

## 2009 Budget Plan

The budget committee has had many discussions over the past few years about the budget, giving at Downtown, funding requests, etc. We try to balance budgeting by faith with good stewardship principles. We feel the frustration of having to turn down many worthy causes presented to the committee because there is a lack of funds. We also know that around 195 out of 579 family units do not give regularly. We believe that there is great potential for giving in this non-giving group and that most are giving to something, just not regularly to the Downtown Church. There may be various reasons for this – a change in generational giving attitudes (from a spiritual discipline to attachment/emotional giving), a change in economic and stage of life demographics of the congregation, a failure to get our message out about how the contributions are used, disagreement with how the contributions are used or others.

With these discussions in mind, the budget committee has put into place the following plan for our current fiscal year October 2008 – September 2009:

- Non-discretionary spending items will be fully funded this budget year.
- Discretionary spending will be funded at last year's level of giving.
- Budget decisions on discretionary spending will be made by the ministry leaders and deacon for each ministry team.
- Purpose (special) contributions will be offered four times per year to provide additional funding for specific areas.
  - These four purpose contributions would target needs for:
    - Domestic Missions
    - Outreach
    - Student Ministries
    - Other ministries (Body Life, Education, Facilities, Public Relations, Worship, New ministries, etc.)
  - Each ministry area would develop and present their dreams and needs to the congregation prior to the purpose contributions.
  - Purpose contributions would:
    - Be “above and beyond” the regular contribution
    - Target members who are not regular givers by allowing them to give to a specific need.
    - Have the potential raise \$200,000 or more

The budget committee believes that this plan will address many of the concerns that have been raised in our discussions. The purpose contributions would encourage those who are not currently regular givers to have opportunities to give to specific, well-defined purposes which they may have an emotional/spiritual attachment. We feel that we need to find different ways of reaching a new generation of Christian givers. This plan would also allow the ministries the opportunity to put their dreams before the congregation and build excitement for supporting those dreams. This would also allow us to support current and new ministries in ways we haven't been able to in the past.