacob’s promise to God in Genesis*

EVERYTHING WE HAVE BELONGS TO GOD

“A tithe (tenth) of everything from the land, whether grain from the soil or fruit from the trees, belongs to the Lord; it is holy to the Lord.”

— *Leviticus 27:3*

JESUS TAUGHT THAT WE SHOULD GIVE

Jesus had a great deal to say about money and giving. He demanded that his followers not serve wealth, but God. In the parable of the talents, he taught that God will hold us each accountable for what we do with all we possess. He taught generosity and sacrifice.

TO WHOM MUCH HAS BEEN GIVEN

“From everyone who has been given much, much will be demanded; and from the one who has been entrusted with much, much more will be asked.”

— *Luke 12:48*

PAUL TAUGHT WE SHOULD SHARE OUR GIFTS

“Command those who are rich in this world...to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share. In this way they will lay up treasure for themselves as a firm foundation for the coming age, so that they may take hold of the life that is truly life.”

— *St. Paul’s first Letter to Timothy*

BECAUSE WE REAP WHAT WE SOW

“The point is this: the one who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and the one who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully.”

— *2 Corinthians 9:6*

Student Ministries expects to double the number of students participating in vertical and other student programs.



In what ways can I give?

W

e offer several ways to make your giving a simple, easy and convenient process. Choose from any of the following:

AUTOMATIC WITHDRAWAL

Electronic Funds Transfer (ETF) is the easiest, most cost-effective option for both you and the church. Unless you love to handwrite checks, consider this option! Simply complete the Electronic Funds Transfer authorization form on the back of the commitment card. To learn more, call John Smith at 555-555-1234.

Automatic withdrawal benefits for you...

- Easy, easy, easy! No action needed!
- You don't have to remember a thing!
- No payment costs, checks or postage to you!
- Payments made when you're away!

Automatic withdrawal benefits for the church...

- Saves hundreds of volunteer hours (processing payments) that could be used for other ministry areas.

WEEKLY OFFERING ENVELOPES

If you'd rather write a check, you may! If you choose this option, we'd be happy to provide you with free, pre-addressed envelopes for each week of the year. Please check the box on the commitment card to have offering envelopes sent to you.

GIVE APPRECIATED STOCK

Stocks and other securities are a welcome gift. Many members have found the tax savings make this an ideal way to fulfill your commitment. For more information, call John Smith at 555-555-1234.

We hope to further develop the strategy and volunteer support for successfully integrating new members into the congregation.



A challenge to our members and faithful constituents...

The Stewardship committee offers these additional guidelines as you consider your pledge for 2007. First, pray about your commitment. Ask God to guide your decision. Second, consider these challenges:

IF YOU ARE IN A FINANCIAL JAM

We only ask that you commit what you can. Don't let your inability to give at this time keep you from church! Remember that God honors your faithfulness and that your acceptance at Wesley United Methodist Church is not based upon your capacity to give.

IF YOU ARE AN OCCASIONAL GIVER

Step up in 2007 to become a regular giver! We challenge you to give a set amount each month and to take the next step toward tithing by increasing your current pledge by 1-2% of your income or an additional \$15-\$20 per week.

IF YOU ARE A REGULAR GIVER

We are grateful for you consistent gifts! We challenge you to take the next step toward tithing by increasing your current pledge by 1-2% of your income or an additional \$15-\$20 per week.

IF YOU ARE A TITHER

Thank you for your commitment to Christ! Our challenge to you is simple to keep up the good work in 2007!

OTHER GOALS FOR GIVING IN 2007

Consider the following specific goals as you determine your pledge for 2007:

- Increase your pledge by 1-2% of your income
- Increase your pledge by \$15-\$20 per week
- Step-up one level (as described earlier)

More than 200 have enrolled in Disciple Bible Study this fall, and more than 95 enrolled in Alpha Bible Study in its first year.



Our dreams for 2007

H

ere is a brief look at a few of our hopes and plans for

From the Nursery to Prinetimers, WUMC provides opportunities for Christian growth and fellowship for all ages.

GROW MINISTRIES

- Children's Ministry hopes to implement curriculum for Matthew's Ministries, a ministry for special needs children.
- Student Ministries expects to double the number of students participating in Vertical and other student programs.
- Three new ministries including Young Adult, Singles One and Singles Two with leaders, volunteers and servant teams devoted to each group are being developed.
- Disciple Bible Studies will be formed using the Companions in Christ series.
- Jubilees, a group for adults between 50 and 54 years of age, will be launched.
- Men's Ministries plans to create new small group opportunities for fellowship activities.
- Women's Ministries will hold the first ever Women's Conference at WUMC.

EQUIPPING MINISTRIES

- We hope to further develop the strategy and expand volunteer support required for successfully integrating new members into the congregation.
- We plan to expand and strengthen UpWord Bound University in its second year of operation.
- Missions Ministry hopes to introduce J-Walk, a web-based matching of members with volunteer opportunities.

WORSHIP/CARE

- We will continue to find ways to accommodate more people seeking a worship experience at WUMC.
- Prayer Ministries goals include guiding us to be a prayer-formed, prayer-led, and prayer-sent church and establishing a 24-hour Prayer Ministry.

GIVE MINISTRIES

- Finance will obtain required financing for the next phase of development and also plans to increase the number of members giving through automatic withdrawal.
- Through Facilities and Human Resources, we will continue to support the growing number of ministry events at WUMC and recruit and retain high quality employees with hearts of service.
- Information Technology hopes to implement web based video streaming of sermons and other major events.

