

# Picture Budgets (aka Narrative Budgets)

We all know a picture is worth a thousand words, so follow these guidelines to create your own picture budget instead of the usual (See samples by clicking on links below):

- 1.) Open with a friendly, personal letter from the pastor -- don't forget the pastor's picture!
- 2.) Keep your stories brief and joyful.
- 3.) Include scripture that captures your church's vision.
- 4.) Use the words "we" and "our."
- 5.) Group church spending into categories, like "Worship," "Community," "Outreach."
- 6.) Use active photos that show people's faces. Close-ups are good!
- 7.) Avoid pictures of people at meetings!
- 8.) Invite your congregation to prayerfully consider their pledge and to grow their giving each year.

Go online to [www.ucc.org/stewardship](http://www.ucc.org/stewardship). Under **Igniting Generosity**, click on samples and narrative budgets in the description:

**Narrative Budgets:** Here are some "how to" guidelines and **samples of narrative budgets** created by some of our UCC congregations.

Order *Inspiring Generosity* (\$15) to learn about building and presenting a church budget: 1-800-537-3394.

**Church Story Book (sample pages):**

<p>MAKE MY JOY COMPLETE</p>  <p><i>Make my joy complete by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in harmony and of one mind.</i>      Philippians 2:2</p> <p>PILGRIM CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST</p>	  <p>GOD IS GOOD - ALL THE TIME; AND ALL THE TIME, GOD IS GOOD!</p> <p>We invite you to consider prayerfully your own pledge to the ministry of Pilgrim Congregational United Church of Christ, and, as you are able, to grow your giving each year.</p> <p>Thank you for your faithful generosity!</p> <p>The Pilgrim Church Stewardship Committee</p>  <p>PILGRIM CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST 2592 West 14th Street • Cleveland, OH 44113 • <a href="http://www.pilgrimalive.com">www.pilgrimalive.com</a> • 216.861.7388</p> <p><small>We would like to thank Dorothy Gunn for the design of this booklet and Jerry Guffey for his assistance in production.</small></p>
--	---

## Church Story Book (sample pages):

Everyone knows that I love to tell the story of Pilgrim Church, and most of the time I use words. In the pulpit, the Messenger, and Gabriel's Trumpet, not to mention personal conversation and public speaking, I love to share the marvelous ministry that thrives here in this congregation. God is indeed still speaking, and still doing great things, right here in our midst!

Each January, we provide a detailed budget for the coming year: our "Mission Spending Plan: A Statement of Faith and Mission," with a list of our projected income and expenses. Those lines and numbers tell the story, too, in their own way. This booklet, however, is still another way to describe the amazing things that happen, day in and day out, here at Pilgrim Church, because of your generous and faithful giving to its ministry.

We hope these pictures and words paint a beautiful family portrait of our church – not a still-life portrait, but a vibrant and inspiring image – a motion picture, really – that will draw you in and encourage you to spend thoughtful, prayerful time considering how God is calling you to give back a portion of what you have received, in gratitude and commitment, in compassion and care. We often sing a beautiful hymn that reminds us that "in all our living, we belong to God." I believe that all that we have and all that we are belong to God, and our giving to the church is one way to say thank you for all that we have received, as well as an expression of our hope for a better world.

I want to thank you for your extraordinary generosity throughout the years, and for the many ways you share your time, your talents, and your treasure here at Pilgrim Church. Watching you each day, giving so generously, is like watching a great miracle unfold.

We have come so far, this far, by faith. By faith we will travel on, together, and feel God's presence with us, along the way.

Blessings and gratitude,

Dr. Laurie

## WORSHIP

*When we've been there ten thousand years, bright shining as the sun,  
we've no less days to sing God's praise than when we'd first begun.*

John Newton

It's the heart of our faith community, in the church of our hearts. Your giving provides what is needed for sacred space to embrace sacred time: bread and cup, flowers and candles, heat and light...soaring arches and a sturdy roof, oak doors that protect us from weather and open in welcome...pealing bells and majestic organ, great ensembles – both brass and jazz, choral voices young and old raised in praise...worship bulletins that keep us all on the same page, fine preaching amplified by a fine sound system...worship thoughtfully prepared and prayerfully led, on Sunday morning or Thursday night, quiet Tatzé, lively summer picnic service, or the solemn Easter Vigil...

