

**HOW Aldersgate Gives – The Generosity Campaign**

It is quite amazing that most churches are supported financially, almost totally, by voluntary giving. Here at Aldersgate we sponsor a “Generosity Campaign” in the fall of each year to raise funds for our own day-to-day operations and to support programs and missions of the greater United Methodist Church locally, across the US and world-wide.

During the Generosity Campaign we ask that people make a financial pledge for the following year to support the ministries and missions of the church. Pledging is important so leaders can plan an income and expense budget. Tithing (10% of income) is encouraged; however, any amount is considered a blessing to the church. Pledges are non-binding because persons’ circumstances may change through the year.

In 2017 the church income budget is $227,000, including $190,000 from pledges, $15,500 from other member/friend giving, and $17,000 rental fees (the largest being $12,000 for the cell tower/cross). The remaining $4,500 comes from special projects and earnings on investments.

Our expense budget is also $227,000. As a non-profit we are encouraged to plan a zero-balance budget. Aldersgate’s expenses include $139,000 for salaries and benefits for our ten employees (all but one are part-time); $35,000 for utilities, insurance and maintenance; $31,000 for Ministry Shares to The United Methodist Church (supporting programs and missions nationally and globally). The balance of $22,000 goes to local missions, programming and administration.