

WFUMC FINANCIAL UPDATE, September 2026

Dear Members and Friends of WFUMC

As we near the end of summer and think of the months ahead, the Finance team (Committee) thought an update on WFUMC financial status would be useful.

While WFUMC always has been in relatively solid shape financially, we do have some concerns as we look to the months and years ahead. Procedurally, we are very strong with highly professional work by our Treasurer, Financial Secretary and counters, and full and transparent involvement of the Church Council.

As many will remember, we have reduced our budgets substantially over the past several years. Loss of members and few new congregants are the obvious reasons. Covid hit some of our friends hard and many left and have not returned. Others moved away, principally for health reasons.

What follows is in “whole dollars”—meaning we do not reflect minor changes from budget and expenditure figures. In each of the last three years ('23, '24, '25) the WFUMC budget has been right at \$240,000 (as it is in 2026). In those same years, our expenditures have been between \$213,000 and \$220,000. This reflects good stewardship and financial controls, and it reflects an impressive amount of volunteer participation and labor. Our giving shows our faith and belief in God and supports our ministries, outreach, trustee endeavors and our primary mission of sharing Christ's love.

We do have carefully managed reserves. A substantial percentage of those reserves are in good interest-bearing accounts with Edward Jones and our particular broker does not charge us a fee. Our reserves allow us to continue operations even if donations do not cover budgeted expenses, plus they guard against unplanned expenses—which are not unusual in our older “campus.”

Of concern, we currently are running a substantial deficit measured against this year's budget target. We often do have such shortfalls in giving during parts of a budget year but this one is deeper than usual. Plus, we reluctantly stopped the Christmas Tree project which has been a big plus-up to budget each year and those funds, or lack of them, is a concern.

In that light, six members already have committed an extra \$1000 each to help make up the shortfall in donations the Christmas Tree project would have provided. If 10-12 others would offer a similar gift it clearly would help. Please contact Larry Smith, Donna Julian or Bob Enck if you wish to make a contribution (in any amount).

We hope this memo is informative. Any and all financial information is always available to any member.

Thanks to this committed and prayerful congregation at WFUMC.

Finance Committee