

## Governing Council Update

February was Missions Pledge Month, [but you still have until late March to get your pledges in! Click the link to make your pledge online.](#)

Thank you for your ongoing, generous support of our missions and ministries at Carmel United Methodist Church. Without your service and your gifts, we could never fully live out the example of Jesus Christ to our neighbors in Hamilton County and across the globe.

Our Governing Council and Finance Committee want to keep the congregation informed about the 2024 year-end financials for our church, our pledge drive totals, and the resulting church budget for 2025, which was approved in late January.

This past fall, 169 church families or “giving units” pledged a total of nearly \$950,000 to support the continued operation of our church.

We started the 2024 budget with a deficit of \$280,000 and ended the year with a surplus of \$42,000. How did that happen? First, our church staff did a great job of managing and staying within their budgets. It was also accomplished through your increased giving, both in 2024 and carried over from late 2023.

Looking ahead to 2025, we’re starting with a similar deficit as 2024 of just under \$282,000 – planning with the faith that God will provide. Your pledges, combined with the other expected sources of revenue as shown here, total just over \$1.4 million. Budget expenses total just under \$1.7 million.

There are so many vital things funded from our operations budget:

- It keeps our church doors safely open by paying for utilities, insurance, security, and building and grounds maintenance, which as you may see at home has increased in cost in recent years.
- Printing and postage to stay in touch with you through Sunday worship bulletins and mailers, especially for those who are not smartphone and computer users.
- Any time you see our amazing staff making Disciples and making a difference, you made that happen through your support of their salaries!
- In addition to our worship services and their inspiring music, the budget funds events that bring our church community together including Vacation Bible School, Fall Kickoff, youth retreats and monthly Traditional Music Ministry programs among many, many others.

There are other ways that you contribute to the larger financial picture:

- Celebrating and remembering family and friends on Sundays through donut and altar flower donations
- Purchasing Christmas trees and porch pots to support our youth programs
- Enrolling your children and grandchildren in our preschool, which contributes to the church budget
- And your service and donations that help offset paid expenses

If you would like to learn more about our budget, please speak with a member of our Finance Committee: Tom Goeke, Christine Keith and David Stevens. **Thanks again for your generous support!**

| Account             | 2025                |
|---------------------|---------------------|
| Admin Expenses      | \$ 113,750          |
| Building & Ground   | \$ 157,000          |
| Church Insurance    | \$ 68,600           |
| Connections         | \$ 25,500           |
| Misc Benefits       | \$ 46,000           |
| Salaries & Benefits | \$ 881,500          |
| Staff Insurance     | \$ 73,000           |
| UMC Apportionment   | \$ 121,550          |
| Utility             | \$ 103,950          |
| Adult Discipleship  | \$ 28,700           |
| Children's Ministry | \$ 16,000           |
| Music               | \$ 37,500           |
| Worship             | \$ 28,100           |
| Young Adult         | \$ 1,500            |
| Youth               | \$ 53,300           |
| Preschool (NET)     | \$ (60,750)         |
| <b>TOTAL BUDGET</b> | <b>\$ 1,695,200</b> |

| Account                | 2025                |
|------------------------|---------------------|
| Pledged                | \$ 950,000          |
| Unpledged              | \$ 350,000          |
| Plate                  | \$ 5,000            |
| Camps                  | \$ -                |
| Children               | \$ 8,000            |
| Coffee & Donuts        | \$ 3,000            |
| Long Term Planning     | \$ -                |
| Pastor's Discretionary | \$ -                |
| Baird Dividends        | \$ 50,000           |
| Interest/Dividends     | \$ 10,000           |
| Facilities Usage       | \$ 1,000            |
| Building Maintenance   | \$ -                |
| Adult Ministry         | \$ 500              |
| Altar Flowers          | \$ 3,000            |
| Music                  | \$ 1,000            |
| Youth                  | \$ 5,500            |
| Youth Missions/Trips   | \$ 9,000            |
| Youth Winterblast      | \$ 11,000           |
| Youth Christmas Trees  | \$ 12,000           |
| <b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>   | <b>\$ 1,413,500</b> |