



# Garden Grove United Methodist Church

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Dear Members and Friends:

The Finance Committee of Garden Grove United Methodist Church recently received the June 2023 financial data for the Church. This completes the data for the first six months of the year (January-June 2023). This data, as shown in the attached graph, is not good. It shows, that for the first six months of the year, our income has fallen roughly \$20,000 below what we projected in our budget for this time period. This data also shows that our expenses for the first half of the year are over \$30,000 more than our income for the same period. What is even more troubling is that this income to expense difference exists even though we have only made two of our expected six apportionment payments to the UMC Conference. If we continue in this same manner for the rest of the year, our total annual deficit will be well **over \$60,000** without full payment of our apportionments.

As you may know, we have had operating budget deficits of a similar magnitude for the past several years. Due to the up-front payment, we received from the Jamboree Corporation for the long-term lease of our property, we have been able to close the gaps in our deficits in the past through the use of these funds. However, we have now nearly depleted the initial funding we originally received from Jamboree and will not have sufficient funds to close a deficit of this size this year or soon. Other measures will be required to do this. At this time, we don't know what these measures might be, but with your help we will identify and implement them.

You may be asking yourself "What can I do?" Here are **four practical ways**: *First*, you can review your giving and make any increases where you are able: either ongoing or as a one-time gift. *Second*, review your estate planning. Have you included the Church in your estate? This may not help in the short term, but it can have an important effect on the long-term growth and health of our congregation. *Third*, have you made a restricted gift to the Church or its Memorial Fund? If so, consider modifying the restrictions on the gift or gifts that would allow us to support the near term needs of the Church. *Fourth*, you can invite a friend to join us at Church. Invite a friend or neighbor. Or, if you know someone who has stopped attending during the pandemic, contact them and invite them back to Church. The easiest and most certain way to improve our Church income, particularly in the long run, is to increase our attendance and membership.

Would you please prayerfully consider taking any of the four practical ways to help the Church. I believe that with God's help and your support we shall continue our mission and ministries.

Sincerely,

Jim Spangler  
Chairman, GGUMC Finance Committee