

Financial Support for SLE Church

Introduction

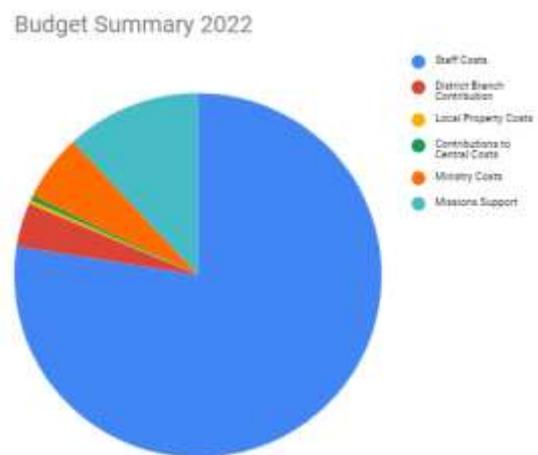
As Christians we have both a privilege and a responsibility to contribute financially, as our Lord enables us, to the building up of Christ's Kingdom, both in SLE Church and around the world.

Budget This Year & Last

Each year the SLE Church Council prepares a budget of expected expenses for the year, and of the weekly income required to meet those expenses.

The largest expenditure is for our staff (3 pastors, staff workers, student ministers and trainees, missions partner, and administrator). Other large expenditures are for missions support, contribution to the St Lucia District Branch (for building maintenance and improvements), and ministry costs.

Last year our required income was \$6,500 each week; as of January 1, our budget estimate for this year is \$7,500 per week. The main reason for the budget increase this year is for the recent hiring of additional staff (including one Ministry Trainee and our new Executive Pastor) as well as the fact that last year we were drawing on our reserves to finance the new Executive Pastor's remuneration.



Missions Support

In the Old Testament, workers were required to give 10% of their income, as well as other free will offerings, to support the Temple and the ministries of the priests.

While there is no prescription in the New Testament for Christians as to how much we are to give for the support of Christian ministries, we are encouraged to give generously. So, in order to set a good example for attendees, SLE as a whole budgets 15% of our anticipated income to support missions endeavours in Brisbane and overseas. Where this income is distributed can be seen on the Church web site.

Annual Income

There have been times some years ago when we found that our ongoing income fell well below budget, but thankfully in the last few years the giving of SLE attendees as well as from returnees and parents of graduates has been more than sufficient for our needs – and for that we are very thankful.

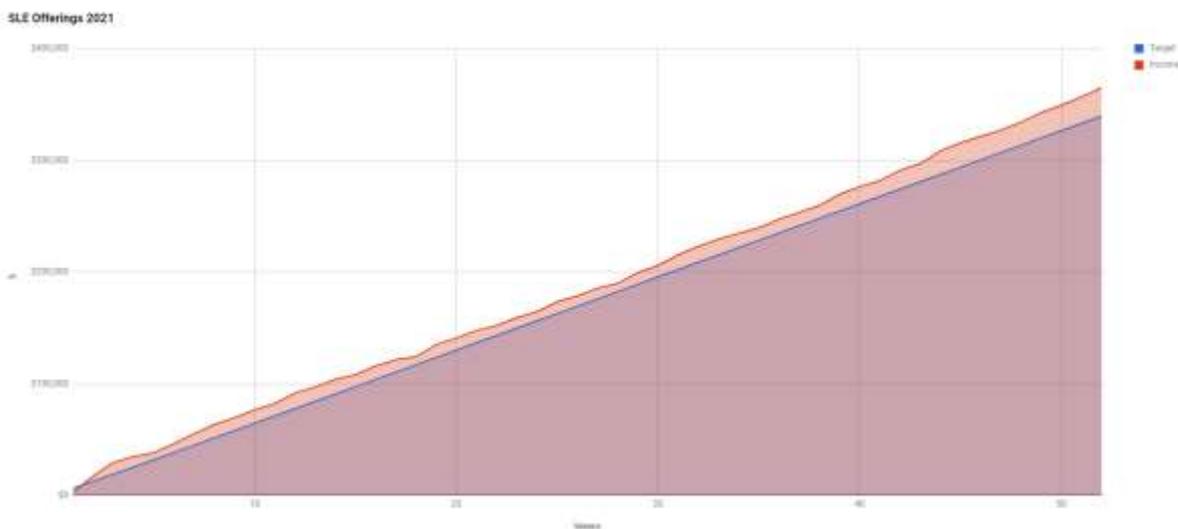
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This additional giving has enabled us to build up the reserves we required to hire our third pastor, however, it would be presumptuous of us to rely on the giving of non-SLE attendees, so we ask all attendees to carefully consider their giving in the light of our budget requirements.

The chart below shows how income last year was tracking in relation to our budget. From the chart you can see that we were tracking very well during the year, but again some of this was due to large gifts from a few individuals. It is still early in this year, but so far income is again tracking budget very well.

Each week income figures are published in the SLE Bulletin, so attendees are able to see to what extent our income is sufficient to meet our budgeted expenses, and attendees are encouraged to consider these updates prayerfully.

Summary



Each year the SLE Church Council prepares a budget of the expenses we believe will be required for our Church to carry out its ministries here in Brisbane and to support the growth of Christ's Kingdom in other parts of the world. We believe that this budget is well within the collective means of the attendees of SLE Church, but although the giving of SLE attendees falls short of what is required, this is more than made up for by gifts from non-attendees. Thankfully, we continue to receive some very generous gifts which will enable us to set aside a surplus for future needs. However, as we cannot count on such gifts, it would be much preferred if all attendees would prayerfully reassess the level of their giving, and would increase their regular giving where they are able.

Due to the current covid-19 pandemic, electronic funds transfer (EFT) is the only accepted means to give to the Church (details of SLE's bank details can be found in our weekly Church Bulletin) and where possible monthly donations are preferred in order to reduce administrative overheads.

While not a rule, we recommend that committed Christians consider allocating 10% of their income to the support of Christian ministries – both within SLE and through other Christian organisations.

Mal 3:6-10, 2 Cor 8:1-15, 9:6-15

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