

Budget 2017 Rationale

The Board is grateful for the harmonious way in which next year's budget came together and appreciates the quick response from our committees in crafting it. We looked at each budget line and wanted to make sure that every department has what it will need to operate, and we feel confident that's the case.

The headline is that in 2017 we'll be budgeting \$16,600 less than this year because of our reduced Reading Room rent. That's a nice financial break, and we're grateful. The Reading Room comprises the largest part of our Church Sharing and Giving budget, which in turn is the biggest percentage of our budget. That feels right. Turning outward to our community and fellow man underlies our Christly mission, and the Board wanted to make sure that first-time donations last year to charitable organizations and the Jointly Maintained Reading Room remain in our budget.

Our Communications Committee also shows a major decrease in spending for the coming year but has been diligently working to upgrade our sound system, an expense that we'll address at our upcoming business meeting. Theirs is just one example of the Manual's demand for "wisdom, economy and brotherly love" demonstrated!

The Building and Grounds Committee is another example, thanks to the attention, hard work and care shown in holding the line on maintenance and service costs.

You'll see justifications given in the budget document for increases, and we invite you to look over these numbers and send any questions to the Clerk's Office prior to our meeting.

In the meantime, here are some verses from Psalm 37 that Mrs. Eddy called her "sacred motto" and a gift from God. "It is His coin, His currency; it has His image and superscription" (*The First Church of Christ, Scientist, and Miscellany* 170:12-26):

Trust in the Lord, and do good; so shalt thou dwell in the land, and verily thou shalt be fed. Delight thyself also in the Lord, and He shall give thee the desires of thine heart. Commit thy way unto the Lord; trust also in Him; and He shall bring it to pass. And He shall bring forth thy righteousness as the light, and thy judgment as the noonday.