

Stanwich Congregational Church Proposed Fiscal Year 2018 Budget

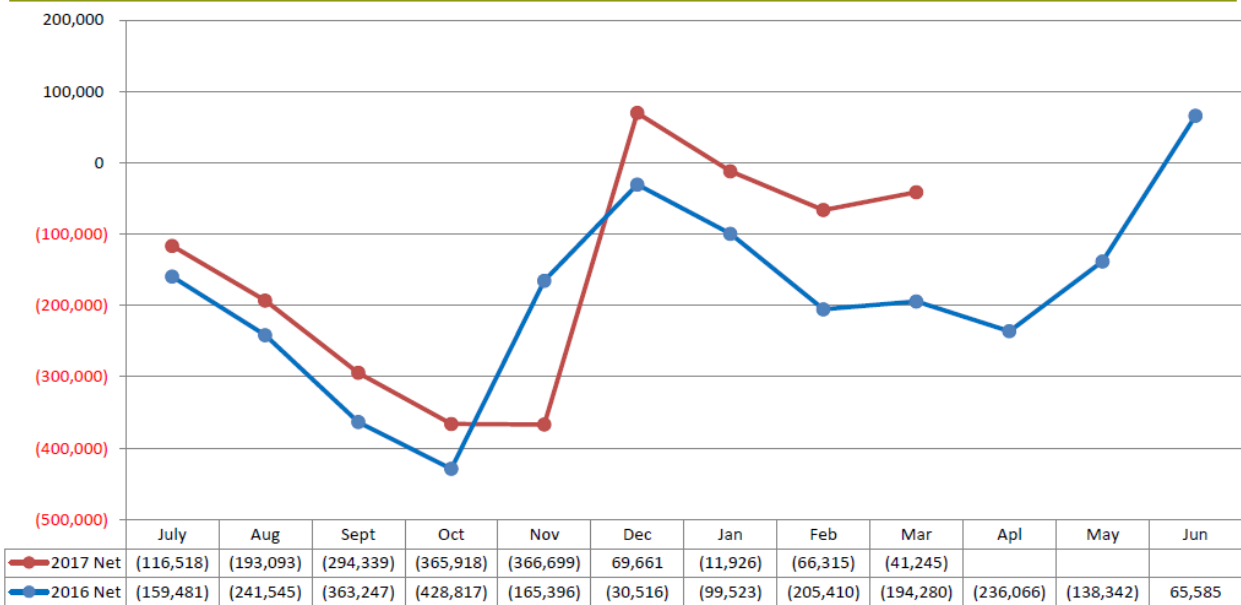
Budget Process and Calendar: The Elder Board and Finance Committee are pleased to submit the proposed fiscal year (FY) 2018 budget for your consideration and approval. The recommended budget reflects the prayerful input from our pastors, ministry leaders and administrative staff members, personnel committee, in-depth review and modification by the Finance Committee and focused discussions at three separate Elder meetings. In addition, we have scheduled “Ask the Elders” sessions on May 7th and May 21st -- in Greenwich (Meeting Room) following the 9:00 AM and 10:45 AM worship services and at our Stamford Campus following the 5:30 PM worship service on the first floor. Members of the congregation are invited to attend any of these sessions to ask questions about the budget and provide input. June 12th is our Annual Meeting and final budget vote by the congregation.

Goals and Trends: This year’s budget entailed deep discussions and discernment of both spiritual and financial priorities in light of our history, present environment, and vision. Living deeper into and applying our mission *To Know Christ and Make Him Known*, envisions a partial budget restoration to prior years’ budget levels. This will provide for prioritized ministries, leadership development, staffing, and the resources needed to achieve our mission. We are encouraged by this year’s holistic stewardship of time, talent, and treasure: hearts and lives are transforming and ministries are growing. Year to date giving as of April 23rd exceeds last year by more than \$100,000 or 6%. The Operating Fund (a reserve fund to cover giving shortfalls, operating expense events, and risk management) continues to rebuild and stabilize– up from a low of \$200,657 last November to \$545,200 as of 3/31/2017. The generous giving combined with strict adherence to prudent expense and asset management disciplines has produced financially encouraging results. We believe the proposed budget for FY 2018 meets both the spiritual and financial objectives of Stanwich Church (SC).

