



MCC

Memorial Congregational Church

An Open and Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Christ

Sudbury, MA 01776



Narrative Budget

Fiscal Year 2016
July 1, 2015 - June 30, 2016

“In the love of truth and the spirit of Jesus...”

For many years, your MCC Stewardship Committee has prepared a line item budget for Annual Meeting to report the financial details of our revenue and expenses. While those numbers are essential and valuable, they do not adequately represent the actual faces and stories of MCC that might better describe the breadth and depth of our varied ministries, as well as the costs associated with each of them. In an effort to better communicate with all of our members and friends, and to help us understand how our resources are allocated to support staff, programs and facilities, we are presenting our budget in an expanded format called a “narrative budget”. We invite you to prayerfully review the following information to gain a deeper understanding of MCC as a strong and vibrant faith community.

As we prepared this narrative, we examined feedback from beyond the committee. We examined statistical trends over the last decade related to our membership, annual giving and expenses. We reviewed the important results from our recent Appreciative Inquiry initiative, and considered our commitments as an Open and Affirming Community. We reflected on our rich, centuries’ long and still evolving history as a community of faith. We weighed our own opinions, and listened carefully to the voices of the many who sought to be heard. As individuals and as a group, we prayed for insight and divine wisdom to guide our decisions.

Ultimately, we chose to use the framework of our Covenant to demonstrate the many ways in which we walk together, worship together, serve each other and serve humanity. Through stories, pictures, graphics and anecdotes we have attempted to merge our faith priorities with our financial realities in four primary ministries.

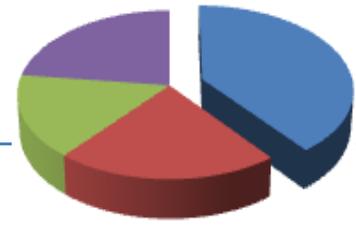
This narrative budget is the result of many months and hours of honest and spirited discourse about remembering the past and ensuring the future of MCC. We look forward to sharing this year’s budget and having meaningful conversations about how MCC can balance our projected annual resources and expenses with the priorities of our community.

Your Stewardship Committee recognizes and appreciates the generous sharing of time, talent and treasures that the people of MCC continue to provide in support of our mission and our ministries. In the love of truth, and in the spirit of Jesus, we present the Narrative Budget of Memorial Congregational Church of Sudbury.

Your Stewardship Committee,

Chris Houlihan (Chair), Karen Ross, Todd Richman, Rick Hilperts, Gail Wright, Kristianne Widman-Johnson. George Connor (Treasurer), Carol Hannauer (Recording Secretary)

Worshiping



\$127,310

“...we unite for the worship of God...”

Worship anchors our congregation as a community of faith, bound together through God’s love and the guidance of his Spirit. We gather often to celebrate, to be inspired, to listen and learn, to sing, to seek peace and to share the sacraments. We come together to share sacred moments during both regular and special services which connect us to God and to each other. Our ministers and lay leaders guide us through scripture and meditation, music and prayer. Our sanctuary glows with sunshine streaming through stained glass windows, flowers cut from the gardens of members, candles to light our way and the giggles and wiggles of our children. We are lifted up by the musical talents of our choirs and musicians, and we are surrounded by the warmth of Christian friendship.

MCC offers a safe, accessible and welcoming Christian environment for us to greet one another, from diverse backgrounds and interests, into our intergenerational, Open and Affirming faith community. Our doors are open to all who seek to learn, to love, to forgive and to be forgiven.

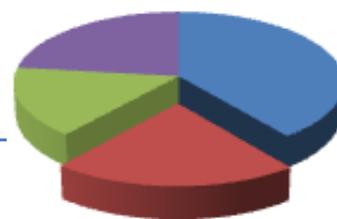
Worship

- *Sermons and Scriptures*
- *Prayer*
- *Sacraments*
- *Joys and Concerns*
- *Children’s Moment*
- *Choirs and Hymns*
- *Musicians and Bellringers*
- *Lay Leaders*
- *Ushers and Greeters*
- *Weekly Bulletin*
- *Discovery Kingdom*
- *Children’s Sunday*
- *The Well Service*
- *Lifecycle Services*
- *Nursery Care*

We are blessed with abundant examples of MCC in action. We have included many in this narrative, while recognizing that there are many more than fit in these pages. We also recognize that resources and activities are often shared across multiple ministries.



Reaching Out



\$69,235

“...and the service of humanity...”

