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WEBINAR: SHARING YOUR STORY IN A WAY THAT INSPIRES NARRATIVE BUDGETS: FINDING AND TELLING YOUR CHURCH'S MISSION STORY



Church Budgets: The Good, the Bad and the Ugly

Members trust their local church the most. However, trust is declining. Many people don't understand the columns of numbers, or indeed what the church does with its money.

Finding your Church's Mission Story

We want our numbers to tell a story. Instead of salaries, administration and building, divide that spending in more missional ways. What is God doing among us?

- You might already have a mission statement, vision statement or congregational values to guide you
- You might borrow some wording from other churches:
 - Worship, Christian education, Fellowship, Mission
 - Worshipping, Learning, Caring, Reaching Out (categories from Judith Johnson)
- You might be starting from scratch. A short survey should help:
 - Three things I am grateful for in this congregation
 - Three ways our spending reflects our values

Let's borrow the categories from Peach Blossom.

	Worship	Spiritual Guidance and Teaching	Community Caring	Mission	Total
Pastor's time	60	15	15	10	100%
Secretary's time	75	5	20	0	100%
Use of Building	40	20	30	10	100%

60% of Pastors time is devoted to worship; salary is \$70,000, then $\$70,000 \times 60\% = \$42,000$.

Similarly, If 75% of Secretary's time is devoted to worship then $\$30,000 \times 75\% = \$22,500$.

That's how we got **\$64,500** in the Worship column on next page, the \$42,000 plus \$22,500.

	ANNUAL BUDGET	Worship	Spiritual Guidance and Teaching	Community Caring	Mission
Staffing	\$100,000	\$64,500	\$12,000	\$16,500	\$7,000
Custodial services	\$10,000	\$4,000	\$2,000	\$3,000	\$1,000
Staffing	\$110,000				
Music	\$1,500	\$1,000	\$500	\$0	\$0
Sunday School	\$3,000	\$0	\$3,000	\$0	\$0
Youth Program	\$2,000	\$0	\$2,000	\$0	\$0
Adult Education	\$2,000	\$0	\$2,000	\$0	\$0
Library	\$2,000	\$500	\$1,000	\$500	\$0
Church magazine	\$400	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$400
Mission Fund	\$17,500	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$17,500
Denomination	\$5,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$5,000
Congregational Spending	\$33,400				
Office expenses	\$5,000	\$2,500	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$500
Administration	\$5,000			16%	
Insurance	\$1,000	\$400	\$200	\$300	\$100
Utilities	\$5,000	\$2,000	\$1,000	\$1,500	\$500
Maintenance	\$10,000	\$4,000	\$2,000	\$3,000	\$1,000
Building	\$16,000				
Total	\$164,400	\$78,900	\$26,700	\$25,800	\$33,000
		48%	16%	16%	20%

Telling your Church's Mission Story

At Peach Blossom, 48% of giving supports worship. Mrs. Alton's testimony about how congregational prayer illustrated the power of worship. Your church has stories too, try to find some from each area.

There are many ways to share what God is doing among your church:

- Celebrate - throw a party! Get different people to tell stories from each of the different Christian practices
- Gather some photos and have a show'n'tell
- Sing songs for each Christian practice and incorporate into worship
- Make a narrative budget in print form
- Add your narrative budget to your website
- Create a short video featuring testimony of lives changed

Resources

- Judith Johnson's updated guide to narrative budgeting
 - http://www.hamconf.org/TW_Budgeting.pdf
- Overview (dead links, good read)
 - <https://www.charityinfo.ca/articles/Telling-the-budget-story>
- Sample of narrative budget brochure
 - <https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/resources/sample-narrative-budget>
- Narrative budget from Knox, Calgary
 - <http://presbyterian.ca/stewardship/annual-giving-materials/>

Contact

I'm delighted to be working with The Presbyterian Church in Canada to help with generosity assessments and stewardship coaching for churches. Talk to Janice or Karen to learn more.

To find out more about me,

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