

Where are we financially at the moment?

Actuals

	April 2020	May 2020	January to May 2020
Income	26,760.21	24,222.44	91,892.72
Expenses	15,385.32	13,797.27	82,088.73
Net Income	11,374.89	10,425.17	9,803.99

Why are we in such good shape right now?

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Ruthanne and Phil's salary's were covered
for the months of

April, May & June

&

Covered Rectory Utilities for the months of
April & May

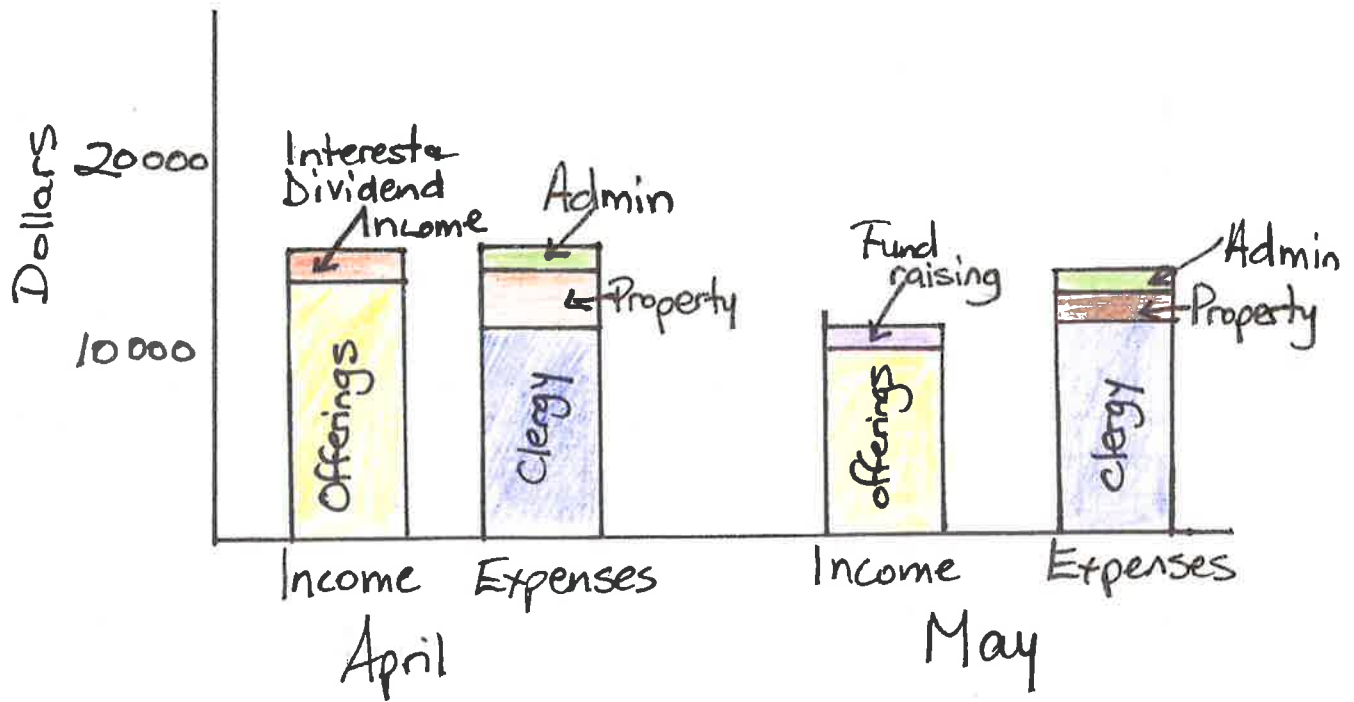
GENEROSITY OF PARISHIONERS

- People have offered a one time donation to help the church
- Some Parishioners are donating multiple months at a time, and this will only be reflected later in the year

STAFF CHANGES

- We have not had to pay salary for Liz or Shirley since the beginning of April (we made sure they were able to make alternative arrangements for their income)
- Deb Eden has been working reduced hours (due primarily to lack of work that needs to be done)
- Ruthanne had already moved to 80% time & salary and continues in that manner

What the last two months would have looked like without the generous financial help from the Diocese. (In other words, a more realistic picture currently)



What does the church need to consider financially moving forward?

SHIFTS IN GIVINGS

First and foremost, we are aware that the economic challenges that Covid-19 have presented to the world affect us all. Some people will find it hard to keep supporting the church in the same way as they did before. We endeavour to be as forthright about the church's finances and simply ask you to prayerfully discern how your support can continue.

