



O LORD, I am your servant; yes, I am your servant, born into your household; you have freed me from my chains. I will offer you a sacrifice of thanksgiving and call on the name of the LORD.

- PSALM 116: 16, 17

Let freedom ring! As Christians, we celebrate and share our Freedom in Christ through the workings of His Church, our church – Fairhope United Methodist.

This year's stewardship campaign is grounded on the simple but profound statement of our freedom in Jesus – **Free to Give, Free to Serve**. As members of Christ's Body at Fairhope United Methodist Church, it is both our honor and responsibility to be stewards of the Lord's blessings. Our gifts joyfully given to FUMC, do much to promote God's kingdom—through missions and outreach; evangelism and discipleship; the study of His word and worship.

God uses our gifts according to His good, perfect and pleasing will. His Church uses our gifts, freely and confidently, to the Glory of His Son. Our ministry budget uses our tithes and gifts to manage ministry programs throughout the year. Our Church uses our stewardship pledge as an outward sign of confirmation that the giving hearts of the Body are united in ministry. Now you see that we are all important parts of the Body of Christ – free to give and free to serve.

We have enclosed a summary of the proposed 2018 ministry budget for you to use in prayerfully considering your 2018 pledge of support. This budget rings of freedom in Christ in that it is both a bold statement of our faith that God will provide and bless our efforts, but it is also the product of good stewardship in how we manage our finances and continue to pay down our debt.

During the 2017 Stewardship Campaign, 70.1% of the congregation pledged to support the ministry budget. This year we want to continue on our journey of freedom in Christ by encouraging more of our congregation to pledge support for the 2018 ministry at FUMC.

The 2018 Stewardship Campaign will kick off with members of the stewardship team delivering donuts to each Sunday school class on Sunday, October 8 from 9:30-10am. Following the combined 11am **Commitment Service** on **Sunday, October 29**, we will celebrate the conclusion of our Stewardship Campaign with **Dinner on the Grounds**.

We ask that you join us for this time of celebration and sharing and that you prayerfully consider your place of freedom in Fairhope United Methodist Church.

*We exist to **LOVE BOLDLY**, casting the light of **JESUS** into the world,*

Dr. Ed Glaize,
Senior Pastor

Emily Garner,
Board of Stewards Chair

Bo Blackwell,
Stewardship Chair

2018 PROPOSED BUDGET

MINISTRY	2018 PROPOSED	2017 BUDGET	2016 ACTUAL
Adult Spiritual Growth	15,000	15,000	9,835
Caring Ministry	6,000	6,000	6,000
Children's Ministry	30,631	30,000	22,329
Communications	12,000	12,000	6,977
Church Life Ministry	18,000	18,000	16,250
Evangelism	6,000	3,600	1,941
Hospitality	3,050	3,050	35
Missions	51,500	50,000	44,798
Music	17,125	17,125	12,437
Nursery	1,450	1,450	1,258
Recreation	12,500	12,500	10,995
The Gathering	2,600	2,300	2,687
Worship	12,500	12,500	6,017
Youth Ministry	65,000	65,000	60,258
Custodial	18,550	17,550	14,383
Office Expenses	37,014	35,014	36,700
Kitchen Supplies	11,205	11,205	10,504
Utilities	87,567	87,567	82,616
Discretionary Fund	1,500	2,000	0
Stewardship Campaign	3,650	4,000	1,808
SPR	1,058,402	1,028,312	959,134
Trustees	172,141	172,141	167,769
Conference Apportionments	160,590	152,315	132,164
District Apportionments	24,400	23,143	20,520
Mortgage Interest	134,756	145,739	198,878
Mortgage Principle	136,178	125,194	144,086
TOTALS	2,099,309	2,052,705	1,970,379

LET'S BEAT LAST YEAR'S GOAL
of 70.1% COMMITMENTS!

