

# What Does It Cost to Run Our Church?

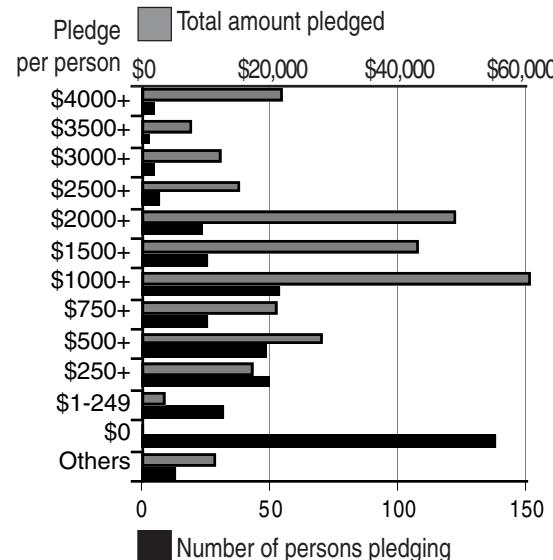
New members (and current members!) often wonder about the costs involved in operating UUCPA. Here is a thumbnail sketch of our financial situation.

The congregation approves a budget every year in late April. (Our fiscal year runs from May 1 through April 30—don't ask why.)

In April 2001, the congregation approved a budget of almost \$515,000. This amounts to almost \$10,000 a week, or about \$1300 per member per year for 407 members. This budget included projected income of \$456,000, giving a budget deficit of \$59,000.

## UUCPA Pledge Profile 2001-02

This shows how many people pledged at each level, and the total amount pledged. This shows that about half our money comes in as donations of \$1,000-2,500 per person per year. The 33% of members who made the largest pledges gave 80% of the total amount. Also, 137 of our 407 members pledged nothing.

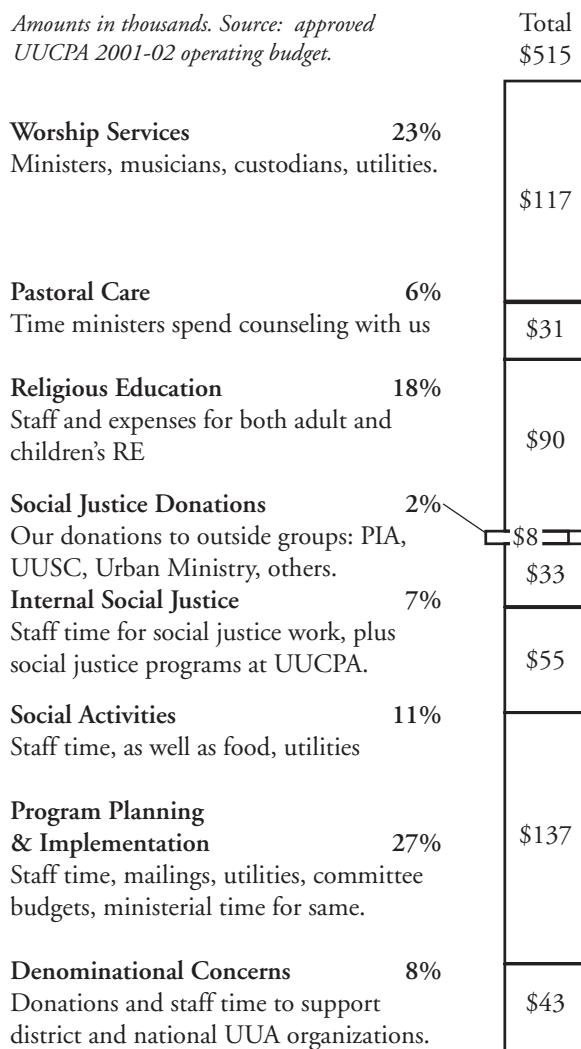


# Where Does the Money Go?

This chart breaks down our expenses by category of church activity. This is clearer than the accounting breakdown used in the official budget, but the total is the same.

