

## **First Congregational Church of Cheshire 2007 Preliminary Proposed Budget**

The attached document includes the 2006 budget, year to date income and expenses as well as projected income and expenses. Please note that the 2006 budget is \$17,000 higher than the projected income at this time. The budget was created with the hope that additional pledges would be received after the budget was accepted. The plan for 2007 is to create the budget based upon known pledges as of November 2006.

As noted in the article in the November Parish Post, the Boards and Committees submitted their basic budget needs to the Budget Committee earlier this summer. The original budgets submitted by the Boards and Committees are noted as Option 1 on the document. Option 2, a smaller budget, was created by the Budget Committee, in case pledging came in at a lesser amount than the budget. The plan at this time is to review the pledges and make recommendations for changes based upon the pledge amounts. A revised version of this budget will be available for church members to review by December 1. Discussion and voting on the revised budget will take place at the Budget Meeting on Sunday, December 10, 2006 after the 11 AM service.

A summary of the differences between the 2006 budget and the 2007 budget is described on the next page. Please note that a number of boards and committees submitted minimal increases in their budgets but due to maintenance issues which we have not addressed in the last several years and increases in fuel/gas/electricity, there are increases in that part of the budget which are unprecedented. Please contact the chairs of the various boards to pose questions which you may have regarding the budget.

### **Executive Board Members**

President	Susan Hostage
Treasurer	Walt Ryan
Trustees	Kathy Duffendack
Deacons	Susan Mancinelli
Christian Education	Cornelia Voils/Deb Bond
Music	Megan Stephan
Stewardship	Matt Glatt/David Hostage
Personnel	Ruth MacDonald
At Large Members	Anne Giddings, Mark Hall, Dennis Lape
Outreach	Mark Hostage
Women's Fellowship	Addie Marx

### **Budget Team**

Associate Treasurer	Betsy Barber
Assistant Treasurer	Sara Buell
Treasurer	Walt Ryan
At Large Member	Mark Hall
Trustee Member	Martha Lape
Deacon Member	Howard Murphy
Stewardship Member	Matt Glatt

## **Proposed Increases for 2007**

Please note that the summary does not include all items (increases and decreases) and that the dollars have been rounded.

### **Staff Salary and Benefit Proposed Increases \$24,000**

- Salary increases of 3% are planned for all positions except the following which will have no increases: Senior Minister, Associate Minister for Parish Care and Youth Director
- Health insurance is expected to increase 5%
- All staff benefits are increased by 3% (social security allowance, annuity and disability) as they are affected by salary increases
- Travel allowances are increased due to increase in fuel costs
- 10 hours of additional clerical assistance are requested to respond to increases in administrative tasks

### **Maintenance and Operation Budget Proposed Increases \$67,200**

- Office supplies are increased to better reflect actual use
- Postage/ mailing costs have been re-distributed to boards/committees to reflect actual use
- Lease of higher quality office copier is offset by lower maintenance contract and decrease in time spent by staff
- Fuel costs are increased by \$5,500 to meet the projected \$2.25 per gallon cost.
- Gas is increased by \$3,200
- Electricity is increased by \$6,000
- Workers Compensation Insurance is increased based upon increases in salaries
- \$30,000 is in the budget to pay for the re-pavement of Church Drive. This project would be done in conjunction with the Town. It would cost the church approximately \$750,000 if we did not work with the Town on this project. More information regarding this project will be provided by the Trustees.
- \$20,000 increase for repair of the church concave rafter
- \$16,500 increase for parsonage roof replacement and portico repair
- \$12,000 increase for the repayment of internal loans
- Per Challenge 2006, the budgeted amount for the Cornerstone Mortgage has been decreased by \$29,500.

### **Reserves for Major Repairs/Improvements Proposed Increase \$36,000**

- Per the decision at last year's annual meeting, reserves have been increased in order to ensure availability of funding for future large scale maintenance projects.

### **Christian Education Proposed Increase \$1,500**

### **Music Board Proposed Increase \$4,000 with an additional \$4,000 to be raised by the Board**

#### **Differences between Option 1 and Option 2**

- Reduction in salary increases from 3% to 1.5%
- Removal of Church Drive reconstruction, Church and Parsonage major repairs and roof replacements (\$66,700)
- Internal loan repayment removed. (\$12,000)
- Reduction of CE requests for Vacation Bible School items and CE Bible software
- Reduction of Music Board section leader budget

Depending on the results of the Stewardship Campaign, the above noted reductions may be recommended as well as additional reductions.