



KENSINGTON CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH



Connecting Faith and Life in 2022

The Challenge Before Us

"Whatever you do, whether in speech or in action, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus and give thanks to God the Father through him." Colossians 3:17

Given the unique circumstances of ministering to our community during a global pandemic, KCC has committed itself to continuing the many ministries and outreach programs, as well as our faith formation programming and worship services, with a firm eye on the health and safety of our members. We also remain committed to being a church that is "safe, welcoming, and accessible" to all, whether in person or virtually. We see these challenges as opportunities to reach more people and address the needs of our community in a deeper and more meaningful way.

Stewardship

Our stewardship goal is to continue building a firm financial foundation that secures our ministry now and in the future. Economic forces require a continued increase in all of our annual giving so that we can continue to connect our faith with life for us all, members, friends, local community as well as the wider church to support the missions of KCC.

Please read on as to all the ways your church touches many lives.

Our Ministry in 2021

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, our church life has seen a number of changes in order to maintain a safe and healthy environment for all and continue to minister to all. Included in these changes are:

- The continuation of a COVID Team which advises the Pastor and the Church Committee in the health and

safety aspects of church programming and building use.

- Continued enhancement of our audiovisual capabilities to enable virtual worship and funeral services.



- Whenever possible, programming and community events take place outdoors, so that all may enjoy safely.
- The successful reopening of church to in-person worship, using state health guidelines and mutual care for others as our standard for safety.
- Re-development of some programming, such as Vacation Bible School, to an online format.
- Offered a new periodic virtual service called Oasis.
- Re-opening of our beautiful facilities to the community-at-large.
- Providing a clean and safe space for continuous operations of Kensington Nursery School.

The Church continues to look for ways to minister to and program for all of its members, as well as serve the community at large.

Budget Summary

The narrative budget outlined below illustrates how financial resources, including your pledge, are used to support our ministries in the local and wider community. The illustrations use 2021 budget percentages. **The 2022 budget will depend heavily on the success of this stewardship drive.**

Our own giving through annual pledges and special offerings largely funds the operating budget. Approximately 30% of the budget comes from investment income, fundraising projects, and other income. To make our total budget easier to understand, we have allotted expenses among five categories of ministry and the approximate percentage of the total it represents.

Worship & Spiritual Life

This category reflects the many ways we worship God and how we support the valuable work of our Pastor and Deacons.

- Our gracious sanctuary has re-opened for regular worship on Sundays. This is coupled with a significant upgrade in audio/visual equipment in order to provide a rich worship experience from home.

- Our newly-installed Pastor's salary is included here, reflecting her role and talent in leading worship.
- Worship includes Chapel in the Woods services, joint services with Berlin Congregational Church and Spottswood AME Zion Church, as well as services at Apple Rehab and Ledgecrest
- Deacons, supported by ushers, greeters, lay ministers and youth lay leaders, provide leadership during worship by serving our physical as well as spiritual needs. Among their many commitments this year were Holiday Meals for shut-ins, Ashes-to-Go on Ash Wednesday, a newly formed Walking Club, personalized postcards sent to loved ones, a campaign of love and prayer through the setting of hearts on the lawns of members and friends.
- The Flower committee provides regular opportunities for congregants to celebrate special occasions with the greater congregation.
- The Music Committee supports our Music Director in providing a comprehensive and inspiring music program that includes guest musicians, 3 choirs, the Celebration Ringers, and the RingTones. Also included in this is general maintenance and upkeep of our organs and pianos.

*Our Goal is to explore new forms of worship and nurture the talents of our congregation. **Worship and Spiritual Life represents 31% of our expenses.***

Christian Faith Formation (CFF) & Training

KCC seeks to support faith formation and expanded knowledge of God. This work requires us to equip lay people for their ministries in the church and in the world. Our programming seeks to serve students of all ages, and programming includes, but is not limited to:

- Sunday School, which serves approximately 50 children from preschool to 8th grade
- Junior Pilgrim Fellowship
- High School Workcamp
- Confirmation classes
- Retreats
- Vacation Bible School
- Annual Faith Formation activities include:
 - 4th grade Bible Presentation
 - Communion Workshop
 - Night in Bethlehem and White Gifts Service
 - Caroling to "Friends in Need"
- Adult Education Opportunities include:

- Weekly Bible Study
- Lenten Potluck Series
- Sponsoring Confirmands
- Spiritual Retreats

Kensington Nursery School (KNS) serves both the community's and members' preschool children. *We hope to increase opportunities for adult education and leadership development while supporting our church school programs for youth and families.* **CFF and Training represents 15% of our expenses.**



Missions & Outreach

Our members are called to give their time and resources to relieve suffering and be servants to the whole human family. Our outreach and mission work takes many forms and includes:

- One Great Hour of Sharing
- Mother's Day Blankets and Father's Day Tools of Hope
- Support for Pan de Vida, our sister church in El Salvador, including education funding for 60 children, a computer lab and bakery equipment.
- Support for the Berlin Food Pantry with donations of food and holiday meals.
- Partnership with Covenant to Care, providing backpacks and educational supplies, as well as Christmas Gifts and Easter Baskets.
- Partnership with the SNE UCC Association, the New Britain Area Interfaith Conference, Friendship Center of New Britain, residents of Apple Rehab, Klingberg Family Center, Prudence Crandall Center, Pathways/Senderos of New Britain, and Family Promise.
- Providing funding for: Operation Fuel, Simply Smiles, Adelbrook Behavioral and Development, Silver Lake, Youth Challenge, and Annual youth Mission Trip renovating homes in communities of need outside Connecticut.