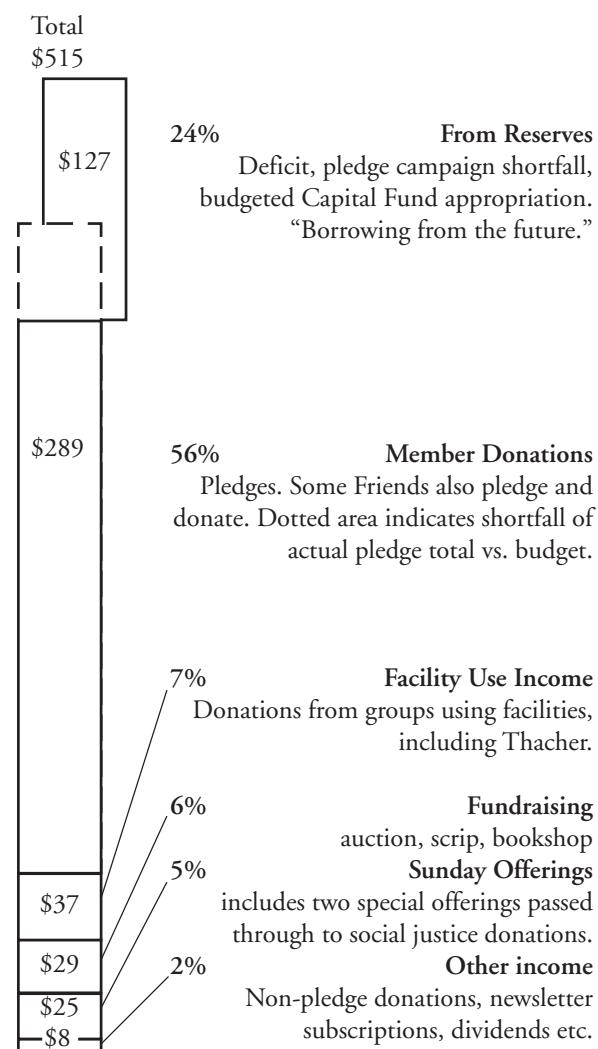
70% of our expenses are for staff: salaries, benefits, etc. This chart prorates the staff expense according to how they spend their time across these categories. Facilities costs are also prorated.

*Amounts in thousands. Source: approved UUCPA 2001-02 operating budget.*



# Where Does The Money Come From?

By far the largest part of our income is from members' generous contributions, especially pledges. In 2001-02, we budgeted a pledge income of \$339,000. Actual pledges did not reach this goal. They totaled \$289,000, almost unchanged from 1999-00. So we drew from our reserves (the Capital Fund) to make up the difference.



# Follow the money!

The Unitarian Universalist Church of Palo Alto is a non-profit organization with a half-million dollar annual operating budget.

- What do we spend this money on?
- Where does it come from?

These are good questions to ask. As members of UUCPA, we take on the responsibility for making sure this institution continues to exist. We are property owners. We are employers. By understanding the flow of money, members can better exercise this responsibility. And our friends and prospective members can better understand UUCPA.

This brochure gives an overview of:

- how we spend the operating budget
- where the money for this budget comes from
- our pledge profile
- our other funds, such as the building fund

## Questions?

If you would like more information, please contact the UUCPA office at

+1-650-494-0541 or  
[office@uucpa.org](mailto:office@uucpa.org).

Either they can answer your question, or they can refer you to someone who can. The Ministers, the Treasurer, and the Board of Trustees are also happy to answer your questions.

The ultimate source of information is the official UUCPA budget, which is available at the office.

*(Last revised February 19, 2002.)*

## Funds of the UUCPA

### The Operating Fund

The Operating Fund is like our checking account. Regular donations come in to it, and regular expenses of programs and salaries are paid from it.

### Special Collections

Money collected at the Social Action table, and during special collections at services, goes directly to groups outside UUCPA. It is not part of the operating budget. (Exception: Christmas and Easter offerings are in the 2001-2 budget, but go to outside groups.)

### The Capital Fund

The Capital Fund represents our reserves, or our endowment. At the moment the investments in this fund are worth about \$300,000. Income and appreciation are used for the Operating Fund. The Capital Fund has also been used as a cushion for unexpected expenses.

### The Building Fund

Our buildings date from about 1959. The mortgage was paid off many years ago. We are now embarked on a campaign to raise funds for adding an administration building, replacing a patio building, and remodeling our small meeting rooms/Sunday schoolrooms.

Our architects have estimated the costs of these projects at \$1,675,000. We have raised about \$1,000,000 in pledges so far. We expect to cover the rest of the cost with more pledges and other gifts and with borrowing.

### Other Funds

Special-purpose funds, including memorial funds, total \$36,000. Most of the money is currently invested.

# Follow the Money!

## A Look at UUCPA Finances



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