The people of MCC continue the Lord’s work by reaching beyond our church family to serve the greater community. Whether ministering to the homeless, the sick or the incarcerated, or raising funds to support the hungry or the handicapped, we extend our love and compassion beyond our walls through many acts of kindness and support for a wide range of social causes. Our strong sense of mission takes us in many directions, locally and around the world. Our compassion is deep and we are quick to answer when called upon to serve.

To sustain and build our membership, we welcome all visitors, guests and newcomers with open arms. We open our doors and hearts to:

Community Service

- *Rosie’s Place*
- *Crop Walk*
- *Family Promise*
- *Kids Care Food Packaging*
- *Open Table*
- *City Mission Society*
- *Habitat for Humanity*
- *Concord Prison Outreach*
- *Project Bread Walk*
- *Special Purpose Advocacies*
- *Outreach Grants*



Community Building

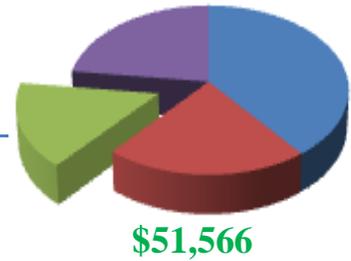
- *Newcomer Welcome*
- *MCC Website*
- *UCC Support*
- *Weekly/Monthly Newsletters*
- *Newspaper Articles*
- *Sudbury Clergy Association*
- *Sharing our Space with the Community*

Community Events

- *Messiah Sing*
- *Fall and Spring Music Concerts*
- *Christmas Caroling*
- *Twelve Shoppes/Fall Faire*
- *Trivia Night*
- *Rummage Sales*
- *Recycling Events*
- *Spring Auction*



Serving Our Church Community



“...and as the Lord’s free people, we agree to walk together...”

No matter who we are and where we are on our faith journeys, we are bound together by our desire to explore our faith, to share, to learn and to find purpose in our busy lives.

Our ministry to each other is as simple as a smile or cup of coffee after Sunday services and as personal as pastoral visits and homemade meals delivered during times of joy and times of need. We feed, and are truly fed by, each other. Our talents are many and our interests are vast, and we are called to support and nurture one other in many ways. Opportunities abound for children, families, adults and seniors to serve their church by teaching Sunday school or singing in one of the choirs, participating in activities such as spring and fall work days, or volunteering to serve on one of many committees to support the ongoing operation of the church and its ministries. Our community also thrives on individual contributions from members and friends who contribute their time in special ways by baking goodies for concerts, volunteering for events, giving rides to non-driving members, and providing behind the scenes, invisible support that is difficult to quantify, often goes unnoticed, but which is given in loving and meaningful ways.

We are a church filled with caring people who abundantly share their time, talents and resources with each other. At MCC there is a place for everyone to make a difference - longtime members and first-time visitors, rambunctious three year-olds and reluctant teens, young families and retired seniors, those with deep religious roots and those in search of a foundation or a new direction.

- *Coffee Hour*
- *After Church Luncheons*
- *Deacons Fund*
- *Weekly Messenger*
- *July 4th Parade & BBQ*
- *Guess Who’s Coming To Dinner*
- *Chili Fest and Open Mic Night*
- *Women’s Night Out*
- *Game Nights*
- *MCC Committees*
- *Pastoral Care*
- *Visit/Support Shut Ins*
- *Student Ministers*
- *Staff Office Hours*



Developing Spiritually



“...in all God’s ways, made known or to be made known to us.

Each in our own ways, and during our own moments, we are all disciples of Christ.

Whatever our age or stage in life, MCC provides ample opportunities to explore our faith through Christian education programs, pastoral counseling, music and art, reading and prayer, and service to others. Whether we are attending or contributing to worship, baking for a special event, serving on a committee, volunteering for a service project or repairing a leaky faucet, there are many opportunities for us to express our personal faith and to contribute to the greater good of our community. The Lord does indeed work in mysterious ways! Our diverse backgrounds and religious experiences challenge us to explore our faith, to ask questions, to seek comfort and to love one another.

- *Advent Spiral*
- *Maundy Thursday Supper*
- *Confirmation*
- *Prayer Groups*
- *Lending library*
- *Christian Education – Children*
- *Christian Education - Adults*
- *Summer Program*
- *Adult Bible Study*
- *The Well Service*
- *Youth Group*
- *1:1 Pastoral Counseling*



FY' 2016 Budget - \$322,200