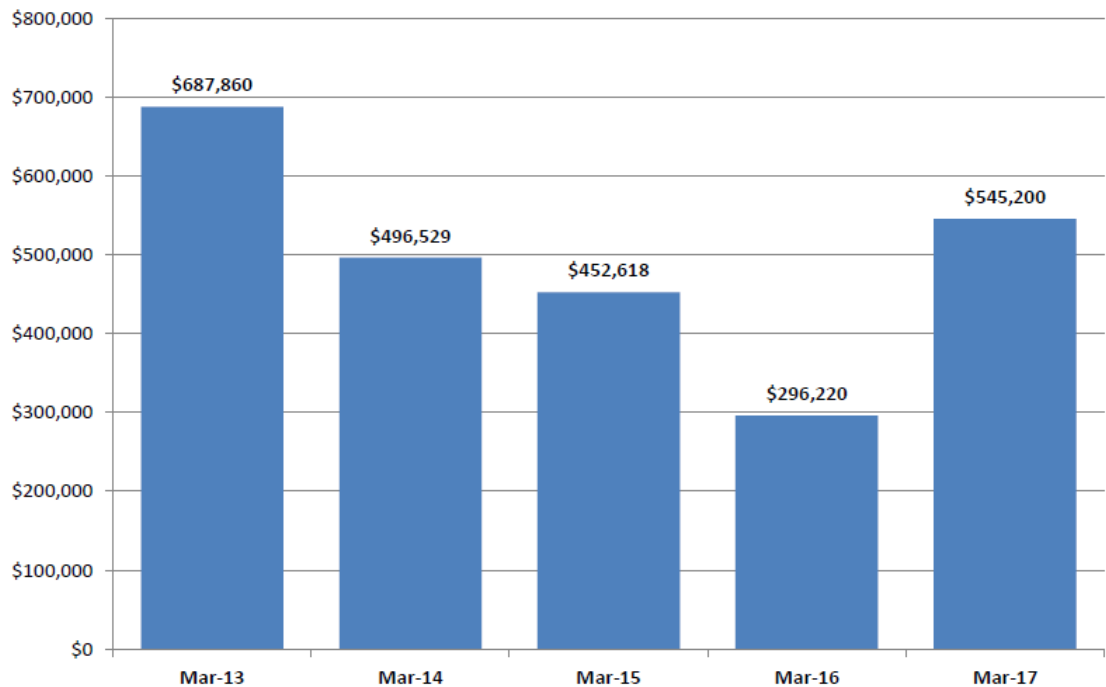
Budget Trends

The following two graphs (see next page) visually depict and measure the positive financial trends at SC from July 1, 2016 through March 31, 2017. We are encouraged by the congregation’s generosity and look forward to a strong finish to the fiscal year (June 30, 2017).

Cumulative Net Income/Loss by Month



Fund Balance – Operating Fund



FY 2018 Proposed Budget

The proposed FY 2018 budget is contained in Table 1 (next page). This represents a 6.1% increase over the current operating budget and an additional 2.3% increase with the much-needed return of a \$50,000 (annual transfer) to the Capital Maintenance Fund. In total, the proposed budget is 8.4% higher than last year, but is basically flat versus 2015. Financial budget highlights include:

- Sunday Morning Worship – partial return of music budget for the 9:00 AM Service Praise Team and a Concert Subsidy.
- Adult Ministries were cut dramatically between 2015-2017. Funding for the partial restoration includes:
 - Women in Ministry – Special Events, Guest Speakers, and the Women’s Retreat.
 - Care and Connections – ministry development and equipping, and the Leadership Forum.
 - Leadership Development – Children’s Special Needs professional development, seminary tuition reimbursement, and a summer Leadership Summit.
- Youth Ministry – partially restoring additional youth events, college student care campaign, and a summer intern.
- Business and Administration:
 - Restructure / Replacement Hire - Part time Communications Director. By creating a central communications hub as a center of excellence will reduce redundant communication efforts and activities.
 - New Hire - Part time Administrative support for Stamford Campus.
- Asset Management: (5 properties) - Return to the annual transfer of \$50,000 from the Operating Fund to the Capital Maintenance Fund to provide for future maintenance of our properties. Currently at \$66,000 with a goal of \$250,000.

Staff Compensation and Benefits comprise almost 65% of the FY 2018 budget. The Personnel Committee has approved a modest (2%) increase in staff compensation after holding staff compensation expenses flat in the previous year. The budget now includes the full year impact for new FT Executive Director and FT Pastor Stamford Campus, refilling FT Program Administrator, and search to fill PT Communications Director and PT Stamford Admin Support.

Stanwich Congregational Church
Proposed FY 2018 Budget
(Table 1)

