

God's Mission is Searching for A Church: What is Barrhaven United's Commitment for 2016?

Background Notes for BUC's First Narrative Budget:

The attached narrative budget for 2016 is essentially Barrhaven United's mission-driven 'commitment' for how we pledge to invest your generous gifts of time, talent, spirit and treasure to serve others through worship, caring, learning, outreach and resource stewardship in the upcoming year.

Barrhaven United Church gratefully received and invested at least 16,000 hours of volunteer time in 2015 and we anticipate 2016 to be even more active! In addition to our time and talents, we are striving to do our part to make God's world a better place through the wise investment of an anticipated \$292,580. from your faithful, pledged donations and from fundraising and rentals in the 2016.

How does a narrative budget work? Unlike a financial budget, a narrative budget allocates BUC's treasure proportionately to how it is invested within each of the five foci of our mission. Although it utilizes the same information regarding our revenues and anticipated expenses, it is meant as an addition to our strict financial planning and reporting to help make the investment of our resources more clearly related to our purpose and mission as God's church.

For example, keeping in mind that "there is no typical month or week or day, in a minister's life, especially for those who are 'called,'" we asked Rev Maggie to give us the best idea she could of hers for 2016! These estimates are critical as we move forward in the process of job design and hiring of a new minister for October, when Rev. Maggie retires. Rev Maggie estimates that, as it stands now, she would likely spend about 40% of her time on worship, 35% on adult pastoral care, 10% on her own studies and continuing education, 10% on reaching out/partnering and 5% on volunteer management. Rev Maggie's salary and benefits for the year have been distributed according to these estimates. This year, however, is not the norm and additional blocks of funds have been set aside for the hiring process and also, without a designated part-time lay or ordained support position, for additional pulpit supply, leadership of adult and family learning, and youth group leadership.

The proportionate allocation of our Minister's salaries and benefits and additional block funding, along with administrative salaries, and all our other anticipated expenses to each mission foci, gives us a 'window into Barrhaven United' that helps us to gain a thoughtful appreciation of how, over the next year, we, as a congregation, commit to faithfully live out the essence of: "Called to worship; sent to serve".