*Word and Sacrament, and the work of the people...Joy!*

Picture Budget (sample pages):

## Mission Plan Book



**Christ Church**  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

301 North Main Street, Orrville, Ohio 44667



*Christ United Church of Christ*

301 NORTH MAIN STREET  
RANDALL GEHRES, PASTOR

ORRVILLE, OHIO 44667-1697  
PHONE: (330) 683-6715  
FAX: (330) 683-6243

October 2005

Dear Members of Christ Church,

God has put together here a remarkable church. This is quite an unlikely congregation of people that God has collected, and yet it is in so many ways just right. Here we have *worship* not quite like you would find anywhere else. Here is found a passion for serving God that leads our members into unusual risks and significant challenges. Here many hearts seek to grow in grace and mature in discipleship, as we study and learn together. Here is a unique friendship that brings us much joy.

I invite you to enjoy in this *Mission Plan Book* the photos and descriptions that remind us of how God is at work in this congregation and how we have been blessed by it. The story here is delightfully presented. I hope you enjoy it.

The gospel tells us that God has acted **boldly** on our behalf in Jesus Christ. The scriptures reveal that God calls us to a bold faith. May we each be bold as we consider our 2006 support for Christ Church and its mission to a world that so badly needs what we have to offer.

May God's blessing be upon your home and our life together in Christ.

Grace and peace,  
*Randall Gehres*  
Pastor Gehres

## Instructions FOR THE USE OF THIS BOOK

- 1

Read through this Mission Plan Book and consider prayerfully what portion of your income you will give in support of your church's ministry.
- 2

Remove the "Estimate of Giving" packet with your name on it from the manila envelope at the end of the Mission Plan pages. Complete the Estimate of Giving card, seal it inside the security envelope, and place the sealed envelope in the "Completed Card" envelope in back of this book.
- 3

Deliver the Mission Plan Book to the next person on your team as soon as possible (list is on the outside of the back cover). If you are not able to make the delivery, please contact your team captain whose name is at the top of the list. They will pick up the book and continue it on the route.

## Reaching Out IN MISSION






**M**ission to others has always been an important component of ministry at Christ Church. Through Our Church's Wider Mission (OCWM), Neighbors in Need, One Great Hour of Sharing, the Christmas Fund, and Strengthen the Church we join other UCC congregations in mission and ministry in the United States and around the world. We also support the CUE (Chicago, United and Eden) Seminars, and chaplains at Dunlap Memorial and Wooster Community Hospitals, the Wayne County Jail, and the campus of ATI.

Monthly special offerings for CROP, the Blanket Fund, Crossroad, United Church Homes, People to People, Salvation Army, Habitat, CAMO, SARA, disaster relief, inter-generational and youth mission trips support additional missions locally and abroad. Our Mission Committee is always seeking new avenues for expanding our mission outreach.

**We are a "5 for 5" congregation—supporting all five of the UCC denomination-wide offerings:**

- OCWM
- Neighbors in Need
- The Christmas Fund
- One Great Hour of Sharing
- Strengthen the Church

**\$68,863**  
(20.3%)



**Hope Church - Allocations for Narrative Mission Spending Plan (Budget)** Order *Inspiring Generosity* for more detail: 800-537-3394

