

## MODERATOR'S NOTES

This is a good week with good news. I have been struggling trying to figure out how to engage with the congregation in building a budget for the next fiscal year. I have often seen God's hand in my life, and it appeared again this week. Several of our members have written a letter to the Moderators' Group asking to assist us with the budget building.

We have a lot of work to do and I yet do not know how to plan and execute as yet, but we'll figure it out.

Those who offered help also offered these suggestions for forming the budget for this coming year. They are good ones and I think we'll be able to apply the principles they outlined:

1. Begin the budget process now.
2. Create a budget with potential scenarios for the whole year (July 2021-June 2022) to be presented to the congregation.
3. The congregation be asked to vote only on the budget for the first six months: July through December 2021, as we did this year.
4. The second 6-month budget cycle (January – June 2022) should be reviewed and voted on in December, as we did this year.
5. Introduce and adopt the zero-based budgeting method. This will enable the council/congregation to have clearer understanding of our priorities and how much money it will take to sustain the church over the course of the next year.

I am very excited to engage with everyone who might be interested to help us make assumptions, develop income estimates, and select the way we might choose to expend the income we think we can generate. On that front we have a new development. The Coastal Community Preschool wants to renew their lease; hope to be able to conclude that transaction and count the rental income for the next year. More to come.

Abundant Blessings in this Easter Season, Bob

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