

MAKING OPPORTUNITIES HAPPEN

Frequently Asked Questions

1. **WHY GIVE?** Everything we have - time, talent and treasure - is a gift from God. Giving to our church is one way we can express our thanks to God for this generosity. Together our gifts further God's ministry here in our community and around the world. "Freely you have received; freely you give." (Matthew 10:8)

Pragmatically, our church depends almost exclusively on its members' giving. A financial commitment from our members and friends covers everything from our staff salaries to our program expenses for children, youth and adults to keeping the heat and lights on and the parking lot plowed.

2. **WHY DO WE PLEDGE?** A pledge represents your commitment to support FPCNV financially in the coming year. Our session uses these pledges to finalize our budget and plan what programs and ministries we can develop in 2022, matching our expenditures to expected revenue. As in any business or organization, this is an important management tool. We are asking that pledge cards be returned by December 12th.

Once made, these gifts may be given on a weekly, monthly or annual basis, whatever is most practical and convenient for you. If your financial circumstances change, you may of course revise your commitment.

3. **HOW MUCH SHOULD I PLEDGE?** We urge you to read the accompanying information describing what the church hopes to accomplish in 2022, remembering that any growth in our programs (e.g., to improve quality and/or address growth in numbers) requires a corresponding growth in our members' financial commitment. We hope you will be excited by the vision outlined there and will be happy to support it to the best of your ability. Please join us in "Making Opportunities Happen." For reference, our baseline budget would require a 16% increase in pledges from 2021, and the dream budget a 23% increase. We know this is an ambitious goal, but also know that over the last year, our members' generosity and energy have helped us meet multiple ambitious goals.

The amount you pledge is a highly personal decision based on prayerful consideration of the church's needs and your own circumstances. We know that our members also generously support the church with their time and talents. That said, at times new members have asked how much they should contribute to the church. As one indicator,

the Presbyterian Foundation estimates that average giving in Presbyterian churches in 2020 amounted to 2% of annual household income.

4. HOW DO I GIVE? Included in this mailing is a pledge card to be returned to the church by December 12th. In addition, background information has been emailed to you and is available on the church's website. To make payments, you may:

- Return your full gift to the church office with your pledge card
- Mail contributions to the church office any time throughout 2022
- Place your gifts in the offering plate during worship
- Give online at pcnv.org/give
- Venmo the church (FPC New Vernon @fpcnv)
- Donate stock (instructions are on the church website)

Making Opportunities Happen Goals for 2022

Baseline Budget Goal: \$375,000 16% increase from 2021

Dream Budget Goal: \$400,000 23% increase from 2021

Some items from our 2021 Dream Budget

Developing a youth program for middle school aged children

Transportation via ride service for our seniors who no longer drive

ZOOM technology for our conference rooms to make hybrid meetings easier for our groups and committees

Additional camera and computer technology in the sanctuary to improve the quality of our online worship experience

Merit salary increases for our dedicated and accomplished staff

Tables and outdoor heaters to enable hosting more indoor/outdoor social events

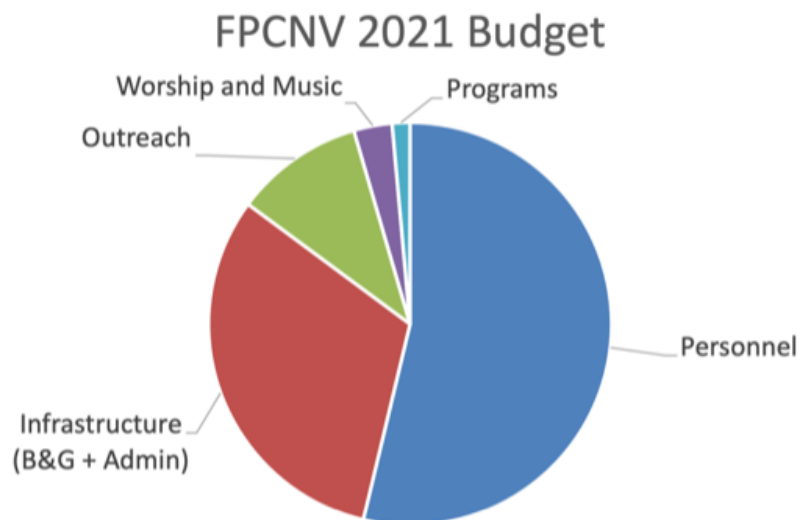
How does your contribution support our ministry?

Our church's biggest asset is our staff and the wonderful gifts of ministry that they bring to our community. This is reflected in our budget, as personnel is our largest expense.

Our second largest expense is maintaining our historic property, which serves as a gathering and meeting place not only for members, but also for many community organizations.

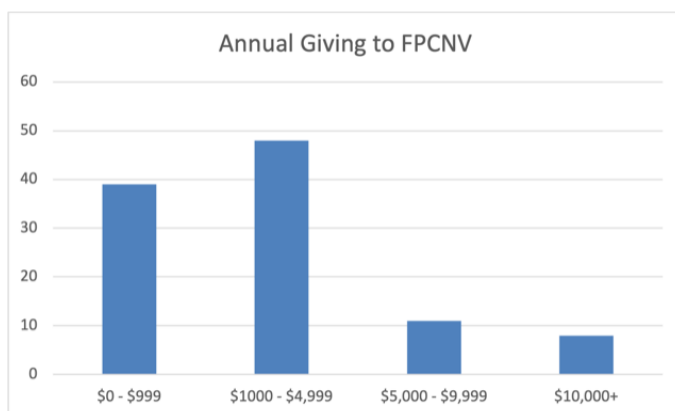
Outreach is third on our list, and FPCNV is in the highest tier in this category for mainline protestant churches, committing 15% of our qualifying revenues (pledge and plate offering) to our partner non-profit organizations. Service and community engagement are core to our ministry and mission.

Worship & Music, along with our other programs like Bible Study, the new Faith and Society Conversation Series, and our ZOOM seminars on parenting round out the 2021 budget.



Where does the money come from?

FPCNV does not have a traditional endowment to offset our operating expenses. Almost all of our income comes from annual donations. Below is a breakdown of annual pledge amounts from the previous year.



2021 Pledge Stats

Annual Giving	Total Donors	% of Total
\$0 - \$999	39	4.06%
\$1000 - \$4,999	48	33.59%
\$5,000 - \$9,999	11	20.54%
\$10,000+	8	41.82%
\$323,808.79	106	100.00%