

Stewardship at Westwood

Many Ways to Practice Generosity

Generous Sensible Contributions

Westwood members and friends contribute to the life of the congregation in many ways, with gifts of time and talents being foremost among them. Members and friends support Westwood financially as well, usually by means of monthly pledges, but also including Sunday offerings and special donations. In 2009 the option of pre-authorized electronic withdrawals will be available. We honour and appreciate all forms of contribution and recognize that individual and family circumstances affect the time and financial support available in a given year.



What is Stewardship Canvass?

Canvass is the yearly process whereby all members and friends are asked to review 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 50%). 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 our Treasurer or members of the Board. If you would like to help us make greater sense of Westwood's financial picture and stewardship responsibilities we welcome your input at stewardship@westwoodunitarian.ca

Westwood Unitarian Congregation

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Stewardship at Westwood

Dollars & Sense

Making Sense of Westwood's Budget

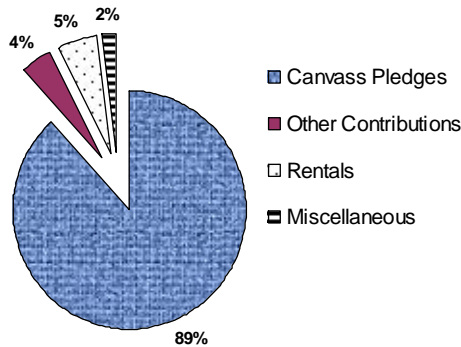
Whether you are a first time visitor, a prospective member, or have been involved at Westwood for awhile, we welcome your interest in our stewardship responsibilities and what makes Westwood tick financially. We hope you will find what you need to know inside. Westwood depends almost entirely on the support, financial and otherwise, of its members and friends, 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.

Stewardship at Westwood

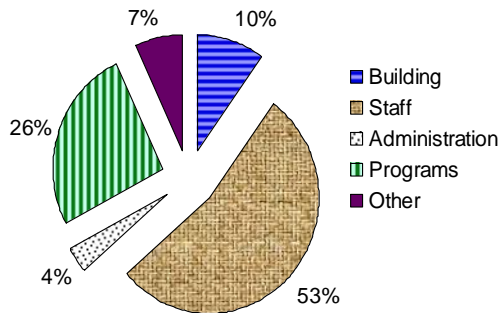
Our financial year runs from July 1 to June 30. In 2009 - 2010 we are proposing a balanced budget of \$114,030, where revenue equal expenses.

\$114,030 Balanced Budget

Budgeted Revenue



Budgeted Expenses



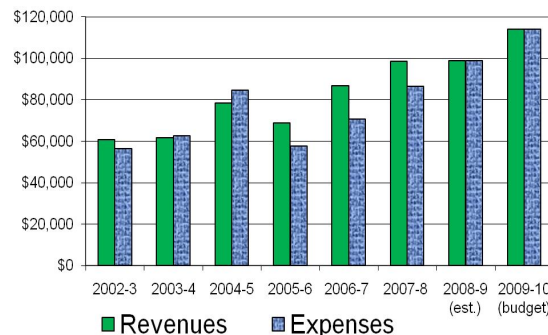
Where the Money Goes

Westwood's main expense is 53% of the budget for staff (39% minister, 10% administrator, 3.8% children's program coordinators), followed by 26% for programs (worship services, choir, children's education, etc.), 10% for building-related costs (utilities, janitorial, paint, etc.), 7% for other expenses such as denominational fees, and 4% for administrative expenses (copying, telephone, etc.).

Westwood Budget Trends

Westwood's budgets have increased over the years due to increases in programming and professional assistance. In two of the last five years, expenses exceeded revenues. Our growing congregation has embraced the paid services of an administrator, children's program coordinators, a choir accompanist and most recently a professional minister. These professional services represent our largest expense and are key to fulfilling our vision of a thriving, growing, and enduring community.

Revenues and Expenses, 2002-10



Membership & Friendship

Our membership doubled to 80 from 2000 to 2004, and then hovered around there for several years. As of February 2009, we have 91 members, 50 friends, and about 40 children. We continue to gain new members every year, but at the same time, some members move away or become less active. We also have many friends who are active in the church, but for various reasons have not chosen to be members. A friend is anyone who chooses to be listed in our directory but is not a member.

As part of its role as a member congregation in the Canadian Unitarian Council (CUC) Westwood contributes \$91 per member to support CUC national services. We gain strength from a common national voice and benefit from many CUC resources.

How Much to Contribute?

Our 2009 - 2010 financial goal is to operate with a balanced budget. In order to achieve this the average cost per member will be \$1093 (\$99,486 from 91 members). Of course, this is an average amount per member - some give more, some less, depending on circumstances. Some give as much as 10% of their annual income. Remember that tax credits reduce the actual cost to you by 50%. Please consider Westwood's enduring value in your life as you decide how best to be a steward of Westwood. We value your presence among us. We have no pre-determined requirements - the choice of how generous to be is yours.

No contribution is too big or too small.