

**REPORT TO CHURCH COUNCIL of
FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF SANTA ROSA, CA
2/7/2017**

Name of Commission/Committee/Group: Finance Committee

Members of the Commission/Committee/Group: Charlie Amezcua; Chris Bowen; Jack Breglio; Mary Brunet (Business Administrator); Tokasa Buinimasi; Mike Ferrel (Lay Leader for ?); Peg Ferrel (Lay Delegate to Annual Conference); Greg Roth (Chair); Marty Thompson; and Heather Young (Recording Secretary)

Meetings are held: on the second Wednesday of every month. All are welcome to attend.

Purpose of the Commission/Committee/Group: "The ministry of the committee on finance is to nurture the financial vitality of the congregation." (*Finance: Handling God's Money in the Church*, United Methodist Church Guidelines, 2012, page 6.)

How does the purpose help fulfill the mission of FUMC? The Finance Committee strives to maintain a strong system of internal controls, so that the congregation can have confidence that donated funds are safeguarded. The Committee strives to maintain financial transparency, so that the congregation can understand how donated funds are used. By demystifying the church's money matters, the Committee helps the congregation to evaluate whether money decisions are missionally driven. The Committee assists the Church Council in developing an annual budget. The Committee currently has primary responsibility for operating budget and mortgage budget fundraising. Taken together, the actions of the Committee are intended to: (1) promote the financial health of the church; (2) track the church's financial condition; and (3) provide timely and relevant financial information that assists church leaders in pursuing the church's mission.

What are your activities/programs/ministries/accomplishments for the last year? The Committee held 12 regular monthly meetings (and a special meeting in February 2016 to deal with an anticipated income shortfall). The Committee reviewed the financial statements monthly, provided regular reports to Church Council meetings, provided timely financial updates on FUMC's website, and provided regular financial updates in the Roseleaf. The Committee organized an external review of FUMC's internal controls and financial statements, considered recommendations from the auditor, and helped to implement necessary changes. The Committee established a Stewardship Team that organized a fall stewardship campaign. The Committee assisted with the spring mini-stewardship campaign. The Committee provided timely monthly cash flow forecasts in early 2016 to highlight the expected shortfall that helped motivate the spring mini-stewardship campaign. The Committee provided three recommendations for budget deficit reduction to the Next Steps Action Committee. The Committee compiled an annual budget, based on the spending goals established by Church Council and the Committee's forecast of income.

What are your goals and plans for the next year? In general, the Committee plans to continue with its traditional activities from the prior year. The Committee will also seek ways to: (1) promote a continuous stewardship effort that lasts throughout the year (rather than focus solely on a fall campaign) and (2) increase financial transparency by strengthening internal controls.

What goals or benchmarks have you set to measure success/effectiveness? The Committee has the following benchmarks for the upcoming year:

- a 5% increase in the percentage of active church participants who make financial pledges;
- the creation of a permanent Stewardship Team (distinct from the Finance Committee) that would work on financial stewardship throughout the year;
- six reliable and well-trained money counters available to work on weekly collections; and
- the continuation of an outside financial review by a qualified auditor.

Respectfully submitted, Greg Roth, Chair, FUMC Finance Committee