

Trinity Tidings

Finance Committee Article

March, 2017

Running a Business or Executing a Mission?

Dear Trinity Members and Friends,

Greetings from your Finance Committee! Two months have passed since the beginning of the new year and we have hit the ground running. We are busy discussing various topics of financial oversight including this year's and next year's budgets, the building fund, prior capital campaigns, and ideas to provide you with contribution options. As part of our privilege of providing this oversight, we are pleased to start contributing to Trinity Tidings in order to open the lines of communication between us and you.

This month I'd like to talk to you about faith-based budgeting. What is it? Faith-based budgeting is the process used by a church to establish a financial plan. It involves deliberate accounting of expenses as well as prayerful hope for contributions. According to smallchurchleaders.org, a faith-based budget is one that should reflect the priorities of the church and the spiritual maturity of the congregation. It is different than the budgets you and I make to run our household or our businesses. The basis of the church budget is faith, not income. This may be disconcerting for some of us accustomed to budgets that accomplish a bottom line, that return a profit. But those are goals of running a business. The goals of running a church are focused on our mission. Mind you, this is not an easy task. A church most certainly has expenditures that must be paid - fixed expenses, if you will. But, if we stay focused on our purpose in Christ, we will succeed in our mission no matter the size of the budget.

A church's budget should also be challenging. We should constantly seek ways our mission can grow. We should always push ourselves to give faithfully and joyfully, spend deliberately and wisely, and plan for growth and longevity. These are challenging actions, indeed!

Keep in mind when we sign our pledge cards for the coming year, we are pledging to execute a mission, not run a business. This should be on the forefront of our prayers to the Lord when we petition Him for guidance in our giving plans. How can we give so that we execute a mission for Christ?! As a Christian community, we are ever mindful of the mission of Trinity Presbyterian.

I encourage you to reach out to us if you ever have questions about financial oversight.

In Christ,

Finance Committee