

2020 ANNUAL REPORT

EBENEZER CHURCH

MISSION HIGHLIGHTS

Meeting Ordinary Needs in Extraordinary Times

- \$35,000 from the Agape Fund to assist church and community members experiencing financial emergencies
- \$32,000 for hotel rooms to provide safe housing for homeless clients
- \$20,000 for solar panels to provide consistent power to Mercy Hospital in Bo, Sierra Leone
- \$10,000 toward Stafford Food Security's purchase of a food truck to serve at-risk neighborhoods
- \$7,500 for computers for residential remote learning students at Brisben Shelter
- Weekly meals to homeless clients staying in hotels
- 100 food bags to the Heartwood Center for families in need

Changing Course to Stay the Course

- Go For Bo's 10th Anniversary race went virtual, hosting 370 racers and providing \$54,000 to Helping Children Worldwide
- In place of in-person kNOW Hunger events, \$35,000 was donated directly to partner organizations
- Angel Tree went online and supported 15 families, 23 seniors and 100 students with food and gifts

2020 IN REVIEW

Trying to summarize 2020 is like trying to catch lightning in a bottle. There were dangers, but also light and energy. In March of last year, we moved our ministries into virtual environments, and while many are still gathering virtually, we were blessed to find creative ways to be together in person. In August, we began worshiping in person again, and beginning in the summer, many of our ministries joined together in safe ways to do God's work.

The Spirituality In Nature Group, Axis and TNT Small Groups, Disciple Ministries, several Stafford Hope Initiatives, and Drop-Ins with leaders and young ones from our Children's Ministry are just a few of the examples of the creativity of God's people this year.

Amidst a season when many predicted churches would falter and fail, we were blessed to set a new attendance record for Easter worship and welcome over 3,000 people to our Christmas events. I am so grateful for all of the volunteers and staff who have joined together with one another to continue the great work of God's people called Ebenezer in such a challenging time.

Thanks to each one who continues the work of God here at Ebenezer, and thanks be to the God whose inexorable love and grace draws us together in person, through screens, across mission fields, and in our hearts.

Pastor Rob Lough

INNOVATIVE MINISTRY Can't Meet In Person? That Didn't Stop Us!

- Online worship services served worshipers in 40 states and 15 countries
- Children's Ministries provided online lessons and monthly Zoom Sunday School
- Preschool teachers created weekly video lessons for families
- Students and adults found support through virtual and in-person small group meetings
- More than 1,100 people safely enjoyed our in-person Christmas Experience

CONGREGATIONAL CARE AMIDST A PANDEMIC

A Commitment to Connection

- Prayers at Noon via Facebook Live with Pastor Monica
- Open drop-in group sessions with our Counselor twice a week and hundreds of hours of individual sessions
- Conversations with Pastors
- Porch visits from the visitation team and phone calls from volunteers
- Parent group meetings
- DivorceCare and GriefShare classes focused on surviving the holidays
- Spirituality In Nature Group met for outdoor exercise and fellowship

LOOKING FORWARD

Remember when Pastor Rob said that Ebenezer should have a baby?

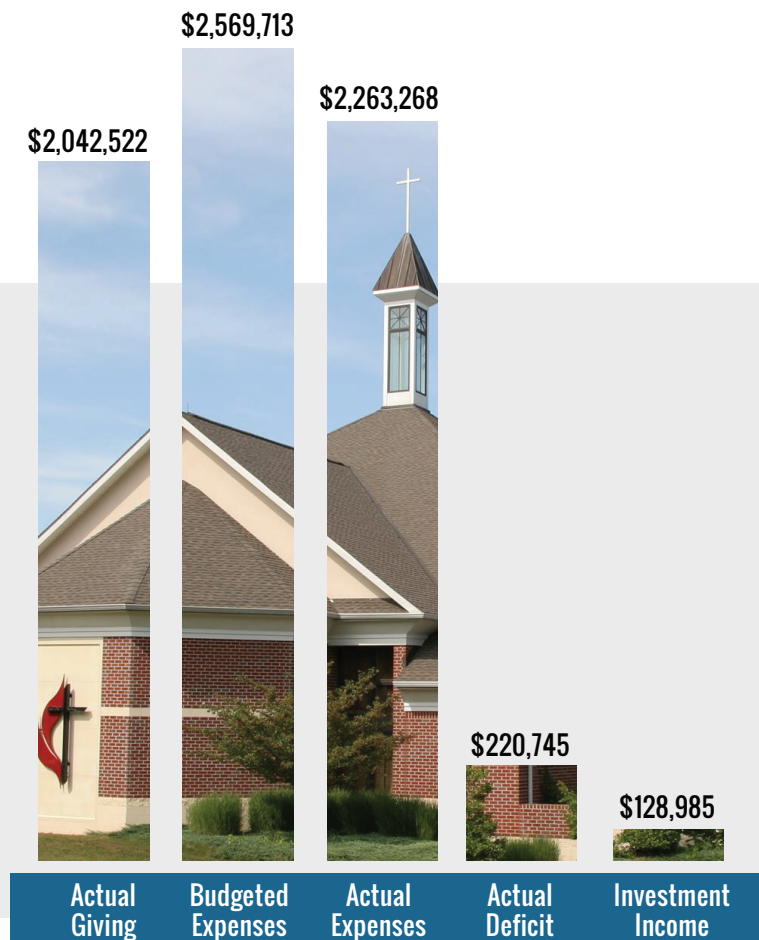
As part of our Focus 2025 Vision, in 2021, Pastor Monica will lead the development of our expanded campus using a model of Fresh Expression gatherings and distributed Micro-Churches.

