

2019–2020 Summit Budget Recommendation

The Summit Church directional elders recommend approval of the 2019–2020 budget of \$33,690,037. A vote will take place on August 24 and 25 in all weekend services. Here is the summary of the [2019–2020 budget](#).

Voting on the Budget

To vote, you must be a [covenant member](#) of The Summit Church. Leading up to the vote on August 24 and 25, if you have questions about the budget, you can [ask them here](#) and someone will be happy to respond. Here are a few of the more frequent and important questions people have about voting for the annual budget.

Why does the congregation vote on the budget?

A congregational vote on the budget is required by our bylaws, as we are a Jesus-ruled, elder-led, and congregationally-accountable church. That means that while the elders provide leadership and oversight for the church, they are accountable to the congregation. Also, while church oversight is the responsibility of the elders, carrying out the ministry and mission of the church is the responsibility of the entire body (Ephesians 4:11–12).

As covenant members, it is our responsibility to 1) approve the budget, 2) to fund the budget through generosity, and 3) to carry out the mission of the church through our participation in ministry. When we vote on the budget, in essence, we are affirming the leadership who has recommended it, the mission it will fund, and our willingness to fund it and carry it out in the coming year. It is a vote of approval and participation.

How can I vote for the budget with confidence, knowing it's responsible, effective, and funding the right things?

This is really an important question. The answer comes down to being able to trust the process, trust the leadership, and view the budget in relation to our mission and ministry effectiveness.

The Process

The budget process starts each year with attendance and revenue forecasting. By looking at historical trends, we are able to anticipate revenue for the coming year; we have a fairly accurate record of doing so. We always work with a conservative estimate, and once we have that number, we set aside a percentage of the projected revenue for our **Growth and Expansion reserve**. This year, we have set that at 26 percent. The remainder becomes what we use to plan our **Ministry Programming budget**. Over the course of several months, our

directional elders, executive team, ministry leaders, and accounting team work diligently through a process of planning and review to come up with a budget that meets all of our fixed costs and adequately funds all of our ministries and **Sending** (Missions).

The Leadership

While the directional elders oversee this process, there are many more leaders who are involved in the details, from our accounting team to the ministry leaders at each campus who oversee the specific ministry areas. There isn't an area of our budget that doesn't have multiple eyes on it and have accountability as the highest priority. The Summit is an [ECFA](#) (Evangelical Council of Financial Accountability) [certified church](#) and we go through an external audit every year. The leadership of the Summit is accountable to our congregation, but we, as congregation members are also accountable to follow—not blindly, but with confidence—knowing there is accountability in place.

Our Budget and Mission Effectiveness

Growth and Expansion Reserve - \$8.7M

Our **Growth and Expansion** reserve is used to pay on our existing debt and save money for future capital projects. While launching campuses in mobile locations is a cost-effective way to begin reaching people, to sustain long-term ministry, the transition to permanent buildings is our goal.

Our Growth and Expansion reserve strategically allows us to build cash on hand to shift us more and more from the reliance on outside financing to the ability to self-fund future building projects. We work with financial consultants who work with some of the largest churches in the nation to help us continually update our long-term financial strategy. Our financial position is one of the strongest among churches of our size.

One of the greatest blessings we have is that our congregation is so generous that our per-person giving average is one of the highest for churches in the nation. We see this as your response to God's generosity, putting him first in everything, and believing in the mission he has given us. Our strategy of reserving a significant percentage of each year's annual income for debt reduction and saving for future growth is helping us be better prepared to continue to reach people today and in the future. **This year, we are setting aside 26 percent of our income for Growth and Expansion.**

Ministry Programming Budget - \$25M

Ministry Programming is the budget it takes to run the church, pay the salaries and bills, and fund all of our ministries, including **Sending** (Missions). This year, we have allocated 74 percent

of our revenue or total budget for this area. There are a lot of fixed expenses in this budget, but this is also the budget that funds our ministries.

We want to make disciples, not just converts, and that involves ministry for all ages, for families, small groups, etc. Our central and campus ministry teams work together along with every member who serves to fulfill our mission of being a disciple-making church. If you have grown as a disciple at the Summit or know any of the 11,000 people who attend one of our campuses who has been impacted by a ministry of the Summit, that, in some way, is this budget at work. Of course, the people who carry out the ministry are the most important, but there are a lot of resources that are essential and helpful to all that is done in our very active church body.

Sending (Missions) Budget - \$4.3M

From our Ministry Programming budget, we allocate 17.3 percent to **Sending** (Missions). At the Summit, we believe every member is sent, whether that's on a short-term trip or to serve our local community. We have sent out over 1,000 members to serve long-term in church planting since 2002, and currently, we have seven times as many missionaries living overseas than any other church in our denomination. We shouldn't be proud, but we are humbly thankful that God has taken what we've offered and done so much! **Our vision is to plant 1,000 churches by 2050, and we are over a third of the way there! God did that, but he used your faithful generosity through The Summit Church's budget.**

What's Next?

We were able to launch our [Garner campus](#) in January 2019, and it's going great! We will soon open up our newest campus, Capital Hills, with 1,800 seats, addressing huge capacity needs that our Brier Creek and North Raleigh campuses have had for over five years.

In all of this, our hope is that you can confidently see that The Summit Church's budget is being faithfully planned and managed in a way that your generosity is reaping a harvest that can only be measured in lives changed and in the treasure that is being stored up in eternity.

Our God keeps doing more than we ask or imagine, and there are exciting days ahead as we continue to follow the Holy Spirit and prioritize the gospel above all!

[Budget Questions](#)

We encourage your questions and want you to be as informed as possible as you pray and prepare to vote to approve the [budget for the coming year](#). The budget vote will take place during weekend services on August 24 and 25. For additional information, please visit our website at summitchurch.com/members.

