

Finance Committee Annual Report – May 2026

Finance Committee members are Susan Strakosch (Chair and Collector's Assistant), Karen Ellsworth (Treasurer), Jeff Berry (Collector), Elise Bender (Personnel and RE liaison), Rob Carter (Payroll), and Trish Kelley.

FY2025-26 has been a year of transition for us. Our former financial administrator, Karen St. Peter, resigned effective September 1, 2024, and was not replaced until September 2025. The former Treasurer performed those tasks during that year and has been working with our new financial administrator, Ame Botus, this year to transition. This delayed our new treasurer from fully taking over that role. That has just happened, so the transition will continue for a while. In addition, we have converted to QuickBooks Online, another transition.

The Finance Committee received and reviewed monthly reports from the Treasurer and the Collector, and provided monthly summaries of church finances for the Board. We also monitored facilities expenses, church investments, payroll, insurance coverage, rental income, and Share-the-Plate distributions. The Finance team is continuing to work on Breeze, Quicken and QuickBooks, and assists the Personnel Committee. We provided a summary of pledge status to all members by mail in February. This information is available at any time on Breeze.

We also monitor Hurdis Fund expenditures. Management of the Hurdis Fund and the programs it supports has proved very challenging, so we have decided to separate it from other church finances by establishing its own separate bank account accounting. Finances for the OWL program and Wunder Academy are also now separately managed by Elise and Rob.

This year's Stewardship team — Kari Kurto, Bree Oaks, Sky Kimball, and Trish Kelley — conducted a campaign in March. The Finance Committee has been following up by contacting members and friends who have not yet pledged. We feel comfortable estimating \$218,000 in donations (including pledges and Sunday plate collections) for the 2026-2027 fiscal year. The Board of Directors approved our proposed budget on May 14, and we presented it to the congregation for questions and answers on May 24. We are projecting a deficit of \$13,000. Last year, we projected a deficit of \$19,000, but, as in years past, we have made that up and now expect a small surplus at the end of this fiscal year.

- Our Treasurer, Karen Ellsworth, is nearing completion on our application for a §501(c)(3) determination letter from the IRS, a truly monumental task.
- We have been working with the ministerial hiring team on their UUA application for a new minister, as well as assisting in the search for a new office administrator.
- We implemented Square for online payments, and continue to use PayPal.

The Facilities Committee has retained an engineering firm to assess the condition of our building, determine what improvements are necessary, and rank them in order of urgency. We anticipate that those improvements will require a capital campaign.

As a last note, we want to thank Mary Alice Kimball for all she has done during the past six years as Treasurer. She took on most finance-related tasks, and the Finance Committee is now working to complete what she did single-handedly. With the exception of collections, she has carried the ball. The committee will make sure we do not drop it.

Respectfully submitted, Susan Strakosch, Finance Chair, for the Finance Committee