

**REPORT TO CHURCH COUNCIL of  
FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF SANTA ROSA, CA  
2019-20 Activities/2020-21 Plans**

**Name of Commission/Committee/Group:** Finance

**Members of the 2020 Committee:** Sam Cox (chair),  
Cynthia DeBenedetto, Tokasa Buinimasi, Jack Dupre,  
Janet Tonkin, Joan Gates, and Virginia Anderson.

Ex-officio members are: Peg Ferrel, Heather Young,  
Mike Ferrel, Naomi Niimi, and Kris McKelvey. Staff Rep:  
Janis Brewster.

**Meetings are held:** Monthly on the third Wednesday at 7 p.m., typically in the Carriage House.

**Purpose:** The purpose of the Finance Committee is to monitor the church's financial viability, transparency, and financial controls, and to make reports and recommendations to the Church Council to assure that this viability and these controls are maintained.

**How does this purpose help fulfill the mission of FUMC?** We strive to maintain a strong system of reports and controls so that the congregation can have confidence that donated funds are safeguarded. We also strive to maintain financial transparency, so that the congregation can understand how funds are used and can evaluate whether monetary decisions are missionally driven. In conjunction with other church groups we formulate a proposed annual budget for adoption by the Church Council.

**What are your activities/ programs/ ministries/ accomplishments for 2019?**

The committee:

1. Reviewed the financial statements monthly, and provided regular reports to the Church Council.
2. Provided regular updates in the Roseleaf.
3. Contracted with an outside CPA to present a Compilation of the church's financial statements and to conduct an annual review of financial controls.
4. Compiled the proposal annual budget, and provided recommendations regarding the projected deficit for adoption of the budget by the Church Council.

5. Maintained and scheduled a team of volunteer money counters to prepare weekly cash deposits of offerings and other cash received.
6. In conjunction with Outreach and Service and staff, approved a schedule for special offerings to be taken throughout the year.
7. Supported the Stewardship Committee to conduct the Annual Stewardship Campaign.
8. Worked with/supported the Church Operations Manager and Bookkeeper.
9. Coordinated/advised the Preschool Director and Advisory Board regarding financial matters.
10. Developed historical financial data in support of the Church's Discernment Team's work.

**What are your goals and plans for 2020?**

1. Again conduct activities listed in #1 - #9 above.
2. Continue to analyze various restricted fund balance accounts, and, as needed, assist the appropriate church groups as to their nature, amounts, restrictions and potential use.
3. Support the Church Operations Manager and other staff as we continue to refine duties and systems.
4. With the Trustees, take the lead in developing a financial plan for the church for the next 3-5 years.
5. Review the finance reports of the church's "related" organizations including: the Preschool, the Fijian Ministry, and United Methodist Women.
6. Work on the development of written finance policies, a 2019 goal not achieved.