

## For Budget Period July 1, 2010— June 30, 2011

This newsletter is the council's way of communicating regularly with the congregation. We wish to keep you informed of decisions that are made, along with discussions that are happening in the council. We welcome input and conversation with church members. Feel free to contact a council member if you have questions.

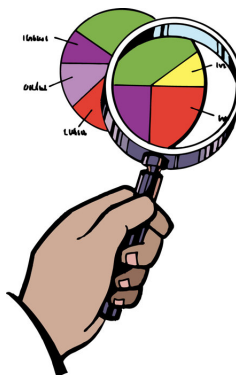
### Council Members

Name	Home Phone
<u>Pastoral Leadership</u>	
Rev. Dan Ackerman	616-836-1100
<u>Elders</u>	
Tom Bonthuis (Clerk)	540-7952
Sarah Cupery	308-7765
Rick DeRuiter (Pres)	554-3245
Carmen Diekevers	583-0339
Brian Vander Bie	633-0395
<u>Deacons</u>	
Nico Damsteegt	532-4268
Olivia Huisman	261-5392
Eric Van Hofwegen (Treasurer)	554-4670
Kevin Wilson (Chair)	827-0139
George Wit	669-9445

## Crafting a Budget in Uncertain Times

As the Council presents you with the 2011 budget for your consideration (July 1, 2010 – June 30, 2011), we thought it was important for you to have an introduction to the budget.

All of us find ourselves in uncertain times. No doubt, if asked, most of us would only be guessing how the housing market, the stock market, or employment situations will be 12 months from now. We might guess that they'll improve. We might guess that they will deteriorate. In reality, it is very difficult to tell.

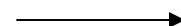


The Council found itself pondering the same idea about pledges. In good economic times, pledges may offer the church an opportunity to exercise faith and believe that God wants to stretch the church. In uncertain economic times, pledges may instead have the unintended consequences of stopping the church from dreaming. Right now, we find ourselves in an uncertain place. Are pledges a conservative picture holding us back or an opportunity to step forward in faith?

Take for instance, that our most recent 6-month budget was set at \$266,000. A look at our giving right now shows that we will likely finish the six months very close to the budgeted amount with around \$255,000 in pledges + income. If we simply double that, our annual income would translate to \$510,000 if we maintain the same giving during the next budget cycle.

Yet, our most recent pledges for that budget cycle came in at \$445,000. Without a pledge process, we might have simply doubled the budget and felt rather comfortable doing so. Instead, the pledge amount caused us to have several hours of discussion and prayer about the budget. In each of those discussions, we found ourselves with a dilemma: should we cut down (endangering ministry) or step forward in faith (exercising some risk)?

***How should the Council and Kelloggsville Church respond in such uncertain times?***



## Responding in Faith

The Council believes that Kelloggsville should respond in faith for several reasons. We'll list a few of them briefly below.

- **Kelloggsville Church is a giving community and answers the call.** We believe that KCRC is a giving community of believers. We believed that strongly last December when we talked honestly and openly about increasing pledges and in one week our 6-month pledge increased by over \$15,000. We believed that strongly and saw it answered when we updated the worship space last year with carpet, paint, repairs and stage to find that God replaced every single penny in our capital improvements account.



- **God has blessed our faith initiatives with resources for as long as we can remember.** Whether it has been buildings or ministry, God has been faithful in providing resources for our steps of faith. In recent memory, we have been able to celebrate ministry and the way God has provided for our budget. In fact, over the last 2.5 years, the Council has been talking about possibly spending down reserves because of budget shortfalls, and yet the amount of cash-on-hand remains the same now as it was then! Each year God has surprised us with income to continue to move ministry forward.

- **Kelloggsville Church's ministry is growing.** It may seem over the last few years that we are shrinking. In some sense that is true – there are less worshipers at our morning worship than in previous years. In another sense it would be untrue. In the last 18 months, we have increased the number of people attending overall at Kelloggsville Church. We have had between 60 and 70 new people (most of whom have never made a personal commitment to Jesus) attend Impact at some point this year. We have been blessed with increasing presence and connectivity with local businesses, schools and people this year.