		Mission/Serving		Worship		Teaching/Nurturing		Inviting/Welcoming		Total	
		%	\$	%	\$	%	\$	%	\$	%	\$
<b><u>INCOME</u></b>											
Pledges	66,700										
Offerings	18,000										
Other Income	11,500										
Fundraisers	3,800										
Total	<u>100,000</u>										
<b><u>EXPENSES</u></b>											
OCWM	8,000	100%	8,000	0	0	0	0	0	100%	8,000	
Local Mission	2,000	100%	2,000	0	0	0	0	0	100%	2,000	
Ministerial Services	<i>(Apply compensation based on % time spent. Apply car based on mileage for purpose of trips.)</i>										
Minister Compensation	42,000	10%	4,200	50%	21,000	30%	12,600	10%	4,200	100%	42,000
Car Allowance, Cont Ed	3,000	20%	600	0	0	70%	2,100	10%	300	100%	3,000
Office											0
PT Secretary Salary/Benefits	4,500		0	40%	1,800	30%	1,350	30%	1,350	100%	4,500
Postage, Office Supplies	1,700	10%	170	40%	680	30%	510	20%	340	100%	1,700
Telephone, Computer	1,300	20%	260	20%	260	30%	390	30%	390	100%	1,300
Equipment-rent/maint.	900	20%	180	20%	180	30%	270	30%	270	100%	900
Building Operations	<i>(Apply based on square footage of rooms and how rooms are used. Some may have multiple uses.)</i>										
Mortgage (or rent)/Insurance	12,000	20%	2,400	30%	3,600	35%	4,200	15%	1,800	100%	12,000
PT Custodian Salary/Benefits	5,400	20%	1,080	30%	1,620	35%	1,890	15%	810	100%	5,400
Janitorial Supplies	1,200	20%	240	30%	360	35%	420	15%	180	100%	1,200
Utilities (Gas/Elect/Water)	8,800	20%	1,760	30%	2,640	35%	3,080	15%	1,320	100%	8,800
Worship											0
PT Music Director	5,500		0	100%	5,500	0	0	0	100%	5,500	
Pulpit Supply/Honoraria	300		0	100%	300	0	0	0	100%	300	
Worship Supplies/Music	500		0	100%	500	0	0	0	100%	500	
Christian Ed											0
Curricula, Supplies	400		0	0	0	100%	400	0	100%	400	
Youth Program/Service Trip	1,500	25%	375	0	0	75%	1,125	0	100%	1,500	
Life & Growth	300		0	0	0	0	0	100%	300	100%	300
Stewardship	200		0	0	0	100%	200	0	100%	200	
Parish	500		0	0	0	25%	125	75%	375	100%	500
	<u>100,000</u>		<u>21,265</u>		<u>38,440</u>		<u>28,660</u>		<u>11,635</u>		<u>100,000</u>

## Narrative Budgets

*In the Cornerstone Fund workshop, Budgets That Inspire Giving, we review samples of narrative budgets (also known as "mission spending plans") that have been prepared by UCC churches and conferences. Some of these samples may be downloaded here in PDF format — but please note the size of the file, especially if you are using a dial-up connection.*

### Full-color, multi-page narrative budgets

[United Church of Chapel Hill — Chapel Hill NC](#) (929KB)

A PDF of the church's PowerPoint narrative budget, with photos, pie charts, ministry lists, critical notes and more in one-page highlights of each mission/ministry category.



[Bethany UCC — Cuyahoga Falls OH](#) (968KB)

Designed to print on both sides of four legal pages, this budget uses numbers sparingly but is still effective.

[Christ Church UCC — Orrville OH](#) (538KB)

An 11-page budget with percentages, pie charts, ministry lists and photos in one-page summaries of each budget area.



[Church of the Redeemer UCC — Westlake OH](#) (1.2 MB)

A more elaborate, 17-page booklet with narrative, pie charts and lots of color photographs.



[Hillsborough UCC — Hillsborough NC](#) (396 KB)

Designed in Word to print on legal pages, this budget includes a number of categories with explanatory text.

[The UCC of New Smyrna Beach FL](#) (384 KB)

Ten pages with narrative, photographs, pie charts and percentages.

[Pilgrim Congregational UCC — Cleveland OH](#) (2 MB)

Lots of photographs, a little bit of narrative, and no numbers!



[Holy Covenant UCC](#) (816 KB)

Designed to print on three legal pages on the church's color printer, this budget incorporates a range of ways for readers to engage budget information.



[Penn West Conference](#) (357 KB)

A 16-page booklet with narrative and photos.



## One-page, double-sided, color budgets

[Connecticut Conference](#) (704 KB)

A double-sided page with narrative, numbers and pie charts.

[Indiana-Kentucky Conference](#) (576 KB)

A legal-sized page, printed both sides offers a simple but effective narrative budget style.

[Central Atlantic Conference](#) (88 KB)

A Word document without photos, but with narrative that highlights both the income and expense sides of the budget.



## One-page, one-sided, black-and-white budgets

[Plymouth UCC](#) (129 KB)

A one-page, one-side, one-color narrative budget with narrative, numbers, and some fun clip art.

<http://cornerstonefund.org/learn/church-finance>