



THEODORE PARKER CHURCH
ROOTED *and* GROWING
2024-2025

Understanding and Funding the Operating Budget

Theodore Parker Church is growing and thriving because of the many gifts we share: our time and skills, creativity and care for each other, and financial resources. Pledges from members and friends made during our annual spring pledge drive support **83%** of the church's operating budget.

What does the operating budget pay for?

The operating budget pays for the church's day-to-day expenses. These include compensation for staff (minister, music director, lifespan religious educator, pianist, and administrator) as well as the costs associated with worship services and religious exploration, administration, membership support and growth, social justice programming, and maintenance and operation of our buildings and grounds. Beginning in 2023-2024, the budget also provides health insurance for our minister. Staff compensation accounts for about 70% of the operating budget.

How do we budget for big projects, like accessibility and major building restoration work?

The capital budget covers expenditures for capital improvements of \$5,000 or more. The pledge drive does not fund the capital budget. Gifts for capital improvements are raised separately from the operating budget.

Why is it important to pledge now? What if my financial situation changes after I pledge?

To draft a balanced budget for approval at the annual meeting in June, the Finance Committee needs to know well in advance the level of financial resources members and friends can contribute through annual pledges. We aim to have nearly all pledge commitments April 1.

We understand that changes to a pledge during the year are sometimes necessary. Simply contact the [Stewardship Team](#) about your situation. All personal information shared with the team is strictly confidential.

Members and friends choose a variety of ways to fulfill their pledge:

- Donate securely online by credit card or electronic funds transfer from your bank. You can set up recurring weekly or monthly payments if that is easiest for you.
- Mail your check payable to Theodore Parker Church to P.O. Box 320001, West Roxbury, MA 02132.
- Set up regular payments using your bank's bill pay service.
- Place your pledge donations in the Sunday collection basket.
- Donate appreciated stock.
- If you are age 70½ or older: Make a qualified charitable distribution (QCD) directly from an Individual Retirement Account (IRA).
- Fulfill your pledge through your donor advised fund.

When planning a gift of appreciated stock or a qualified charitable distribution, we recommend that you consult your personal financial advisor.

For more information:

- To learn more about how to fulfill your pledge, please contact the [Stewardship Team](#): Allison Bayer, Gretchen Dietz, John Lambert, and Bill O'Connor. For questions about the budget or the budget process, please contact [Cindy Bergeron](#), Board chair, or [Mark Ferrenz](#), Finance chair.