## Responding in Action

- **Recommending a budget of \$525,000.** The Council is recommending a budget of \$525,000 as outlined in the pie chart to the right. We arrived at this budget by looking at historical giving (last 2 budget cycles); reviewing pledges and cash-on-hand resources; reducing spending in some areas; and remaining committed to the support of Kelloggsville's ministry with staff that will enable it to grow and flourish.



- **Raising our prayers.** We expect that God will show us how this budget will be met. However God does it, we will need to be more reliant on and intentional in prayer as a congregation. We ask you to make it a priority in your own times of prayer to pray for the church, and to join us when there are times of congregational prayer during this year for ministry and resources.

- **Deepening our Commitment.** Each of us will have to look at ways we can give this year in broader and deeper ways. When God called his church to be the way his love is expressed in the world, he didn't call us to comfort, he called us to commitment. This is the year to deepen your commitment. Whether in financial terms, time commitments or simply telling the story about and inviting people to see the new places into which God is leading us, we challenge you to deepen your commitment.

# Responding to Questions

## Does this budget include a call to Pastor Laurie or Pastor Gilbert?

Laurie Zuverink will be presented for call by the congregation as ½ time Pastor of Youth in an ordained role if the budget is approved. Our intention is to present Rev. Gilbert Varela for call by the congregation in January of 2011 so that, if he accepts, he can become full time with us in February 2011. Beginning in February 2011, we will receive \$7500 for the last half year of this budget year and approximately \$14,000 the following year for his support from Classis Grand Rapids South.

## What does a “call” mean for Laurie’s position?

Unfortunately, it doesn’t mean an increase in hours or pay at this time. It does, however, recognize her recent degree from Calvin Seminary, provide her with an increasingly level of privilege in leadership (she would be an Elder and Council Member) and broader ministry opportunities (Baptisms, weddings, Communion). It also means that she can represent our church, Classis Grand Rapids South and the Christian Reformed Denomination in volunteer ways as an ordained pastor.

## If we only received the pledged amount, how will we fulfill our budget?

We have the financial resources to cover the shortfall without having to incur any future debt, sell the house, or touch the two months operating reserve that should be kept at all times. This money, as needed, will come from outside income (parking lot license, grants, etc), the land sale proceeds of two years ago and the use of unassigned fundraising money.

## What is happening with the house?

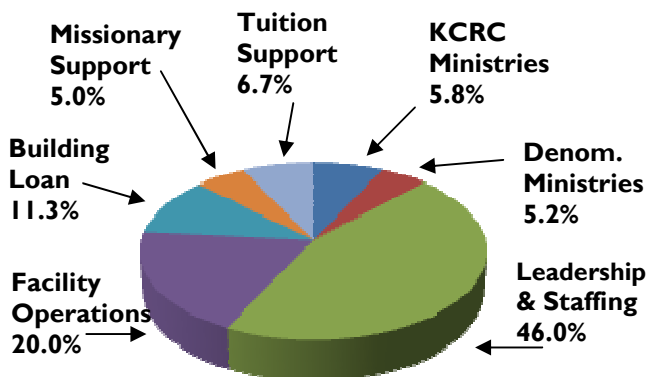
Susan and Chip Kragt have moved to their new apartment near Eastown. They may continue to be involved as volunteers at Tutoring Thursdays, but Susan’s official community development role has come to an end. The Council is considering how to best move forward with the house in the months to come.

## When is the congregational vote and will a detailed budget be available?

The congregational vote is scheduled for June 13 immediately after the 9:30 a.m. service. A more detailed budget will be available next Sunday upon request. All Council members are available via email or personal conversation if you have questions.

# The Numbers and Chart

## How Will Budget be Distributed?



Based on the proposed budget of \$525,000.

- **Missionary Support:** For missionaries that we support directly: local, regional, and worldwide
- **Building Loan:** Principal and interest charges on bank loans/member notes
- **Facility Operations:** Day-to-day operation of the building i.e. heating/cooling, office costs, insurance
- **Christian Tuition Support:** Assistance to qualifying church members who send their children to Christian Schools
- **KCRC Ministries:** Church ministries’ activity and operating costs for the year
- **Denominational Ministries:** For our organizational body, the Christian Reformed Church of North America
- **Leadership and Staffing:** Salaries and benefits for staff