

# Pledged Revenue 2016 Operating Budget

Sharing God's Grace

Annual Pledge Campaign

Grace Episcopal Church

## How Much Should I Give?

This question is one of the most commonly asked questions during our Annual Pledge Campaign. There are as many answers as there are people asking and as there are people giving. The tithe is the Biblical standard of giving - that is, giving one tenth (10%) of your income to the church. At Grace, we believe that our pledge should prayerfully reflect our relationship with God. We understand that tithing may seem daunting, and that you may not be able to tithe at this point in your life. One alternative is to commit a certain percentage of your income to the church. By committing to proportional giving, you actually return to God a portion of what God has given you.

Our hope that each person in Grace will *Share God's Grace* by making a pledge to Grace so that our church can share God's grace within our Christian community and through our outreach efforts with others in our local community, our nation and our world. For those new to Grace within the past year, we hope that you will make a pledge to Grace in the coming year. For those who made a pledge to Grace for 2016 we hope that you will increase your pledge to Grace for 2017.

In making the decision on how much to give, start by assessing the percentage of your income that you give to Grace currently. In assessing how much you should give to Grace going forward, there are some benchmarks to use. The average pledge to Grace Church for 2016 was \$2,354, roughly \$45.25 per week. If your pledge is below the average pledge to Grace, we hope that you will increase your pledge for 2017 to get closer to the average pledge. The average pledge for Grace Church is \$353.00 below the average pledge in the Episcopal Church, \$2,707, falling approximately \$6.75 per week below the this average. The average

pledge in Grace for Grace is \$720.00 below the average pledge in the Episcopal Diocese of Washington, \$3,074, falling roughly \$13.85 per week below this average.

Pledge income accounts for 75% of the total income received on an annual basis. Our costs are projected to increase by roughly 3.5% in calendar year 2017. Increasing your current pledge by this amount will enable Grace to sustain its current level of ministry. Increasing your current pledge by more than this percentage will enable Grace to expand its current ministries to meet additional needs within our parish and expand our outreach efforts. Nearly 73% of our budget is expended in the following three areas - clergy compensation and benefits, 39.5%; church operations (heating, utilities, facility maintenance and repairs), 17.75%; and music, 15%. Excluding clergy salaries, expenditures on our Sunday School and youth programs, worship, Adult Christian formation programs and hospitality ministries comprise approximately 5% of our total budget. Grace contributes 7.75% of its total budget to the Diocese and to support other outreach ministries.

The budget for 2017 will be determined after all pledges are received. We do not pledge to meet a certain budget. That said, because our parish is thriving and growing, we already know that we need greater support in 2017 for our work and ministry in this parish. We can enhance our ministries is everyone gives to Grace as they are able, recognizing that your pledge to Grace is really a covenant with God.

Summarized in the graph and chart below is the distribution of the 255 pledges received for 2016.

\$10,000 +	4	1.6%
\$7,000 - \$9,999	11	4.3%
\$6,000 - \$6,999	7	2.7%
\$5,000 - \$5,999	10	3.9%
\$4,000 - \$4,999	14	5.5%
\$3,000 - \$3,999	23	9.0%
\$2,000 - \$2,999	31	12.2%
\$1,000 - \$1,999	76	29.8%
\$1.00 - \$999	79	31.0%

Distribution of Pledges - 2016

