

October 11, 2021

2022 MINISTRY PLAN

Dear Friends,

In keeping with our church's vision to "love boldly, casting the light of Jesus into the world" we are pleased to share the enclosed material with information about our ministry plans for 2022.

As we engage the question of our personal stewardship of God's gifts to us, and what our use of those gifts might tell us about our own faith and discipleship in Christ, our theme for the conversation this year will be a playful use of the Southern expression, "*Much Obligated*."

As asked this past Sunday, what comes to mind for you when you hear this phrase? Does it sound common or courteous? Do you hear it as heartfelt, or heavy-handed? What happens when you add "Ma'am" or "Mister" to it? Do you picture John Wayne, Jed Clampett, or perhaps the memory of someone in your own family?

To be clear, we understand *much obligated* as another way of communicating a deep sense of gratitude for the generosity of another. It is way of saying "thank you" or "wow! I really owe you one." Yes, there is an element of duty, but also devotion. It is not a coercive matter of "have to," but an inspired expression of "want to" for the sake of a higher love. Most importantly, it reflects our sense of genuine indebtedness that is rooted in our glad reception of the extraordinary gifts of God.

In *Captain Stormfield's Visit to Heaven*, Mark Twain describes the moment when a certain man is standing before an angelic clerk, trying to understand the means of his admittance and the exact route to his heavenly rest. After receiving his orders to proceed, the captain responds, "*I'm much obliged...(but) why didn't you dart me through when I first arrived?*"

The clerical servant replies, "*We have a good deal to think of here; it was your place to think of it and ask for it.*" At that point in Twain's story, the sailor gets on board. Finally, once he makes the move from customer to citizen, a loud voice is heard, singing, "*A harp and a hymn-book, pair of wings and a halo, size 13, for Cap'n Eli Stormfield, of San Francisco! - make him out a clean bill of health, and let him in.*"

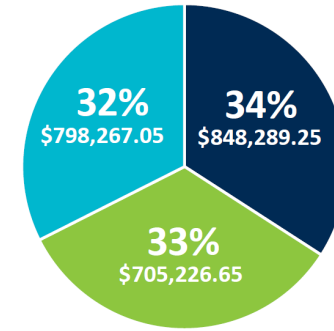
This is amazing grace! In light of all that God has done to provide for us, how could we not respond to this incredible generosity? Are we, too, *much obligated*...and if yes, then how so?

We look forward to diving in to these questions together in this season of intentional learning and discernment. We pray that it will be a time of growth for Fairhope United Methodist Church, and that God will be most glorified through our conversation and response.

Elizabeth Hammock
Stewardship Co-Chair

Bo Blackwell
Stewardship Co-Chair

Darren M. McClellan
Senior Pastor



■ CONNECT ■ GROW ■ SERVE

Here in the South, to say that one is "much obliged" is not a burden, but rather a charming expression of simple gratitude. It is the confession that we have received much and intend to give in kind just as soon as the opportunity presents itself. Congregational generosity in pledging and giving to the 2022 Ministry Plan provides this opportunity. As apprentices to the ultimate Gift Giver, we are able to Connect, Grow & Serve, being Christ's hands, feet and voice.

CONNECT so that we learn to love God and love our neighbor as ourselves. In so doing, we become a community in Christ. In this season especially, where many relationships have been hindered by our inability to engage and see one another face-to-face, our pursuit of life together has been a struggle. However, it is our prayer that we are encouraged in heart, united in love, and re-connected with our church family. 34% of the 2022 Ministry Plan provides for us the means with which to connect.

GROW deeper in our relationship and commitment to God. By studying God's Word, we strive to become disciples. Growing in greater maturity as disciples of Jesus, we transition away from our natural, fearful self-centeredness and toward the realization of a more faithful, God-given generosity. Our objective is to profess openly that we too are "much obliged" before God, and that we intend to do something about it. 33% of the 2022 Ministry Plan is dedicated to accomplishing this growth.

SERVE so that we may do God's work. Certainly, God gives so that we can exist and flourish, but also God gives so that we can help others exist and flourish as well. God's love flows forth and bestows good. The flow does not stop when it reaches us because if it did, we would only be receivers, not givers. Our commitment to service is evident by capturing 32% of the 2022 Ministry Plan.

A more detailed explanation of how we intend to Connect, Grow and Serve via our 2022 Ministry Plan may be found on the reverse side of this page.

Ministry	2021 Budget	2022 Budget
Worship	13,200.00	13,200.00
Music	25,125.00	25,125.00
Evangelism	6,000.00	6,000.00
Adult Spiritual Growth	11,655.00	11,575.00
Church Family Ministry	19,841.00	19,522.00
Children's Ministry	36,066.00	36,066.00
Youth Ministry	69,134.00	69,134.00
Caring Ministry	6,000.00	6,000.00
Communications	12,000.00	12,000.00
Missions	64,606.00	63,606.00
Nursery	1,500.00	1,500.00
Recreation Ministry	12,500.00	12,500.00
Gathering	2,600.00	2,600.00
Stewardship Campaign	3,650.00	6,300.00
Hospitality	3,050.00	3,600.00
Discretionary Fund	2,500.00	2,500.00
Trustees	255,871.00	266,893.00
Utilities	87,567.00	93,423.00
Office Expense	42,006.00	46,206.00
Kitchen Supplies	12,555.00	12,555.00
Custodial Supplies	22,000.00	22,000.00
Financial Audit	9,000.00	9,000.00
Salaries/Staff	1,255,327.41	1,255,761.96
Conference Apportionments	107,250.00	111,919.00
District Apportionments	17,963.00	17,157.00
Mortgage Interest	90,000.00	51,600.00
Mortgage Principal	180,936.00	173,640.00

TOTAL BUDGET	2,369,902.41	2,351,382.96
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STEWARDSHIP 2021



Much
OBLIGED

So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live your lives in him, rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness.

COLOSSIANS 2:6-7