

HUMC Narrative Budget 2025

HUMC Mission Statement: Love God, Offer Christ to All.

Total 2025 Operating Expense Budget: \$776,994.29

Finance (\$9,156.00) – Tony Potts/Keith Crawford

This budget item covers the basic finance fees paid by HUMC such as bank service charges, credit card fees charged for tithes and offering paid by credit cards or through the website. Other items covered include audit fees and any licensing fees for software used by staff.

Administrative/Office Expenses (\$15,953.00) – Sonja DeFoor

Effective ministry requires strong administrative support. This budget covers basic administrative needs like office supplies, printing and postage. These funds also support our various communication avenues. For example, our website, periodic letters, telecommunications, weekly and special service bulletins. These monies also provide for necessary copier maintenance, financial and membership record-keeping, as well as other administrative needs that may arise.

Altar Guild (\$7,185.00) – Meridith Watson

The Altar Guild enhances our worship experience by preparing our worship spaces throughout the year in a variety of ways. By providing fresh flowers for our Sunday worship services, overseeing the use of liturgical paraments and providing for Holy Communion, as well as decorating the church sanctuary for Christmas and Easter. This budget provides for flowers, candles, altar linens, Communion elements, seasonal decorations, and other liturgical supplies that help create a meaningful and reverent worship atmosphere.

Apportionments (\$48,160.08) – Rev. Dr. Randy Lucas

As part of The United Methodist connectional system, our church contributes to apportionments that support ministries beyond our local congregation. These funds provide connectional support and enable missional outreach through the Smoky Mountain District, Western North Carolina Conference, Southeastern Jurisdiction and General Church, supporting ministerial education and various mission and ministry vehicles consistent with the stated mission of The United Methodist Church to “Make Disciples of Jesus Christ for the Transformation of the World.”

Discipleship Activities: Adults (\$6,750.00) – Rev. Dr. Randy Lucas

This budget supports spiritual growth and discipleship opportunities for adults through a variety of Christian Education resources including Bible studies, Upper Room Devotionals, Stephen Ministry, small groups, retreats, premarital counseling and other educational materials, as well as providing support for HUMC’s Lay Members to attend Annual Conference.

Discipleship Activities: Youth (\$6,300.00) – Rev. Christine Murphy

The HUMC Youth Ministry is a safe place where all youth in the Highlands Community are invited and welcomed in order to grow their faith; build lasting relationships; be ministers within the community and world; and have fun so that they are fully prepared to go out into the world as disciples of Jesus Christ when they graduate from high school. The generosity of the HUMC congregation helps us provide a weekly evening for the youth. These evenings include Bible studies, game nights, service projects, movie nights, fellowship, and food. In addition to our Sunday evening meetings, the youth participate in a couple of field trips each year; fundraisers for community organizations; mission projects; Confirmation education; and assisting with Vacation Bible School, Camp Wesley, and After-School. Because of your generosity, we are shaping the next generation of disciples.

Discipleship Activities: Children (\$19,916.00) – Rev. Christine Murphy

The HUMC Children's Ministry is a safe place where all children (birth-5th grade) are invited and welcomed in order for seeds of faith to be planted as they have fun, so they will have a firm faith foundation as they enter middle and high school. Your generosity helps us create a safe, welcoming space where the youngest of our disciples are allowed to begin their faith journey. The HUMC budget supports Nursery during worship services, the After School Program, Vacation Bible School, Camp Wesley (summer camp), and supplies for spiritual development throughout the year for our children. It also funds training for our volunteer leaders, Safer Sanctuary background checks, and special events that allow children build relationships with each other and with Christ. Because of your giving, we are able to plant seeds into our youngest disciples that will grow and produce fruit for the next generation.

Igniting Ministries (\$6,000.00) – Kristy Martin/Julie Jared

Igniting Ministries at HUMC sponsors events that share our church with the community. From the Easter Cross to the Christmas Camels, community outreach unites those that may not physically enter our doors. In addition, Igniting Ministries schedules and plans our foyer groups, which allow members to interact with and meet new people in a smaller setting.

Kitchen/Meals (\$53,200.00) – Kristy Martin

The Kitchen Ministry at HUMC commits to feeding God's flock. Not only does our budget support the weekly congregational meals, but also meals within our community, and even our entire region. Feeding people is more than satisfying a physical need. Enjoying a meal together around the table also provides a spiritual and emotional connection for those who participate. Our goal is to provide all resources necessary so no one will go hungry.

Ministries Team (\$22,140.00) – Kristy Martin

HUMC commits to being the hands and feet of Christ. The Ministries team oversees the financial gifts for the various ministries that HUMC commits to annually. These financial gifts include programs within our church, within our community, within the United States, and internationally in accordance with our mission, values, and the Book of Discipline. In addition, the Ministries team organizes and oversees the community outreach initiatives at HUMC.

Personnel (\$387,459.28) – Lora Speed-Beegle

Our church staff plays a crucial role in carrying out our mission. HUMC employs two (2) full-time clergy, a full-time Office Manager and Director of Food Services, two (2) part-time Sextons and a part-time Financial Secretary. This budget supports salaries, benefits, and professional development for clergy, administrative staff, and ministry leaders, ensuring they have the support and resources needed to serve the congregation.

Property Care Expenses (\$116,826.93) – Mike Bryson

Maintaining our church campus allows us to provide a welcoming and safe environment for worship, fellowship, and outreach. This budget covers utilities, repairs, landscaping, maintenance, and insurance to ensure our facilities remain functional and inviting for all who enter.

Worship Expenses (\$74,740.00) – Rev. Dr. Randy Lucas

Worship is central to our faith community. A very important aspect of our shared worship experience is music. The majority of these budgeted monies make possible our incredible musicians and music leadership at both worship services. In addition, these funds provide for guest preachers, seasonal advertising and other worship-related expenses throughout the year.

Music Program Expense (\$2,708.00) – Marcia Franklin

Music enriches our worship and strengthens our faith. This budget supports choir materials, instrumental maintenance, guest musicians, and licensing fees for hymns and worship songs. Through this funding, we ensure a vibrant and inspiring music ministry that glorifies God and uplifts our congregation, and the choir (groups) become family and support each other through prayer and deeds. The music groups enable us to take the church to people who are unable to attend by performing for area organizations and on the front lawn of the church.