

Why Pledge to the Church?

Your financial pledge is a blessing to those who are called to give leadership to the work of your church. While every individual pledge is always kept strictly confidential, accessible only by the pastors and the church administrator, the sum of all the pledges is a vital piece of information used to effectively plan the work of the church in the

coming year. This cumulative number allows the finance committee and the church council to confidently fund existing and new ministries. It has long been our practice to create a balanced budget that enables the church's strategic plan to move forward with financial integrity. That's why the budget we've shared with you is a PROPOSED budget until we have enough information to estimate our income in the coming year.

Your pledge is also a sign of discipleship. By formally committing to a pledge, you are acting on God's call to serve God and follow Jesus, which you hear in your heart. It is a token of your first fruits, an affirmation of the belief that everything we have comes from God. Your pledge is an expression of your confidence in God's work, not only in this community of faith, but also in your life. Purposeful giving is a mark of a mature Christian faith.

Of course, your pledge can be changed at any time by calling the church administrator.

Pledge Sunday is October 28. We invite you to bring your pledge card to worship that morning. If you can't be present on Pledge Sunday, we ask that you try to return a pledge card to the office before that date. On Pledge Sunday we will bring all the pledges from our church family to the altar and consecrate them there. It is a glorious moment in the church year when we recognize all that God has done, is doing, and will do in the months ahead.

Interested in online giving? Many people in our community have already taken this step. As a church, we use EasyTithe to manage online donations.

These are some of the perks of giving online:

- **Enjoy the convenience** of making quick, easy, one-time special donations using the website or giving app.
- **Ensure consistency** for the church by providing a reliable source of income.
- **Appreciate the security** of transactions that cannot be lost or stolen. All credit card information is held with EasyTithe. No credit card information is exchanged with the church
- **Schedule repeating donations** occurring on a date of your choosing.

For more information, please visit <http://www.fumcoly.org/contribute/>.

First United Methodist Church of Olympia

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Sacred Choices

The 2019 Church Budget

A budget is a collection of sacred choices, reflecting decisions about how money will be used to reach a goal. In the church, our goal always comes down to making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. The Finance Committee is presenting this budget to the Church Council to fund ministry in 2019. The full budget is about five pages long; copies are available in the church office. As you can see, the 2019 budget proposal is nearly \$50,000 less than the 2018 budget. The reduction is mostly due to the elimination of our custodian position, a 1/4 time Vespers minister, and the paid children's choir positions. Health insurance costs decreased with the elimination of the full-time position. Other areas of savings were identified and incorporated in the 2019 proposal.

Pastors Peter, Ruth, and Sandy, Chris, and Angelina are our professional and clergy staff, assisted by our support and music staff. Our personnel costs are the largest section of the church budget but we've reduced staff costs in 2019 by over \$32,000 (counting the custodial contract work in the Trustees budget). Office expenses support every aspect of the budget, but primarily serve the program, ministries, and mission work of the church. Maintaining the building, heating and cooling it, and providing insurance for our operations will cost us a bit more this year as some of the custodial costs previously in the personnel lines are now contract expenses managed by the Trustees. Our apportionments are slightly less this year—these are the mission and ministry funds we share with the denomination.

First Olympia Budget Summary

CATEGORY	2019	2018	OVER/UNDER
Clergy	\$198,921	\$193,358	\$5,563
Professional Staff	\$109,755	\$107,933	\$1,822
Admin and Support Staff	\$77,140	\$118,355	-\$41,215
Music and Other Staff	\$58,175	\$61,900	-\$3,725
Other SPRC (FICA, etc)	\$26,576	\$37,500	-\$10,924
Trustees, Maintenance, Utilities	\$120,775	\$106,238	\$14,537
Office	\$32,080	\$33,650	-\$1,570
Apportionments	\$96,270	\$97,209	-\$939
Program and Ministries	\$28,150	\$41,200	-\$13,050
Missions	\$18,800	\$19,000	-\$200
Total Expenses	\$766,642	\$816,343	-\$49,701

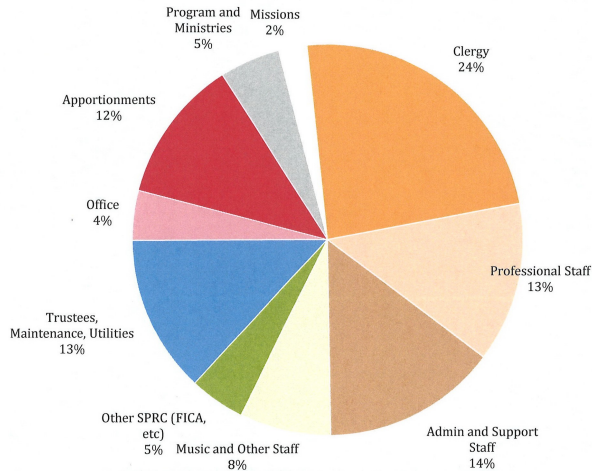
Making a monetary commitment via a pledge is a part of our DNA. Since both of us grew up in a church family we were taught to give happily and generously to our church. We have always set a giving goal. Our giving goal supports our church and what it stands for. Our giving is a part of our spiritual discipline. It is a commitment to God and to the teachings of his son Jesus Christ.

