



STEWARDSHIP IN ACTION

As each has received a gift, employ it for one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace.

1 PETER 4:10

*The spirit of the LORD will rest on him –
the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding,
the Spirit of counsel and of might,
the Spirit of the knowledge and fear of the LORD –*

Isaiah 11:2

The Spirit Moves Us ...

to live out God's transforming love.

**Our faith, our church, and our challenges
are embodied in three ministries:**

- *Inspiring*
- *Caring*
- *Reaching Out*

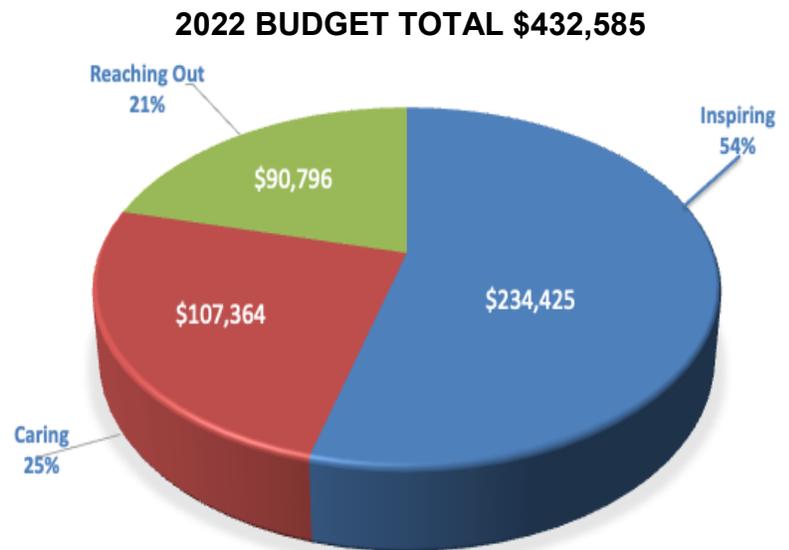


Your generous giving makes our ministries possible. Our work and budget for 2022, and a request for your pledge follow. Members of the Session have made their leadership commitments, and urge you to give the information on the next pages your prayerful consideration.

The word stewardship means "oversight" and "responsibility for the use of a resource that does not belong to oneself." The story on this page highlights one of many ways Grace Church uses donated funds to sustain and advance our ministry.

INTRODUCTION

This year we are presenting our proposed budget in a **narrative** fashion, believing that telling the story of how **income and expense translate to ministry** will encourage and gratify donors. The purpose of **generating income** from pledges and other gifts, facilities rental and investments is **to advance the work of the church**. This pie chart shows the **expenses**, including the allocation of staff time, **of offering the ministries of Inspiring, Caring, and Reaching Out**.



Inspiring \$234,425 - 54% of our \$432,585 budget

Our church inspires through worship and learning.

We celebrate the vibrancy of our **worship**, offering holy space for experiences of God. We gather as a community of faith to celebrate God's presence and listen for God's call to service in our world. Our pastors, working with the Worship and Education Team, prepare weekly and special worship services. We have a strong tradition of involving lay members in our worship. We offer Sunday worship at 10 am each week and special services. We make these services available to homebound people through Zoom, livestreaming and our website.

We emphasize continuous **learning** as part of faith formation. Adult study and reflection happen throughout the year through Bible study, women's gatherings, men's club, speakers and discussion groups. Orientation is provided for those who wish to become members, and for those becoming elders and deacons.

Some practical examples of time and expenses devoted to **worship and learning**:

- ◆ Ministry leadership in worship/ preaching/music
- ◆ Instruments, choirs
- ◆ Funerals, baptisms, record keeping of such
- ◆ Banners and decorations
- ◆ Liturgists
- ◆ Moments for Ministry
- ◆ Communion supplies and preparation
- ◆ Supplies: bulletins, offering envelopes
- ◆ Ushers, greeters, counters
- ◆ Worship resources, hymn books, projections
- ◆ Technology support
- ◆ Curriculum
- ◆ Special practices such as Prayer Vigil

Caring \$107,364 - 25% of our \$432,585 budget

Our church offers ongoing care and support to all members and friends of our congregation, and to others in need.

Deacons and others respond to individuals in times of crisis, such as illness and bereavement. We keep in touch with members who are housebound and can no longer come to the church campus. We want this church to be a caring community where each person is able to feel the love of God being shared with one another.

Some practical examples of time and expenses devoted to **caring**:

- ◆ Staff time, both office staff and pastors
- ◆ Visits to hospitals and care homes
- ◆ Counseling
- ◆ Newsletter distribution monthly
- ◆ Constant Contact and other email information
- ◆ Fellowship Hour and other gatherings
- ◆ Prayer Chain
- ◆ Presbyterian Women

The Discipleship and Congregational Life Teams and others welcome visitors and strive to acquaint the community with our church.

Reaching Out \$90,796 - 21% of our \$432,585 budget

Our church reaches out, well beyond church walls, to provide time and money for God's work in the world.

The Witness and Ministry Team and donors help in our city, state, country, and in countries around the world by supporting local mission and the outreach work of the Presbyterian Church U.S.A. We are called to seek justice and equality. We support special projects as needs are identified.

Some practical examples of time and expenses devoted to **reaching out**:

- ◆ One Great Hour of Sharing, Pentecost Offering, Peacemaking Offering, Christmas Joy
- ◆ Care for the Earth Initiatives
- ◆ Local projects such as Food Bank and school supplies
- ◆ Major initiatives such as tiny houses for homeless
- ◆ Grace Cooperative Preschool

DANCE WITH THE SPIRIT

*Dance with the spirit early in the mornin',
Move with the spirit throughout the long day.
Work and hope for the new life aborning',
Listen to the Spirit to show you the way.*

Jim Strathdee from
"Mass for the Healing of the Earth"



Annual Pledge Drive

Annual pledges enable the Business Team to predict the majority of our income as we prepare the church budget. The proposed budget for 2022 (also available in line item format) is similar to the past two years with income deeply affected by the pandemic and consequent loss of facility rental income. Expenses have been pared and various grants and endowment allocations have helped keep the church stable, but we face another difficult year. Therefore, **YOUR DEPENDABLE ANNUAL PLEDGE IS ESPECIALLY APPRECIATED.**

You will hear personal experiences about inspiring, caring and reaching out from members of the congregation in Moments for Ministry during Sunday worship on October 31, November 7, and November 14. On November 21, Thanksgiving Sunday, we will collect pledges, add them to pledges already received by mail or online, and thank you with a bit of ceremony during the worship service.

Please pledge as the spirit moves you!

Explore the Grace Church website (<https://www.gracewc.org>) "Ways to Give" page and you will find information about different ways to pay your pledge, make donations for special offerings and more. The page includes an online pledge form that is simple to fill out and submit. Scan the QR code to the right with your smart phone camera and be taken to the online pledge page. You may use this as an alternative to the mail in card.



If you need help with anything on the "Ways to Give" page, contact Linda Neyer, Treasurer, at gracepresbytreasurer@gmail.com or 925-433-5456; or Faye Hutchings, Financial Secretary, at afhutchings@sbcglobal.net or 925-588-3527.

A pledge card and envelope are attached here and you may still submit your pledge by mail, drop it in the collection plate, or bring it to the office. **Thank you on behalf of Grace Presbyterian Church.**