The pandemic has shown us new ways to worship, and we see growth in the Kingdom of God in the form of smaller groups of worshipers. When appropriate, we will also expand our current in-person worship services to safely serve those who desire to gather in larger settings at the church.

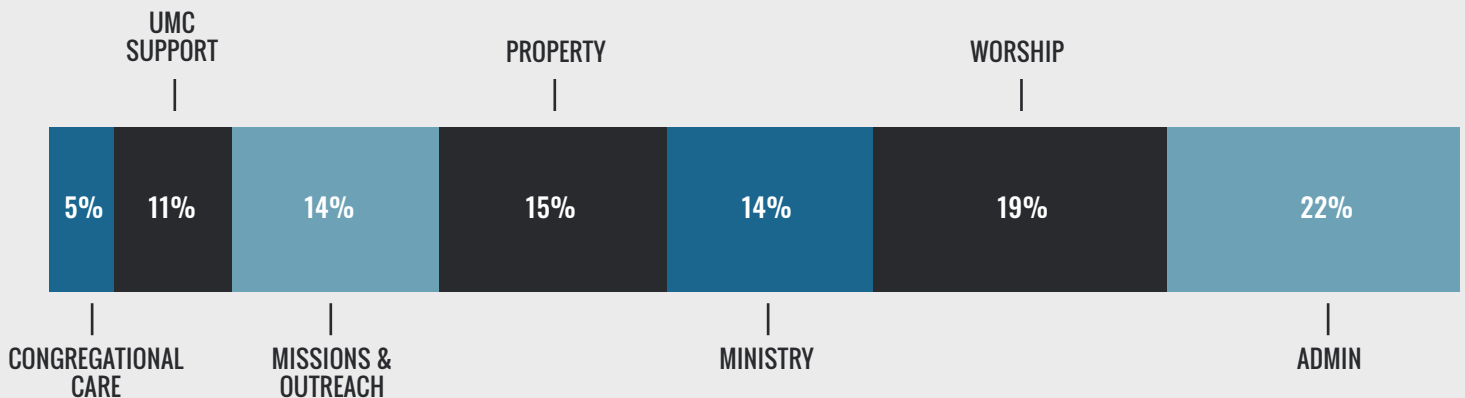
GENERAL FUND AT EBENEZER

General Fund giving in 2020 was \$2,042,522. This was 14.5% less than 2019, but we were also able to reduce planned expenses by \$307,000. While the church ended the year with a deficit of \$220,745, our cash position was improved by our investment income of \$128,985 for the year, leading to an overall deficit of \$91,760.

In April, our Governing Board approved the application for a loan as part of the CARES Act Paycheck Protection Program (PPP). Proceeds from the loan were used to replenish the church's Reserve Fund which was used to cover the deficit. The loan was converted to a grant in January 2021 and will be reflected in the 2021 annual report.



WHERE WAS OUR MONEY SPENT IN 2020?



Congregational Care – includes counseling, connection services, and lay leadership

Missions & Outreach – includes support of local, national and international mission partners and individual assistance

UMC Support – includes apportionments paid to both the district and the conference

Property – costs of maintaining the physical church

Ministry – includes children, student, young adult, and adult ministry expenses

Worship – includes expenses associated with the pastors, worship leader, music ministry, and supplies associated with worship services

Administration – general expenses associated with supporting all aspects of the church's mission, including general office, communications, finance, etc.