

Contributing to Westwood

Many Ways to Make a Difference

Do What You Can

Westwood members contribute to the life the congregation in many ways, with gifts of time and talents being foremost among them. Members support Westwood financially as well, usually by means of monthly pledges, but also including Sunday offerings and special donations. We honour and appreciate all forms of contribution and recognize that individual and family circumstances affect the financial support possible in a given year.



What is Canvass?

Canvass is the yearly process whereby all members are surveyed about their desired contributions in the coming year. This is an opportunity to identify areas of volunteer interest and financial pledges for the coming year.



Tax Magic

As a church, Westwood is a registered charity, so all financial contributions to Westwood can provide tax credits (as much as 42%). This can make a substantial difference to how much you may be comfortable contributing.

Thank You...

for learning about the dollars and cents of Westwood. If you have any questions, please contact members of the Dollars & Sense Committee or David Deephouse. If you would like to help us make greater sense of Westwood's financial condition, we would welcome your input.

Westwood Unitarian Congregation

11135-65 Ave, Edmonton, AB, T6H 1W3
(780) 434-5819

www.westwoodunitarian.ca



Dollars & Sense

Making Sense
of Westwood's Budget
2007-2008

Whether you're a first time visitor, a new member of our congregation, or have a longstanding involvement with Westwood, we welcome your interest in what makes Westwood tick financially and hope you will find what you need to know inside. Westwood depends almost entirely on the support, financial and otherwise, of its members, so it's important to know a few useful facts. Please take a few minutes to look through this brochure and don't hesitate to contact us with any questions you may have.

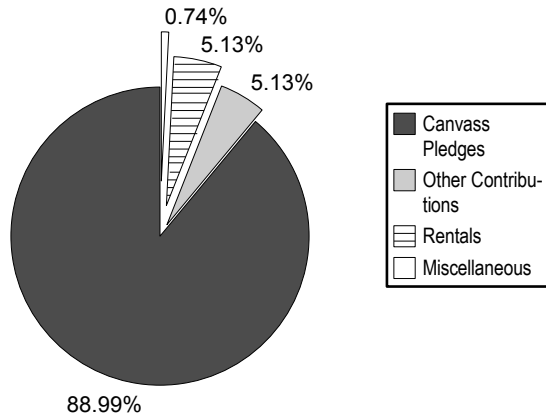
Dollars & Sense Committee

Chair: David Deephouse
Westwood Unitarian Congregation

Westwood Revenue

\$97,415

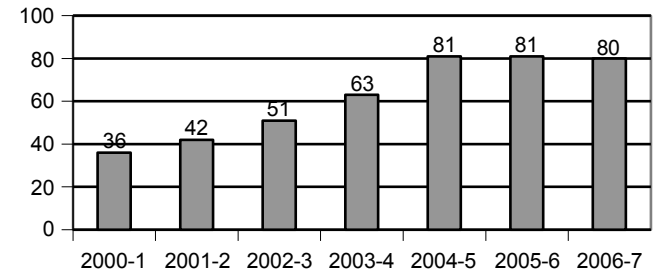
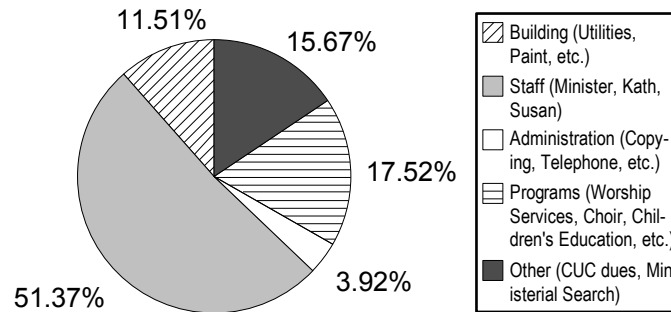
2007-2008 (budgeted)



Westwood Expenses

\$97,415

2007-2008 (budgeted)



Membership 2000-2007

Our membership has stabilized in the last three years; as of February 2007, we had 84 members. We continue to gain new members every year, but at the same time, some members move away or become otherwise inactive. Many of these change their status to "friend" – this is encouraged, as inactive members cost the church in time and money. We also have many friends who are active in the church, but for various reasons choose not to be members.

Where the Money Goes

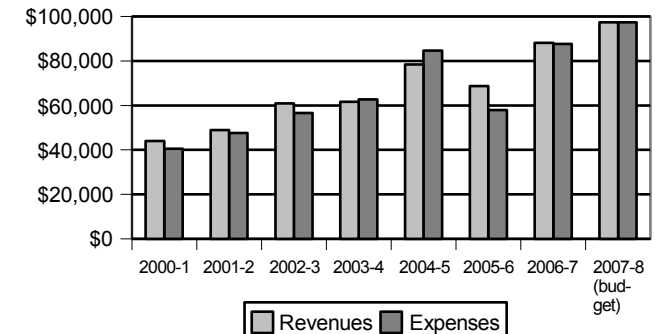
Westwood's principal expense is for staff (51%), followed by programs (18%), building-related costs (12%), other expenses such as denominational fees and ministerial search expenses (16%), and administrative expenses (4%).

\$1032 – A Very Useful Number

Our total expenses for 2007-8 are forecast to be \$97,415. Of this, about \$87,000 will have to be contributed by members and friends, or \$1032 for each of our 84 members. Of course, this is an average – some give more, and some less, depending on circumstances. And clearly, without the generous contributions of time from many of us, nothing would happen at all.

Where the Money Comes From

Westwood depends primarily on regular contributions or pledges from its members (about 89% of revenue). Other significant revenue comes from rental of the church building (5%), and Sunday offerings (5%). Westwood no longer uses casino revenue due to moral and social justice concerns.



Westwood Budgets 2001-2008

Westwood's budgets have been gradually increasing over the past few years, due to increases in programming and professional assistance. In two of the last four years, expenses exceeded revenues. Hiring a part-time minister will add to our costs next year.