



OUR GREAT THANKSGIVING

2021 Stewardship Campaign

“What is Stewardship?”

Budgets for ALL programs, departments and staffing are established through our Stewardship Campaign “pledge” activity, as we work to secure an annual financial commitment from members just like you for the coming year. While all giving is important, financial commitments in the form of pledges are vital to our church. For 2021, we are looking for an increase to your prior year’s commitment amount, so we can continue to strengthen our outreach and programming, and importantly, keep up with the rising costs of inflation and reduce reliance on our endowment.

“When is our Stewardship Campaign?”

Our annual Stewardship Campaign takes place each fall season, running for ~8 weeks and ending before Thanksgiving. We strive to secure all pledge commitments no later than December 31 each year, so that budgets can be finalized.

“Why does pledging matter?”

In order to support our ministries, we need robust and faithful giving by our members. Budgets for all programs, departments & staffing are established through pledge activity.

“Can I just give weekly or when I see fit, and not worry about pledging?”

Any giving – weekly or otherwise – is greatly appreciated and much needed. However, pledging allows us to build budgets for all programs, departments and staffing. Think of it like your home budget: If you don’t know how much income to expect on a regular basis, it’s incredibly difficult to build a secure household budget to manage your expenses. GPMC is no different!

“Does GPMC receive more giving than other big Presbyterian churches?”

While it is true that the average GPMC gift per member has been rising (\$1,041 in 2019), GPMC has historically trailed our comparators of the *Presbytery of Detroit* and the *Presbyterian Church (USA)*. That puts us behind national average. We like to think of ourselves as an above-average congregation; certainly our activity levels reflect that. Help make sure our giving levels do, too. All of the ministries we take pride in and count on are possible because of your giving.

“Who knows how much I give and is it kept confidential?”

Only the Finance Department knows the pledging and giving amounts of individual church members. The Stewardship Council does not receive specific dollar giving amounts of members.

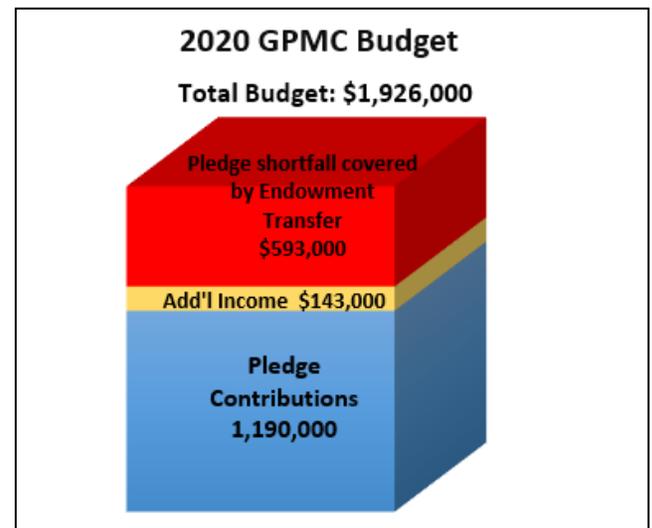
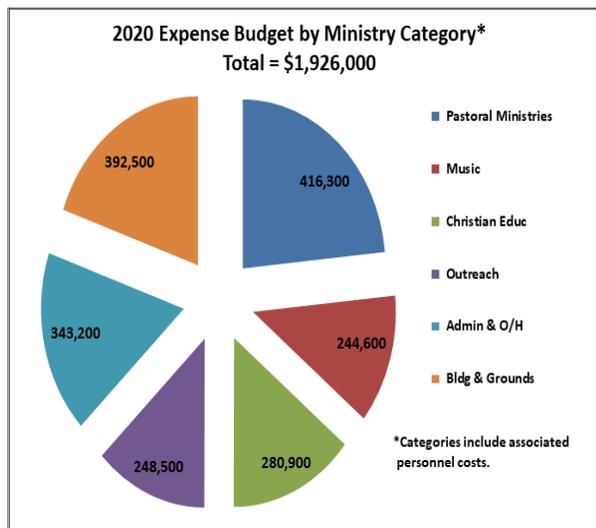
“What if I have a financial issue and can’t fulfill our pledge?”

We know situations can unfortunately occur in people’s lives that affect their household income and financial security. If circumstances arise that could affect your giving, you can have a confidential conversation with Jim Schultz, GPMC’s Director of Finance and Operations, about any limitations on your pledged giving. Jim can be reached by calling the church or his email is: jschultz@gpmchurch.org

(See opposite page)

“Where does the money I give to GPMC go?”

Your pledge gifts or weekly giving support our budget for all programs, departments and staffing. This includes Christian Education, Music, Outreach and other budgeted expenses. Here’s a look at how the 2020 budget was distributed and where our income came from:



2019 and 2020 were improved years in terms of pledging and managing our budget at GPMC, yet we still dealt with a shortfall in pledge contributions versus our total operating budget. **Help us close down this gap in 2021 with increased pledging and giving this year.**

“Why is it important that I increase my pledge to GPMC this year? Isn’t the church building closed and many activities suspended during COVID?”

While some expenses and programs have been trimmed during the pandemic, the vast majority of our expenses must be maintained and new church activities are also now taking place. So, while events like larger on-site worship services are now not happening, other activities such as livestream broadcasts, videotaping and web-based services have since occurred. We also live in a time where outreach and faith-based organizations need our support now more than ever, so we continue to seek ways to *increase* our outreach in this time of need. Finally, the cost of goods & services are routinely increasing around us. In fact, a US inflation rate increase of +2.2% is currently forecasted for 2021. Just like your home or business, GPMC’s cost for utilities, services, office supplies, etc. all rise annually with inflation.

“My pledge won’t be big enough to make a difference.”

All pledges matter greatly and are important, regardless of dollar amount!

If you are among the 10% who regularly give but do not pledge, PLEASE make known your commitment to “continue the story” through a pledge by year-end.

No one will ever see or judge the amount of your pledge.

If you’re unsure of your income/resources, a conservative pledge is encouraged.

Just knowing you are “all in” will help ensure this next chapter of the GPMC story is bigger and better than ever.

If you are in the group of 30% who neither pledge nor make an identifiable gift, PLEASE, consider perhaps stepping outside your comfort zone first by making a pledge...and then by following through. ALL PLEDGES MATTER!

\$10 / week adds up to \$500 per year, which helps cover the cost of Christian Education, LOGOS and our other programs for children and families.

\$5 / week provides \$250 annually to help fund flower visits to the sick and our shut-ins.