- Gary & Sandee Bloomfield

My family and I support our church because we believe in our church. We have been so blessed in many ways and appreciate being able to give back through our offerings and our volunteering. This is not just our church, it is a family to us. Our kids are growing up in this church and we appreciate the values they are learning and how God is an integral part of our lives. First Olympia brings us joy just by seeing all the people, and we get comfort by the love and support we receive. It just feels good to be a part of this family. We pledge to this church because we want the leaders, the support staff, and the congregation to keep being able to continue the wonderful work they do for our community. I am so proud to be a part of First Church.

- Lamia Murphy

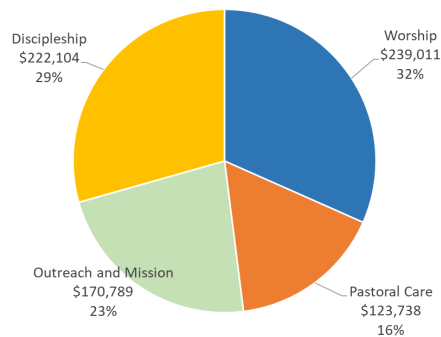
Two ways to view the budget



The above pie chart is a graphical representation of the church's proposed 2019 budget divided up by budget sections. It is helpful in seeing where the money goes. But it isn't the only way to picture the distribution of funds. **The work of the church revolves around four primary purposes: worshipping God, teaching the stories of Jesus, caring for each other, and reaching out into the world. These are the things that matter most to us.**

When each budget line is examined in light of how each one funds the four major tasks of the church, we see more clearly how the things we care about are emphasized. Our sacred choices are seen in the division of the total budget. We worship, we teach and learn, we fellowship with one another and care for one another, and we reach out into the world through mission with all of God's people.

2019 Budget by Ministry Areas



What are funds?

The General Fund

Our financial pledges support the general fund budget, sometimes called a unified budget. The General Fund is the infrastructure of the church. Without a healthy general fund, the work of the church in all of its complexity and beauty could not happen. Most of the General Fund budget provides direct ministry through staffing and direct mission support. The rest supports the building and office needs, indirectly funding every program and project of the church.

Restricted Funds

Restricted Funds are second-mile gifts beyond the General Fund. They are gifts given for a specific named purpose and may only be used for that purpose. Here at First Olympia, our restricted funds are of four types:

- **Trustees Funds** are monies that have been set aside through designated giving or planned savings from the budget for the purpose of maintaining our building and grounds. These are the funds that would replace a leaky roof or an old boiler.
- **Ministry Funds** are dollars given for a ministry purpose like altar flowers, youth activities, Stephen Ministry, or Hand Bell choirs.
- **Mission Funds** are dollars that fund mission projects like our Local Emergency Assistance Fund (LEAF), our UMCOR offerings, collections for the food bank, and of course our beloved mission pigs.
- And finally, **Endowment Funds** are monies given, usually through bequests and estates, with the intention that they be invested and only the earnings be used in perpetuity for missions and ministry and support of the church.

Pastor Ruth likes to talk about the difference between the General Funds and all of our other funds with the analogy of a house and its contents. The **General Fund** is the house itself, the foundation, the walls and floors and ceilings and roof. It includes the plumbing, electricity, and heat that make the place livable. It is the place where we live. The **Restricted Funds** are the furnishings and the art with which we fill the house. These things give the home a soul and make people feel welcome by connecting us to the place.

Where does the money come from?

A small amount of the general fund is supported each year by income from building reimbursements, and a small amount comes from interest on savings accounts, but 98% of the budget comes from donor gifts, either through pledges, regular giving, or the small amount of anonymous giving placed in the offering plates. This year, 349 family donations have ranged from \$1 to \$11,000. You can see from the chart at right that 22 donor families have given over \$4,500 this year, and 124 have given less than \$500. Every contribution makes it easier for the church to do the work to which we are called.

98%

