

# STEWARDSHIP REPORT

I'm Ken Perry, reporting on behalf of the Finance Team of the One Church Board: Doug Fallin, Jane Green and John Edgecombe, Chairman.

Our regular giving to meet the needs of Lakewood's ongoing monthly expenses is not sufficient. This is true even though our expenses are significantly less than they used to be.

Refer to the year end 2023 income and expense statement (next page), and you can see that we had a deficit: expenses exceeded income by about \$90,000. This statement excludes the expenses associated with the disaffiliation from the United Methodist Church. So how have we been able to pay our bills? Even after our major disaffiliation expenses, we still have some money in the bank – primarily from one-time gifts received from the estate of members that have passed away. And in 2023, we benefited from a payroll tax refund program of the federal government.

Our budget for 2024 is close to our actual results for 2023. Perhaps we can reduce expenses by a small additional amount, but to balance our budget, we really need to increase our giving, collectively, by about 10%.

Please prayerfully consider this request. Some members may have meager incomes and are unable to increase their giving by 10%. At the other end of the spectrum, some members are already giving large sums to Lakewood and may find it difficult to increase their already generous giving by an additional 10%. So those of us that are able should strive to increase our giving by a little more than 10% to make up for those that cannot.

A few weeks ago, Pastor Don said, "If you want Lakewood to grow, invite some people to join you at church." Growing our membership will obviously increase our giving as well. So even if you can't contribute much more, you can help by inviting others to come to Lakewood and hopefully join our congregation.

You know, giving is a wonderful thing. Think of the joy you feel when you give a gift to a child. I hope you will each give generously to Lakewood. Give until it feels good, really good. Thanks for considering my request.

Lakewood Church			
2023 Income and Expense Summary			
Contributions			\$796,239
Other Income			\$28,347
	Total Income		\$824,586
Total Expenses			\$915,178
Net Income (Loss)			(\$90,592)
		Roughly	10%