Our new Parish Hall is designed to be a form of outreach used by groups such as Red Cross Blood Drives, Yoga, KNS, musicians and Scout groups. *We are proud of our commitment to the greater community and continue to seek ways in which we can increase our service to others.* **Missions and Outreach represents 7% of our expenses.**

Membership & Community

This category reflects costs of welcoming the community to church; fostering growth and development of members' unique gifts; and developing communication channels that strengthen relationships.

- Fellowship opportunities are provided through weekly coffee hours, Rally Sunday, Cabaret, Golf tournament, Festival on the Hill, the Lobster Loop 5K, and Night in Bethlehem.
- The Women's Service League coordinates our efforts for the Berlin Fair and offers social programs, book discussions, Secret Pals, educational programs, and retreats. This year WSL completed, with support of Trustees and a local Eagle Scout, a beautiful new Pollinator Garden on the corner of the Reeves Center driveway.
- KCC offers two scholarships: one through the WSL and one through the Munson Scholarship Fund
- Outreach Committee brings God's love and care to members who are experience a difficult time. Outreach also hosts "The Gathering" to celebrate those who have been members for more than 40 years.
- Members-at-Large Committee plans the annual Fall Church picnic for both members and newcomers
- The Diaconate joyfully serves the congregation, leading worship, welcoming new members, and connecting with Church members who are homebound.
- This area includes fostering effective communications, included in this are the operation of our AV systems, website maintenance, managing our Facebook account, media coverage, and the Gabriel's Trumpet newsletter.
- This category also represents the work of our Pastor in ministering to the sick and shut-ins, and those in distress.

We continue to seek new ways to practice hospitality where ALL are welcome and to encourage church members' active participation in the life of KCC.

Membership and Community represent 21% of our expenses.

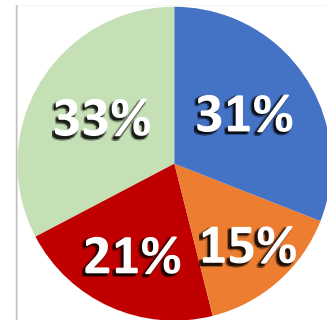
Administration & Facilities

This category includes the Board of Trustees' oversight and cost of maintaining our beautiful church, church buildings, and grounds, and supporting the work of the Church Committee, Memorial Garden, and Memorial Gift Committees. Operational costs include things such as utilities, snow removal, and insurance. Also included is the cost of maintaining an efficient office to support all church activities. The Office Manager and Sextons' salaries are included here.

We continue our efforts to maintain our facilities and provide space that is attractive and welcoming.

Administration and Facilities represents 33% of our budget.

KCC 2021 Expense Summary



Questions and Answers

• What is the purpose of the Annual Stewardship Campaign?

In addition to raising funds, we hope to increase the congregation's awareness of church finances and how giving supports church ministries. We also hope to strengthen Christian commitment through giving.

• How will the money be used?

With increased funds we can continue to adopt a balanced budget, support our Christian Faith Formation program for adults and children, and strengthen our outreach opportunities to serve the greater community. Also we can service the debt and expenses of the new Parish Hall.

• How will I determine the size of my gift?

We must all make our own decisions. If every household would give on a basis of one day's income per month for twelve months, we would pass our goal. Many must give in even larger amounts, as some will have less from which to give.

• Why is a pledge preferred to a donation?

To reach our goal we must all stretch. A pledge signifies our commitment to God's work and to each other. For most, a pledge paid over one month (or 52 weeks) helps to make a more substantial gift. A recommended way to determine the size of your pledge is to consider how large a single monthly gift you could make and then regard that as the first in a series of installments for twelve months.

• What are SHARES?

A Share is a suggested amount based upon 3% of the Berlin median household income of \$93,750 (2019 CERC Town Profile). **A Share equals \$54 per week for one year**, totaling \$2,808. Since some may find that a half-share represents their utmost ability to give, there must be others willing to subscribe in blocks of five, three, or two Shares. Another way to think about your pledge is to pledge 3% or 5% of your income and increase your pledge annually by one percent of your income to reach a tithe (10%). Proportionate giving allows everyone to give at a level that reflects their own resources.

• Are there other ways to make my gift?

Yes, some may opt to give from their capital assets. Appreciated securities, for example, may offer a tax advantage not available in a cash gift. In addition to current giving, notifying the church that one's will includes a bequest facilitates long-term financial planning. You may wish to consult your tax advisor.

• Can I pay my pledge electronically?

Electronic payment is available by visiting the Giving page at KensingtonCong.org. You can pay via automated checking account withdrawal or by credit card. Please consider adding the fee offset to cover additional charges for credit card use.

**For more information call the
Rev Laura Westby, Pastor, at 860-828-4511, or
visit our website: www.kensingtoncong.org.**