

December 6, 2023

Dear Members and Friends:

The Finance Committee of Garden Grove United Methodist Church recently participated in a Town Hall Meeting to let the Church family know where we stand financially. If you were not able to attend the meeting on Sunday, I have included the final two charts from my presentation on the attached page. These two charts summarize where we think we stand for 2023 and 2024. As you might expect from my previous letter, the news is not great. It is also not a total disaster.

For 2023, we do show a year end deficit of approximately \$30,000. This is after we have used the remaining Jamboree funds. We plan to request the use of funds from the income and interest from the Church Endowment Fund to close this deficit. This is not how we would like to use these funds but it seems necessary at this time. In 2024, we expect to receive a \$50,000 grant from the Conference and increase our rental income so that we will cut our deficit in half. We are, however, still showing a deficit for 2024 and will probably carry forward into the future when we do not expect similar grants from the Conference. Please know that the Finance Committee is working diligently with the Church leadership to reduce or eliminate these future deficits in any way we can.

We do, however, need your help. One of the significant issues we are seeing is a drop in giving from the congregation. We understand that the aging of our English Speaking Congregation is a significant factor in this reduction. At this time, we would ask everyone to prayerfully review their giving and consider what you can do to increase your support for our Church in both the near term and the long term. A pledge card is included with this letter. After prayerful consideration, please fill it out and return it to the Church by Sunday, December 17th. I would like to thank you in advance for your consideration and support.

Sincerely,

Jim Spangler
Chairman, GGUMC Finance Committee