Sharing your story in a way that inspires

Lori Guenther Reesor

November 1, 2017
About LORI

- B. Math (Statistics)
- Master of Theological Studies
- D. Min. at Tyndale University College and Seminary
- Research posted online www.lgresor.com
About LORI

• fundraising consultant
• data analyst
• theologian
• poet
• donor
• board member
• former pastor
• wife, mom
Originally presented at Ecumenical Stewardship Centre GENEROSITY NOW conference April 2017
Sharing your story in a way that inspires

Narrative Budgets: Finding & Telling Your Church’s Mission Story
N.B. if you don’t give, don’t try narrative budgeting just yet. You have some heart work to do first.
What we’re going to do this session

• Church budgets: the good, the bad, the ugly
• Finding your church’s mission story
• Telling that story – or even better, showing that story
Please type in your questions

MODERATOR WILL READ THEM OUT ON YOUR BEHALF, WE’LL TAKE QUESTION BREAKS DURING THE PRESENTATION AND AGAIN AT THE END.
Church budgets: the good, the bad, the ugly
Good

Church goers generally trust their church more than they trust other organizations
Bad

This trust is based on familiarity, and people attend church less frequently.
Ugly

Black hole – don’t know where money is going.

Biggest budget line items: staff and building
Finding Your Church’s Mission Story
Peach Blossom Church

Limerick
Peach Blossom Church

Context
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FORWARD IN FAITH

Make your commitment to lay the foundation for future ministry by supporting the new building addition that will focus on Children's Ministry.

What does HUMC mean to you?

“All aspects of our church seemingly have grown this year, maybe not in numbers but in spirit and dedication to the purposes to which we have committed ourselves as Christians.”

Lay Leader Report
Dr. Sam McConnell
Lay Leader

1969 HUMC

"From kindergarten to now I've grown in my faith so much. I went from begging not to go to church to praying every night. It's sort of my second home.”

Annabelle Hill, 5th grader

"It means to me everything because my friends are here and they treat everyone like family and I can learn about God.”

Emma Rose Martin, 5th grader

"The real question we face is not, 'Can we afford to?' but rather, 'Can we afford not to?'”

April 1973, John Y. Bacon - Pastor
Speaking to the planning for our eventual 1980 expansion

Hixson United Methodist Church
2015 Narrative Operating Budget

125 YEARS

1889 - 2014

Our Mission
Partnering with God to transform the world by offering Help, Hope & Healing through Jesus Christ

Our Process
Building our relationship with God and others while putting our faith into action

Hixson United Methodist Church
5301 Old Hixson Pike, Hixson, TN 37343
Phone: (423) 877-1246 | Fax: (423) 877-2695
hixsonumc.org | info@hixsonumc.org
We are the Body of Christ, called to mission and ministry in the Hixson community and beyond. From mission work in faraway lands to Upward Basketball, from disaster assistance to providing food for hungry school children, from children’s ministry to weekly worship experiences Hixson United Methodist Church continues in its mission of partnering with God to transform the world by offering help, hope and healing as disciples of Jesus Christ. As the church celebrates 125 years of worship and service, we look forward to the challenges of growing ministry for generations to come. In this brochure, there is information on how we can partner together to provide resources for ministry and our proposed building expansion. Please be in prayer as to your commitment and participation in providing resources for growing in mission and moving forward in faith!

**Worship**
We seek to honor and glorify God in every aspect of our lives, from our finances, to the integrity of our relationships, to our personal and corporate gatherings of worship.

**Service**
By the Holy Spirit, each of us discovers and uses our spiritual gifts to keep the body of Christ healthy and thriving in an area of service that matches our gifts and passions.

**Missions**
Whether it is down the street or across the ocean, we desire to make a tangible and significant difference for the Kingdom of Christ in the world.

**Spiritual Growth**
We grow in our knowledge of Christ and experience God in many ways as He begins to form His character in us.

**Community**
As we live in authentic community with other believers, Christ uses those relationships to change us and mature our faith.

**Outreach**
We are called to extend the love, grace and hope of Jesus to a lost and dying world, and it starts across the street, across the hall, on the field and the sidewalks.

**TOTAL BUDGET**
$1,591,023

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**Pastoral Ministry**
Pastoral Ministry partners with the congregation to lead, nurture and establish Christian discipleship, helping people to grow in loving God and neighbor.
- Preaching and Teaching
- Celebrating Sacraments
- Visioning
- Visitation
- Pastoral Care
- Administration

**Music and Worship**
Music and Worship provides inspiring worship (traditional, contemporary and reflective) by giving people of all ages opportunities to express their faith explore their God-gifted talents and offer those gifts back to God.
- Choral Ensembles for all ages
- Instrumental Ensembles
- Individual Musicians
- Preschool Music Education
- Drama and Visual Art
- Worship Leadership and Support