	FY 2015 Actual	FY 2016 Actual	FY 2017 Budget	FY 2018 Requested Budget	\$ Change Vs 2017	% Chg. Versus 2017 Budget
Clergy Salary and Benefits ⁽¹⁾	480,524	455,437	573,879	564,471	(9,408)	-1.6%
Sunday Morning Worship						
Musicians	146,109	142,627	122,001	140,074	18,073	14.8%
Hospitality	22,272	15,148	14,250	14,250	-	0.0%
Equipment and Supplies	8,301	6,055	13,000	10,250	(2,750)	-21.2%
Total	176,683	163,830	149,251	164,574	15,323	10.3%
Wednesdays at Stanwich						
Hospitality	9,090	9,812	9,800	9,800	-	0.0%
Music	5,900	1,100	1,450	1,350	(100)	-6.9%
Total	14,990	10,912	11,250	11,150	(100)	-0.9%
Adult Ministries						
Clergy Expenses	27,654	20,664	18,900	19,900	1,000	5.3%
Stanwich Community	20,250	15,000	15,000	20,000	5,000	33.3%
Men's & Women's Ministry	11,538	8,251	7,000	12,000	5,000	71.4%
Leadership Development	21,447	1,809	6,500	16,638	10,138	156.0%
Other Expenses	5,612	3,620	7,000	10,250	3,250	46.4%
Total	86,501	49,344	54,400	78,788	24,388	44.8%
Children and Youth Ministries						
Staff Salaries and Benefits	265,597	227,335	197,184	213,190	16,006	8.1%
Staff Expenses	13,072	8,605	9,950	9,750	(200)	-2.0%
Kid's Church	13,274	11,588	13,267	14,475	1,208	9.1%
Youth Ministry Expenses	36,261	17,928	18,100	19,000	900	5.0%
Nursery	18,850	17,382	21,530	21,530	-	0.0%
Other Children and Youth	3,268	23,597	2,708	1,500	(1,208)	-44.6%
Total	350,322	306,435	262,739	279,445	16,706	6.4%
Stamford Campus ⁽¹⁾						
Staff Salaries and Benefits	84,385	95,452	14,745	9,043	(5,702)	-38.7%
Musicians	114,945	87,233	78,180	78,180	-	0.0%
Hospitality	13,901	11,467	11,700	11,700	-	0.0%
Building Rent	41,896	42,700	44,400	44,400	-	0.0%
Other Expenses	32,533	7,895	17,000	18,250	1,250	7.4%
Total	287,661	244,747	166,025	161,573	(4,452)	-2.7%
⁽¹⁾ Transition in FY 2017 from Stamford Campus Director to Campus Pastor (clergy) including overlap.						

Stanwich Congregational Church
Proposed FY 2018 Budget
(Table 1 continued)

	FY 2015 Actual	FY 2016 Actual	FY 2017 Budget	FY 2018 Requested Budget	\$ Change Vs 2017	% Chg. Versus 2017 Budget
Buildings and Grounds						
Staff Salaries and Benefits	162,002	174,093	182,338	181,828	(510)	-0.3%
Utilities	83,350	85,671	93,339	94,010	671	0.7%
Cleaning	30,519	30,951	34,000	40,210	6,210	18.3%
Grounds Maintenance	43,667	31,160	52,290	50,809	(1,481)	-2.8%
Building Maintenance	44,455	34,340	43,900	47,507	3,607	8.2%
Supplies/Other Expenses	16,221	14,215	16,525	15,025	(1,500)	-9.1%
Total	380,214	370,430	422,392	429,389	6,997	1.7%
Business and Administration						
Staff Salaries and Benefits	392,057	416,118	432,942	519,925	86,983	20.1%
Professional Fees	25,523	23,670	21,850	21,850	-	0.0%
Property and Casualty Insurance	72,834	61,012	49,000	52,000	3,000	6.1%
Office Supplies	42,841	30,582	34,360	33,500	(860)	-2.5%
Other Expenses	29,519	30,812	29,606	25,560	(4,046)	-13.7%
Total	562,774	562,192	567,758	652,835	85,077	15.0%
Budget Transfers						
Transfers to Capital Maintenance and Repair	50,000	-	-	50,000	50,000	100.0%
Total	50,000	-	-	50,000	50,000	100.0%
Grand Total						
			FY 2017 Budget	FY 2018 Proposed	\$ Increase	% Increase
Operating Budget			\$ 2,207,694	\$ 2,342,225	\$ 134,531	6.1%
Capital Maintenance			\$ -	\$ 50,000	\$ 50,000	100.0%
FY 2018 Budget Summary			\$ 2,207,694	\$ 2,392,225	\$ 184,531	8.4%

Summary:

Past: At the beginning of FY 2017 the Elders, Finance Committee, and others in leadership worked diligently to reduce expenses to align with giving levels and rebuild the Operating Fund. These painful steps were appropriate for that difficult season. The actual YTD Giving and Expenses reflect the prudence of this stewardship.

Present: The Stewardship vision of cultivating a culture of generosity from a holistic view encompassing faith, time, talent, and treasure is bearing fruit. Through the planning and delivering of teaching, preaching (Generous God series), small groups, and Generous Giving (Journey of Generosity) we are seeing lives transformed and a release of greater generosity. In order to meet our budget and restore the Operating Fund balance, we still need to finish strong for April, May, and June. Our Missions Fund (\$220,625 as of April 16th) is on track to finish the year at \$250,000. This generous giving has trended in a positive direction since last December.

Future: Based on FY 2017, we are encouraged to keep pressing into our mission to *Know Christ and Make Him Known*, to continue to love and serve the needs of this community with excellence, and to actively seek God's voice and vision for the future. The key FY 2018 budget theme is a partial restoration of ministry to 2015 levels, with emphasis on leadership development, and resourcing priorities to further our vision. The Elders recommend approval of the proposed FY 2018 budget which directly reflects our spiritual and financial priorities.