

Narrative Budget Overview

The narrative budget is a document that

- 1) Tells a congregation's story of mission and ministry and
- 2) Allocates all of its expenditures to categories of mission and ministry.

The idea behind the narrative budget is to move fundraising in the church away from asking congregants to support the budget and toward asking congregants to support the mission and ministry of the church. This is both more in keeping with generosity as a facet of discipleship and with experience in the field of fundraising.

The narrative budget is usually presented as a brochure that can be enclosed in a stewardship letter or included in a worship bulletin. The brochure has a brief description (1-2 sentences) of 4-6 areas of mission and ministry. In addition to the description, for each of these areas there is a photo of a recent activity in the church pertaining to it, a list of activities, and a budget amount based on recent expenditures related to the area. One may also include needs in the areas that would require additional giving.

Our KnowledgeBase includes links to longer explanations of the narrative budget and sample narrative budgets, as well as printable narrative budgets and a worksheet for translating line-item budget amounts into amounts associated with mission and ministry categories.

**If you have questions or require more
information please contact the
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