



COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH ATHENS, GA

A narrative budget is a way of talking about the future needs of the church to carry out its mission and ministry. It's a different way of organizing (but not a replacement for) our "line-item" budget that lists columns of numbers under the heading of different departments such as "Property", "Personnel", "Worship", and "Education."

The resources that God has entrusted to us enable Covenant to carry out the mission and ministry to which we have been called.

"Use whatever gift you've received for the good of one another so that you can show yourselves to be good stewards of God's grace in all its varieties." (1 Peter 4:10, The Voice)

God expects us to be good stewards, to plan wisely, and to generously share God's story with everyone we meet. This narrative budget seeks to reflect not only the costs behind what it takes to run our mission and ministry, but also the story behind the success of our programs and the difference that they make in our church and community.

**Total Anticipated Ministry Needs for 2024-2025:
\$510,168**



worship

spiritual growth

fellowship

outreach

Worship is the heart of all we do at Covenant. Each week we gather to worship God, to share our joys and concerns, to confess and be reminded of God's grace, to hear God's Word made real for our lives, to affirm our faith, to feast together at the Lord's table, and to be sent out into the world to be God's hands and feet. Our worship is enriched and enlivened each week because of our talented musicians and the many volunteers that sing in our choir, play handbells, and share their gifts with our congregation. Each week, members volunteer their time to serve as adult choir, handbell choir, praise band, ushers, greeters, and liturgists. The 2024 budget includes funds to support our music ministry by funding salaries for our music director, handbell director, accompanist, AV tech for sound and live stream, and guest musicians as well as honorariums for guest preachers, music and liturgy to support worship, communion elements for gathering around the Lord's Table, and B&G Funds for creating a welcoming and inviting space for all to come and worship.

\$155,335 • 30%

Alongside our weekly worship, we share weekly times of study and reflection during Sunday School and during our Wednesday evening gatherings. We give thanks for our Sunday School teachers, leaders for children's classes and Covenant Connection volunteers who help with meals and clean-up. Our 2024 budget includes funds for curriculum and resources for all four of our Sunday School classes; K-5 Children's Class, The Builders Class, The Journey Class and the Upper Room Class. This budget also supports weekly intergenerational meals on Wednesdays, a staff person offering support to the CE Team, and B&G funds that enable us to have updated and renovated meeting spaces.

\$115,467 • 23%

While worship is the heart of all that we do at Covenant, it is our relationships with God and one another that help to keep that heart beating. Each week, we gather around the table for food and fellowship as part of Covenant Connection. Volunteers host game nights, picnics on the church lawn, the Strawberry Festival and the Heart of Covenant Dinner. Our Congregational Care Team provides care for our members during illness, death, and birth. Our Presbyterian Women share fellowship, learning and service together. The Knitters and Knotters bless our neighbors with hand-knitted blankets. Our Retirees group meets monthly to learn, eat and to stay connected with one another. The 2024 budget includes funds for everything needed to create opportunities to gather with one another, resources for all small groups as well as meals and supplies for events.

\$86,978 • 17%

We serve because Jesus taught us that the greatest commandment is to love God and to love our neighbors as ourselves. Our annual budget allows us to support mission partners both locally and around the world. We host a weekly food pantry serving more than 1,000 people per month including an average of 325 children and 200 seniors. We support our neighbors in need at both Gaines Elementary School and Cedar Shoals High School and provide monthly meals for the families and children at the Athens Area Homeless Shelter and the students at The Table. Our partnership with UGarden and Campus Kitchen provides more than 600 monthly hot meals to our neighbors in need. Covenant also provides space for the monthly Athens Free Clinic, several 12-step groups, the New Horizons Band, the annual Holiday Benevolence Market, as well as the Athens Access to Justice Legal Clinic. The 2024 budget also supports our coordinator of outreach staff position and our community partners like Family Promise, Our Daily Bread, and The Table.

\$152,388 • 30%

Covenant Presbyterian Church is an all-inclusive family of faith whose mission is to live out Christ's example of serving others, with a focus on worship, spiritual growth, fellowship, and outreach in the Athens community and the world.