

Holy Comforter Episcopal Church
2025 Narrative Budget
Living Our Faith by Serving God and Others

Our Parish financial stewardship is more than an exercise in meeting a budget. It is one of the most powerful ways that we make our faith visible, viable and active in our Parish, our community and our world. Our Parish is committed to a faithful response to support its Christian missions and ministries. This Narrative Budget is an attempt to show how the treasures we give are put to work to build the Kingdom of God. (All amounts are rounded.)

Anticipated Income: \$ 617,500

This income comes from the generosity of our pledging members, as well as from our unpledged members and donors, and other miscellaneous sources, including fund raising.

Estimated Expenditures:

Supporting the Wider Mission of the Church: (\$ 75,800)

Our Parish's work extends far beyond our own community to the ends of the earth. Through our support of the Episcopal Diocese of Florida we provide support for: Our Bishop and the Diocesan staff in their ministry to our Diocesan family; ministries for newly ordained seminarians, fixed cash benefits for retired clergy and their spouses; Camp Weed and its many youth ministry initiatives; campus ministries at Florida State, The University of Florida and The University of North Florida; urban ministries in Jacksonville (Church Without Walls and St. Mary's Mission to the Homeless) and Tallahassee (Grace Mission); support for the Wounded Warrior's Retreats; 16 jail and prison ministries. From our Parish's Outreach budget, we also provide direct funding for our companion churches in Cuba.

Reaching Out to Serve Our Community: (\$89,400)

We provide a Food Pantry to feed the hungry among us. We provide funds to support Grace Mission in Tallahassee. We also support the Christian education and ministry at Holy Comforter School. Our Priests visit non-members, provide counseling services to residents of our community and participate as our representative in several community organizations.

Preparing for Conducting Worship: (\$82,900)

Our worship is central to the life of our congregation. Our Parish's services on Sundays and Wednesday evenings give us the grace to go forth in our missions and ministries. Planning for Sunday morning worship, preparing meaningful sermons, preparing for and conducting weddings, funerals, baptisms, and other special services require a significant part of our Priests' time. Our Music Director, Organist, Audio Visual Assistant, Altar Guild members and many other volunteers work tirelessly to provide prayerful liturgy. This category also includes costs for music, bulletins, candles, communion supplies, and seasonal decorations.

Educating Our Children, Youth and Adults: (\$52,600)

We continue to develop an excellent Sunday school and Youth program. Curriculum materials and other supplies, expenses for Vacation Bible School are also included here as well as funds to support our Youth Group. We regularly offer a Bible Study program. We also prepare youth and adults for Confirmation and for reception into the Episcopal Church. Our Priests provide chapels, Holy Eucharist, and participate in the life of our school.

Care for Our Church Family: (\$113,300)

Pastoral care is a vital part of our work, especially for people who are ill, hospitalized, bereaved, preparing for marriage, going through divorce, or facing other personal crises. Along with providing direct pastoral care by our Priests, we also provide for the training of Eucharistic Visitors. Our office staff provides information and other services to members such as preparing annual reports for our congregational meeting. They also assist the hungry by responding to countless calls concerning our Food Pantry and other needs. Our seasonal publication of the *Dove* newsletter and our weekly *E-Dove*, Parish website and other publications, Parish campout, campfires, and the many ministries of our Hospitality committee (receptions after funerals, coffee hour, and many more too numerous to name here) are within this category that enables us to sustain our common life together.

Equipping and Maintaining Our Platform for Mission: (\$161,400)

Our Sexton keeps our facilities clean and in good order so that we may perform the work God is calling us to do. Our Finance Manager keeps our financial records. Our worship space, Mercy Lounge, and offices that provide the room for performing the administrative framework that supports our various ministries are included in this resource area. Utilities, insurance, employment taxes and related costs to providing facilities to carry on our work are also found in this category.

Total Resources Required to Perform & Carryout Our Mission: \$575,300

Excess Revenues Over Expenses: \$42,200