- With some people unable or unwilling to attend services in person, their normal offering is not collected. They may not feel comfortable donating online or mailing a cheque. This leads to a decrease in normal offerings.
- Some people have had to decrease their monthly giving due to their financial situations.
- Some people have offered a one-time offering to cover for the year which makes it difficult for us (as much as we appreciate the offering!) to know how to project what might come in next month.
- PAG is the most preferable way for us to manage our budget as it allows us to know what to expect each month (please see following information if you'd like to sign up for PAG)
- We cannot accurately predict what the next two years are going to look like, and so the Corporation discusses these issues monthly as we look at finances - and we will continue to do so.

SHIFTS IN INCOME

- A small amount of money came from **rentals** and we do not expect that to be recouped in the short term until protocols for safety are such that yoga and other events will be held at the church.
- **Fundraising:** Until we know we can gather in larger groups, fundraising will happen in a very different way and for the most part online. We may have to hold a "virtual Christmas Bazaar" this year. We do not assume we will reach our targeted budget amount for fundraising this year.

SHIFTS IN EXPENSES

- Though utilities are down a bit, we continue to have to pay for all utilities and those will go back to normal levels when we regather this fall.
- We will have increased expenses for cleaning protocols and products. This will be ongoing.
- We don't know yet if we will need to pay someone to do our video recording, editing and uploading - but this is the new norm for all churches.

With all the possible financial fluctuations that are happening and might happen, what is the Diocese of Toronto and the Corporation of Ascension thinking about moving forward financially?

ADAPTING PAID AND VOLUNTEER WORK

The shifts in how we staff for ministry have been happening long before this pandemic. Covid-19 has only quickened the pace of our considerations. What we are considering at Ascension is being considered at many churches. If we choose to act proactively, then we can make changes with intention and preparation - not in a reactionary way, not in a panic.

Some of these shifts include:

- Increasing volunteer activity in the administration of the church
- Balancing our paid staff with the financial resources we have (i.e. Ruthanne currently works 80% time and will continue to do so as needed)
- Shared ministry with other churches (not currently being considered)

Clergy are the biggest expense of a church. Increasingly, churches are coming to understand that some of the ministry we assume the clergy will be responsible for can be done by trained lay people. This allows greater involvement of laity and a more affordable priest!

NEW MODELS FOR BUILDING USE

The Church building is a great resource that is under utilized in our own community. Prior to the pandemic we were in talks with various people from the arts community to make our space more inviting and usable. This isn't purely about how much money we can get, but about sharing our gifts for the blessing of our community. Other ideas include:

- Creating a multi-use sanctuary, with moveable chairs, able to meet new spacing requirements for gatherings to attract events, business meetings etc.
- Installing video and audio equipment to make it easy to offer virtual events from the church - for ourselves and for other groups
- Creating community partnerships that are lasting and lead to sustainable sources of income

What you need to know...



First and foremost, thank you. Thank you for your generosity, not only given financially, but in so many ways during these extraordinary times. The amount of food being shared amongst us, we must be the best fed parish! The food bank told us this week they are deeply grateful for the generosity of this community.

There are going to be ups and downs in the months to come. But **we believe in a God who active and involved in our ministry and lives.** *For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope.*



Ministry continues - at Ascension and in Port Perry. We had an excellent conversation with our other partners in the Poverty Coalition. New initiatives are being rolled out to offer practical and loving care to our community. New ways of doing worship and weekly ministry are bubbling away in our minds and our plans. We are excited to think of ways we can share our buildings and other resources, showing people that God's love is generous and abundant.



We need the people of Ascension to prayerfully discern how they contribute to our ministry. We will need volunteers in new areas. We will need creative fundraising endeavours. And we will need money - to pay our taxes and utilities and our staff. Whether it means you need to decrease what you are offering because of your financial situation, stay the same or increase, even a small amount, we ask you to think, to pray and to attend to this necessary part of living in the Church community. A mail slot is being installed in the basement office door to make it easier to drop off donations.



If you are not already on PAG (Pre-Authorized Giving) we invite you to consider making this commitment if you are able. To do so please do one of the following:

Call the church at 905-985-7278 and request that a PAG form be dropped off at your home and later picked up. OR

Email jgomes@united-church.ca. In the email please include: Your name and address & email, church name, PAG Congregation #405 1185, amount of monthly donation, a scanned copy of a void cheque.