

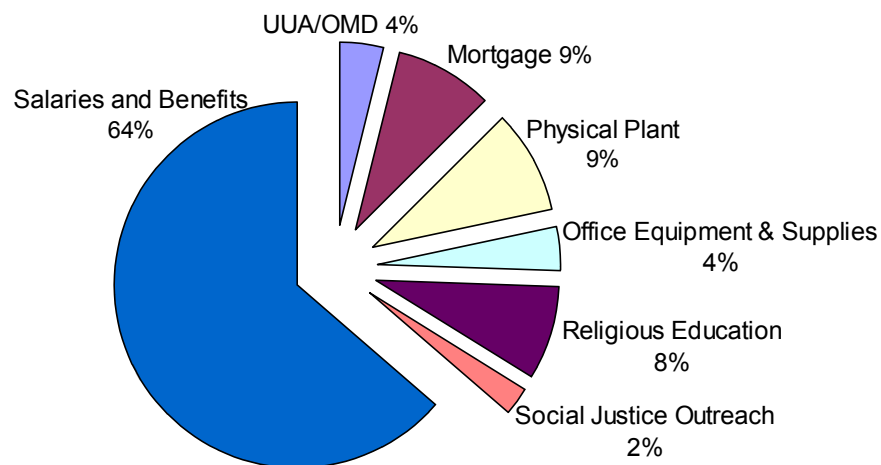
# Church Budget 101

(Or everything you wanted to know about First UUs budget but were afraid to ask.) Every year our members meet in early June and pass a balanced budget. This is our opportunity as members to ensure that our spending is in line with our values and goals.

Often times when we attend the many varied programs at church, the nuts and bolts details that keep the congregation running are not always apparent. Below is behind the scenes list that allows our church to provide us with so many wonderful services.

You can think of our budget much like your budget at home—just bigger than most.

## Expenses, \$781,426



Our biggest expense by far is our wonderful **staff**. We could not do even a small fraction of what we do at the church without them. We employ six full-time staff: our **Ministers**, Mark and Wendy; our **Director of Religious Education**, Caroline; our **Administrator**, Michael; our **Administrative Assistant**, Marian; & our **Facilities Assistant**, Naoko. We also employ part-time staff, including our **Bookkeeper**, **Music Staff**, **Events Coordinator** and other support staff.

We budget a total for all **staff** of \$497,077 including their salaries, benefits, workers comp, life/disability policies, employer taxes, and the rest. This is 64% of our budget.

**Religious Education Programming** receives about 8% of our budget. This is primarily used to support the Sunday School, Coming of Age and Our Whole Lives programs in addition to modest contributions to other adolescent and adult programming. **Social Justice Outreach** is currently budgeted at 2.4% of the total budget.

Some of our expenses fall in categories that you are familiar with in your own budget. There is the **Mortgage** for the Worship Center (built about 1992) and the Office/Kitchen/Classroom/Parking Lot expansion (2003). We spend about \$68,000 a year on the **Mortgage** or about 9% of total expenses.

Other **Physical Plant** expenses like **Maintenance, Repairs, and Utilities**, are about 9%. We are blessed with a great group of people, including the Building Committee, Grounds Committee, Memorial Garden Committee and a wonderful Church Administrator, who put in many hours to help us spend less money in this area.

Our **Administrative Expenses** for the copier, postage, telephone and bank charges are less than 4%.

We contribute to the **Unitarian Universalist Association** and the **Ohio Meadville District**. These organizations set "Fair Share" yearly contribution amounts to cover the cost of services provided: \$21/member for the OMD and 4.2% of our budget for the UUA. Thanks to the generosity of member pledges, we are making progress in this area. This year we have budgeted our "Fair Share" contribution to the OMD. We have also increased our contribution to the UUA by 20%, though this still leaves us at about half of our full fair share in support of the UUA. We plan at least another 20% increase next fiscal year. (Historically, our congregation was very proud to be a "Fair Share" Congregation in its support of both the UUA and OMD. However, with all of the changes in the past several years, we have not been meeting our "Fair Share" level.)

### **Income**

The church's income primarily comes from you. **Pledges** from Members and Friends account for \$620,000 of the \$781,301 income in our Fiscal Year 08 budget (which runs through June 30<sup>th</sup> of 2008.) That's almost 80% of our income.

Almost 7.5% of our income also comes from you from funds put in the **Collection Basket** over and above your pledge and for Social Justice. 3.63% of our income comes from **renting** our space and from contributions that the **School for Young Children** makes to off-set some of the expenses associated with running that out-reach program. 3% comes from the **Auction** on February 16, 2008 (Buy tickets & contribute items in Fellowship Hall after the Service). The rest, about 5.8%, comes from **Religious Education Adult Enrichment fees**, and **Income from Social & Contra dances** (which goes directly back out to support the musicians and other expenses associated with those activities).

The congregation will continue to evaluate and communicate how we attempt to align our money and our values. Your thoughts and questions are always welcome. We are your chosen congregation. We not only welcome, but need your input as we grow and change. We will always have more dreams and ideas than dollars. Because this is the case, we must be prudent and intentional about the choices we make in establishing our budgets.

If you want to learn more, a copy of the budget is available in the front office. Also, a report of where we are compared to the budget is available in the window hallway after the Finance Committee reviews it each month (Both the Finance and Stewardship Committees meet the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of each month, jointly at 7:00 pm, then separately at 7:30pm. You are welcome to come.)