**Mission and Outreach**
Whether down the street or across the ocean, we extend the hope and love of Christ to a world in need by offering our resources, presence and services to the glory of God and for human fulfillment.
- Interfaith Homeless Network
- Camp Lookout
- Short Term Missions
- UMC Missionaries
- UTC Wesley Center
- Upward Basketball

**Christian Formation**
The lifelong journey of discipleship. Children, Youth and Adult Ministries strategically work together to create a pathway for people of all ages to nurture faith and grow towards maturity in Christ, from birth through adulthood.
- Nursery and Preschool
- Children
- Students
- Young Adults
- Adults
- Parents and Families
- Older Adults

**Administration**
Providing our congregation, pastors and program staff with the support they need to implement and carry out the mission of our church. This includes:
- Website Maintenance
- Communications Tools
- Stewardship and Giving
- Bulletins and Publications
- General Office Activities
- Special Event Assistance

**Facilities**
Supporting the mission of our church by providing space and amenities for our existing ministries and the growing needs in our congregation and community.
- 81,000 ft on 2 campuses
- Supporting 3 weekday childcare programs
- 100+ rooms
- 37 HVAC Units
- 23 Restrooms, 6 Showers
- 6.25 Acres of Greenspace
- $8,636,000 Building/Contents Insured
- Debt Service
Finding your church’s mission story

Step 1 What is God doing among us?

Step 2 Divide up staff time

Step 3 Divide up spending
What is God doing among us?

• You might already have a mission statement, vision statement or congregational values to guide you here

• You might borrow some wording from other churches:
  • Worship, Christian education, Fellowship, Mission
  • Worshipping, Learning, Caring, Reaching Out*

• You might be starting from scratch

*This wording borrowed from Judith Johnson, Hamilton Conference Minister for Congregational Support, United Church of Canada (retired) 2010
Worship and Community

Pastor

Friends

Spiritual Guidance and Teaching

Inter-Generational

Caring

WHAT WE'RE GRATEFUL FOR
How does our spending plan reflect our values?

Given the focus on worship and community in the gratitude question, it’s not surprising that caring for the building and staff topped the list.

- **BUILDING AND ACCESSIBILITY**
  Stewardship of building and property to support Community

- **PASTOR**
  Taking good care of full-time pastor, paying fairly and providing training.

- **SHARE IN OUR COMMUNITY**
  Local needs, activities and special projects.

- **MISSION WITHIN WIDER CHURCH**
  Partnering with our denomination

- **HELP OTHERS IN NEED**
  Refugee family, Feeding the poor, Social justice.

- **SPIRITUAL ENGAGEMENT**
  Christian formation, worship enrichment, leadership.

January 2017, Lori Guenther Reesor
• Worship
• Spiritual guidance and teaching
• Community caring
• Mission
Questions? Moderator will read your typed questions.
Finding your church’s mission story

Step 1 What is God doing among us?

Step 2 Divide up staff time

Step 3 Divide up spending
# Peach Blossom Staffing by Christian Practice

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Peach Blossom Staffing by Dollars i.e. multiple salary/benefits by percentage of time spent in each Christian practice

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Questions? Moderator will read your typed questions.
Finding your church’s mission story

Step 1 What is God doing among us?

Step 2 Divide up staff time

Step 3 Divide up spending
## Peach Blossom Building Use by Christian Practice

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Peach Blossom Building Use by Christian Practice in Dollars

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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Administration</td>
<td>$5,000</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Insurance</td>
<td>$1,000</td>
<td>$400</td>
<td>$200</td>
<td>$300</td>
<td>$100</td>
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<tr>
<td>Utilities</td>
<td>$5,000</td>
<td>$2,000</td>
<td>$1,000</td>
<td>$1,500</td>
<td>$500</td>
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<tr>
<td>Maintenance</td>
<td>$10,000</td>
<td>$4,000</td>
<td>$2,000</td>
<td>$3,000</td>
<td>$1,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Building</strong></td>
<td><strong>$16,000</strong></td>
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<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>$164,400</td>
<td>$78,900</td>
<td>$26,700</td>
<td>$25,800</td>
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</tbody>
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# Peach Blossom Spending by Category

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Worship</th>
<th>Spiritual Guidance and Teaching</th>
<th>Community Caring</th>
<th>Mission</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Spending</td>
<td>48%</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Questions? Moderator will read your typed questions.
Telling Your Church’s Mission Story
Good news – you can still do this without doing the math
Worship – 48% of our church budget

PEACH BLOSSOM

- Three funerals in two months
- Mourned with those who mourn and laugh with those who laughed

- Grateful to God that we can gather to worship
- People have found strength and comfort in worship and prayer
- Our congregation sings together, reads Scriptures and builds up our faith in our Lord and Saviour
Insert short testimonial from a real person here
Spiritual Guidance and Teaching – 16% of our church budget

• Active youth group studying the Gospels

• Children’s classes for ages 3 to High School

• New this year – college and university group

• Adult group looking at Faith and Finances

• Ladies’ Bible Study studying the sermon text each Tuesday

• Small groups on a variety of topics
Insert short testimonial from a real person here
Community Caring – 16% of our budget

