

Living in Generosity 2019 Ministry Spending Plan

Jesus said, “... *And a second is like the first. You shall love your neighbor as yourself.*” Jesus spent three years in public ministry healing, teaching, loving, forgiving, and offering grace **to people**. We are called to do the same. St. James congregation has an annual ministry spending plan because ***we are called into ministry – ministry for and with people.***

How many people will be affected by our ministry spending plan? A hundred? Several hundred? Maybe even several thousand? Sometimes, we might know; many times, though, we do not .

And where do they live? They live in Fayetteville, Hope Mills, Raleigh, Texas, Costa Rica, Afghanistan, Africa ... all around the globe.

And what do they need? Food, housing, clothing, education, leadership, prayers, sharing, friendships ... they need relationships that come through the love of Christ.

Our investment in ministries for 2019 is estimated to be \$262,920 (or possibly \$297,470 to fund a permanent musician position and fulfill evangelism’s vision of an updated gathering space.) That may sound like a lot of money – and, in some respects, it probably is.

But, we are considering a Spending *Plan* - a plan that is our vision of response to God’s call to be in ministry in this place and time. It can be adopted, adapted, revised, and modified as time goes along and the call and vision become clearer. And, it also means *steps of faith* - steps that each of us prayerfully make about how we are called and how we are able to respond in our own level of generosity.

OUTREACH

We are called and sent to proclaim Christ's love, forgiveness, and grace to a broken world. Most of the time it requires service – to each other and to “the least of these”.



We partner with local agencies – Angel Tree, local schools, Operation Inasmuch, Salvation Army, Alms House, Fayetteville Urban Ministry, Victory Junction, CDRC, CROP Walk, disaster relief, etc.

We are also involved through serving meals, stocking shelves, cleaning gardens, making quilts, etc.

A new ministry planned in 2019 is to pre-stock emergency supplies (water, blankets, batteries, baby supplies, etc.) during the spring in preparation for the hurricane season.

Outreach includes Synodical Mission Support, as well as Pastoral expense for visitation, advising leaders and teams, and participation in ministry beyond the congregational level, etc.



FAITH FORMATION

Growing in faith is important.

Our Christian Education Ministry and Youth Ministry teams are looking at summer camp opportunities for youth, VBS, seasonal activities for children, inviting and training teachers, service ministry for youth, worship leadership, youth events, confirmation classes, renovating the



Annex youth space, the Scouting program, etc. The pastor is involved in planning, teaching, and leading various activities. Our secretary is also involved in an administrative role.

Some BOLD dreams for youth ministry are long range: exploring possibilities of a youth staff position, as well as acquisition of a 15-passenger van.



WORSHIP

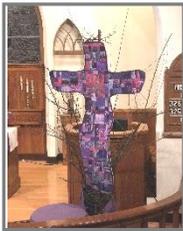
Worship is central to faith life for Lutherans. And music is integral to dynamic worship.

The worship team's BOLD priority is filling the position of Music Director. Consistent and passionate leadership will bring a new level of excitement to



worship. Along with that, we continue to join in worship with other congregations; and develop more worship leaders; etc.

Oversight of worship is a primary responsibility for the pastor: planning worship and music, preparing sermons, working with altar guild and other leaders, overseeing bulletin preparation, etc. The secretary prepares worship materials, communicates to leaders, etc.; the custodian keeps our facility clean and welcoming; and, the nursery workers keep children safe during worship.



EVANGELISM/FELLOWSHIP

What is a community without personal relationships? We have a call to love one another, and this core value gets to the heart of that call. The Fellowship team is connected with the Evangelism Team in sharing hospitality and making people feel invited, welcomed, and connected among the St. James' community.



Fellowship Team will lead our annual MartinLutherville festival, and Methodist University Adopt-A-Hall program. Space, place, and details are involved in this area of the spending plan. Frequent congregational meals and celebrations are also scheduled for 2019.

The Evangelism Team has BOLD vision: to update the gathering space, and to upgrade exterior and interior signage.



JOYFULLY
Connecting
 FAITH ✪ LIFE ✪ PEOPLE

Funding these ministries at a basic level in 2019, as envisioned by the St. James congregation council, will require an increase in total giving by approximately 12%. The chart below illustrates the number of folks giving at various levels in 2018, and the number needed in 2019 to fund our vision of ministry.

Avg Yrly \$ Given to Gen Fund	# Givers Actual 2018	# Givers Needed 2019
\$10,000+	0	0
\$8500 - 9999	2	2
\$6500 - 7999	5	7
\$5000 - 6499	6	7
\$4000 - 4999	5	6
\$3500 - 3999	4	5
\$3000 - 3499	1	3
\$2500 - 2999	5	7
\$2000 - 2499	7	10
\$1500 - 1999	4	10
\$1000 - 1499	8	15
\$500 - 999	10	20
\$250 - 499	12	15
\$1 - 249	49	20
TOTALS	118	127



As each of us prayerfully considers how we will participate in this year's stewardship campaign, realize and be assured that all gifts are valuable and can be used by God for ministry in the world. Some of us are able to be generous with \$100/yr., while others are able to be generous at \$5,000/yr.

Our giving is to come with joy and thankfulness to proclaim the gospel to others. In giving, just as in prayer, service, worship, study, etc., we grow in faith. We participate in the fullness of our life as a disciple of Christ. And the result that God offers can be profound, as all gifts combine to create joyful and surprising changes in families, our community, and the world.

