

# Church Finances

Church finances is one of the more challenging aspects of being “Church”. Various reactions are elicited whenever there is a sermon on financial stewardship or requests for funds. So let me say right up front this is not a request for money! Rather it is a “thank you” for your sacrificial generosity. The way you consistently respond to church financial needs is beyond commendable. Because of you lives are blessed and people see the love of Christ made visible.



Secondly this is a refresher explanation, if you will, about how our Westfield budget works. Westfield has two budgets, Current Expenses and Missions. The Current Expense budget includes staff salaries, utilities, maintenance and repairs, church and office supplies, etc. The Mission budget includes our ministry programs and support for outside missionaries and mission organizations. In 2017 our Current Expense budget is \$282,000 and our Mission budget is \$71,350 which gives us a total budget for 2017 of \$353,350.

Why is this information important? It is important because financial gifts do not simply go into one “pot to pay the bills”. Giving is allocated according to certain guidelines which are important for all of us to know.

- If you use the boxed Westfield offering envelopes there are two pouches, black and red. The black pouch is for Current Expenses. The red pouch is for Missions. (See the sample above). Fewer and fewer people use these envelopes but I believe it is the most efficient and effective way to make your offering.
- If you do not use the boxed Westfield envelopes, your giving will be distributed between Current Expenses and Missions based on your instructions which should be noted on the bottom of your check, or if you write two checks, indicate Current Expense or Mission in the memo line.
- If there is no indication about how you want your gift to be allocated, and you do not use the boxed Westfield envelope, the entire amount will go to Current Expenses.

- If you put cash in a pew envelope without instructions it will go to Current Expenses.
- All loose offering goes to Current Expenses.

So please prayerfully consider how you want your giving allocated and provide clear instructions when you make your gifts. Perhaps a place to start is knowing that approximately 20% of our total budget is allocated to Missions and 80% is allocated to Current Expenses.

Thank you for reading and praying. These nitty gritty details are important to know as we seek to be good stewards of God's blessings and your financial contributions.

**Paul Votaw**