- Alcoholics Anonymous meeting in the basement each Wednesday
- Parents and toddlers group on Thursday mornings
- Community choir on Friday nights
- Various family groups using the church hall
- Pastor frequently gets calls from community members in crisis
- Active involvement in local food bank
Insert short testimonial from a real person here
Mission – 20% of our Church Budget

• Support for our own Teddy Smith and his wife Nancy as they serve in Guatemala

• Mission Committee continues to support our mission workers through letters and prayer as well as through our financial support

• Our contributions to our denomination help start new congregations in 11 countries

• Our money helps young church plants right in our own backyard
Insert short testimonial from a real person here
Sharing what is God doing among us

• 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
We are the Body of Christ, called to mission and ministry in the Hixson community and beyond. From mission work in faraway lands to Upward Basketball, from disaster assistance to providing food for hungry school children, from children's ministry to weekly worship experiences Hixson United Methodist Church continues in its mission of partnering with God to transform the world by offering help, hope and healing as disciples of Jesus Christ. As the church celebrates 125 years of worship and service, we look forward to the challenges of growing ministry for generations to come. In this brochure, there is information on how we can partner together to provide resources for ministry and our proposed building expansion. Please be in prayer as to your commitment and participation in providing resources for growing in mission and moving forward in faith!

**Worship**
We seek to honor and glorify God in every aspect of our lives, from our finances, to the integrity of our relationships, to our personal and corporate gatherings of worship.

**Service**
By the Holy Spirit, each of us discovers and uses our spiritual gifts to keep the body of Christ healthy and thriving in an area of service that matches our gifts and passions.

**Missions**
Whether it is down the street or across the ocean, we desire to make a tangible and significant difference for the Kingdom of Christ in the world.

**Spiritual Growth**
We grow in our knowledge of Christ and experience God in many ways as He begins to form His character in us.

**Community**
As we live in authentic community with other believers, Christ uses those relationships to change us and mature our faith.

**Outreach**
We are called to extend the love, grace and hope of Jesus to a lost and dying world, and it starts across the street, across the hall, on the field and the sidewalks.

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**TOTAL BUDGET**
$1,591,023

- **Pastoral Ministry**
  $242,395
  - Preaching and Teaching
  - Celebrating Sacraments
  - Visiting
  - Pastoral Care
  - Administration

- **Music and Worship**
  $165,497
  - Choral Ensembles for all ages
  - Instrumental Ensembles
  - Individual Musicians
  - Preschool Music Education
  - Drama and Visual Arts
  - Worship Leadership and Support

- **Mission and Outreach**
  $206,738
  - Interfaith Homeless Network
  - Camp Lookout
  - Short Term Missions
  - Huskie Missionaries
  - UTC Wesley Center
  - Upward Basketball

- **Christian Formation**
  $270,762
  - The lifelong journey of discipleship. Children, Youth and Adult ministries strategically work together to create a pathway for people of all ages to nurture faith and grow towards maturity in Christ, from birth through adulthood.
  - Nursery and Preschool
  - Children
  - Students
  - Young Adults
  - Adults
  - Parents and Families
  - Older Adults

- **Administration**
  $214,299
  - Providing for our congregation, pastors, and program staff with the support they need to implement and carry out the mission of our church. This includes:
  - Website Maintenance
  - Communications Tools
  - Stewardship and E-giving
  - Bulletins and Publications
  - General Office Activities
  - Special Event Assistance

- **Facilities**
  $491,332
  - Supporting the mission of our church by providing space and amenities for our existing ministries and the growing needs in our congregation and community.
  - 81,000 sq ft on 2 campuses
  - Supporting 3 weekday childcare programs
  - 100+ rooms
  - 37 HVAC Units
  - 23 Restrooms, 6 Showers
  - 6.25 Acres of Greenspace
  - $8,636,000 Building/Contents Insured
  - Debt Service
Resources

- Judith Johnson’s updated guide to narrative budgeting
  - http://www.hamconf.org/TW_Budgeting.pdf
- Overview (dead links but good read)
  - https://www.charityinfo.ca/articles/Telling-the-budget-story
- Sample of narrative budget brochure
  - https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/resources/sample-narrative-budget
  - http://presbyterian.ca/stewardship/annual-giving-materials/ which includes narrative budget from Knox, Calgary
Narrative budgeting could be a next step after a generosity assessment

• Talk to Janice or Karen to learn more
  jmeighan@Presbyterian.ca

• See Generosity Assessment webinar
Questions? Moderator will read your typed questions.
Thank you!
Contact me

• I do generosity assessments for churches which include stewardship coaching.

• I’d be delighted to work with your church.
  • Lori Guenther Reesor on LinkedIn
  • lori@lgreesor.com
  • www.lgreesor.com includes links to my blog, writing, thesis etc.
  • @lgreesor on Twitter