NEW
BUDGET **\$2,099,309**

FIGURES & PERCENTAGES



	<u>2018 PROPOSED</u>	<u>2017 PROPOSED</u>	<u>2016 ACTUAL</u>	<u>2015 ACTUAL</u>	<u>2014 ACTUAL</u>
BUDGET TOTALS	\$2,099,309	\$2,052,705	\$1,970,376	\$2,057,767	\$1,966,409
% Increase over prior year budget	2.3%	1.5%			
YTD Commitments		\$1,438,051	\$1,434,508	\$1,041,910	\$1,076,829
% of Budget		70.1%	70.9%	50.6%	54.8%
# of Commitments		300	307	194	224

BUDGET CATEGORY	2018 BUDGET	% OF TOTAL	2017 BUDGET	% OF BUDGET	2016 BUDGET
Ministry Programs/Discretionary Fund	\$207,006	10%	\$204,525	10%	\$174,431
Missions	\$51,500	2%	\$50,000	2%	\$44,798
Trustees	\$172,141	8%	\$172,141	8%	\$165,000
Utilities	\$87,567	4%	\$87,567	4%	\$95,669
Supplies	\$66,769	3%	\$63,769	3%	\$62,514
Salaries/Benefits	\$1,058,402	50%	\$1,028,312	50%	\$961,201
Apportionments	\$184,990	9%	\$175,458	9%	\$152,050
Mortgage Interest	\$134,756	6%	\$145,739	7%	\$190,785
Mortgage Principle	\$136,178	6%	\$125,194	6%	\$175,922
TOTAL	\$2,099,309	100%	\$2,052,705	100%	\$2,022,370

PLEASE NOTE: The highlighted categories have multiple budget items that corresponds with the highlighted areas on the 2018 Proposed Budget page.



2018 MINISTRY BUDGET OVERVIEW

*"I will offer you a sacrifice of thanksgiving and call on the name of the LORD."
- PSALM 116:17*

Near-Term Finance Goals

In the coming years, the Finance Team will remain focused on repaying debt and building an adequate cash balance to meet the capital needs of a large church campus. The Imagine Campaign, which concludes in December, was the step in faith that our Church took in 2013 to reduce our debt to its current balance of \$3.17M. God has blessed us! We have made incredible strides in debt reduction but our work is not finished. Our ministries have been freed from much of the interest burden as we reduced our debt balance; but we must remain focused on totally freeing the ministry budget by eliminating the debt in its entirety. Your tithes, your gifts and your offerings are for Christ's work and help the church move forward, unchained from the burden of debt. **Free to serve.**

Ministry and Missions Budgets

Fairhope United Methodist Church has committed to boldly sharing the light and love of Christ in our community and in the world. Our current ministries include: Worship, Music, Evangelism, Adult Spiritual Growth, Church Life, Children, Youth/Student, Caring, Communications, Missions, Recreation, Hospitality, and Nursery. Our Ministry and Missions budget accounts for 12% of our 2018 budget. Congregational generosity in pledging and giving to the ministry budget frees us to be the hands, feet and voice of Christ's love. **Free to obediently respond to God's call.**

Trustees and Insurance

Trustees are nominated each year and charged with making collective decisions regarding the maintenance of all church facilities – buildings, land and otherwise. They are tasked to do a lot with a little. Maintaining more than \$14M in facilities with only 8% of our total budget is one example of their stewardship. The Trustees have done an excellent job forecasting potential future capital needs (i.e., aging roofs and air conditioner units). They are working together with the Finance Team to plan and prepare for these inevitabilities. Brick and mortar facilities are one reason many choose to visit and become a part of our church family. Our campus literally shines as a beacon for Christ in the community. **Free to be the beacon of light for a world in need.**

Supplies

Supply expense growth is primarily due to increased custodial supplies coming from increased facility use for ministry and community outreach services. Growing ministry and outreach coupled with "open doors and open hearts" are ways we demonstrate the love and compassion of Christ. Overall, our staff continues to be good stewards of all our supply needs. **Free to respond in love.**

Salaries/Benefits

Staff salaries and benefits comprise 50% of our annual budget, which is in line with other churches our size. Each of our top notch staff is called by God for service and all are instrumental in the workings of the Body of Christ that is FUMC. Staff Parish Relations (SPR) sets the salary and benefit budget each year to fairly compensate the staff and to attract and retain our ministry team. Increases in staff salaries and benefits, as well as additions to staff, are in line with our Church's response to reflect our growing ministry programs. **Free to grow to serve to the Glory of Christ.**

Conference and District Missional (Giving Apportionments)

As Methodists, we give to our conference and our district. Conference and District Missional Giving, which is calculated by the Conference, comprise 9% of our annual budget. These funds go directly to United Methodist mission agencies like the United Methodist Children's Home, Mobile Inner City Mission and Alabama Rural Ministry. They also support institutions like Blue Lake Camp and Huntingdon College as well as United Methodist Campus Ministries. Apportionments are another means of reaching out in love in Christ's name through the ministries they help fund. **Free to join hands as one Body.**