



**2023-2024**

# Proposed Budget

**IGNITING A PASSION FOR JESUS IN CONNECTICUT,  
NEW ENGLAND AND AROUND THE WORLD.**



# As you prepare to vote on the proposed budget for 2023-2024,

**THERE ARE FIVE THINGS WE WOULD LIKE YOU TO KNOW.**

**1**

## **People's lives are changing because of God's work through Walnut Hill.**

### **Celebrating a Fruitful Report**

Our Annual Report document is full of stories and facts illustrating the life-changing happenings across our campuses. Take time to read through the report and celebrate God's goodness!

### **Becoming an Attractive Community**

As you share your stories with your friends and family, they are becoming curious to know more about Walnut Hill. Praise God! We saw a 24% increase in the number of newcomers in the past year. On average, we welcomed 79 new friends to church each month and saw a total of 943 newcomers in the 2022-2023 year!

**2**

## **We are thankful for God's provision through your faithful giving.**

In the fall, we shared with the church that we had begun to see a 10% reduction in giving and asked you to prayerfully consider how you could help.

We praise God for the generous response of so many, which resulted in getting us back on track. We are excited to share that if giving continues at the same rate, we will meet our expenses and, prayerfully, be able to strengthen our operational reserve.

Thank you for giving sacrificially of your time, talents and financial resources.

### **Did you know?**

- **948** families gave to God's work at Walnut Hill this past year.
- We saw a **23%** increase in new givers compared to last year.
- It is particularly exciting to see regular giving from every age group, including children and teenagers all the way through seniors!

**3**

## **Walnut Hill is a good steward.**

God calls each of us, including His Church, to be a good steward of the resources we receive. We take this seriously and focus on doing all the little things and big things well.

### **Loving Our Volunteers**

We are grateful for all our volunteers who choose to generously donate countless hours in and around our campuses to keep them operational, beautiful and safe. As we consider facility costs, both measurable and immeasurable, we would like to specifically acknowledge the hours volunteers donated to our campuses in the following areas:

- Preparation/setup/takedown/cleanup of our multi-campus food distribution ministry
- Planning, setup and breakdown of campus events
- Outdoor beautification, cleanup and maintenance of our properties
- Interior organization, repairs and renovations

### **Proactively Saving**

Our Finance and Operations Team has developed a 20-year maintenance strategy that outlines the large property repairs and costs that will be incurred each year at all church properties. Each year, we have a goal of saving \$150,000 in order to appropriately maintain and grow the fund.

## **Did you know?**

Walnut Hill is a member of the Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability (ECFA) by representing the highest standards of financial stewardship and integrity.



In 2023-2024, our savings will enable projects such as:

- HVAC/Boiler replacement in Waterbury and Derby
- Resurfacing of the parking lot in Derby
- Final phase of roof replacement in Waterbury
- General maintenance across all campuses

#### **Increasing Resources Available for Ministry**

We pay close attention to the details of our budget — right down to the light bulbs — so we can fully equip our ministries.

### **4 Many factors are considered in Walnut Hill's budget.**

#### **Monitoring Trends**

We trust God and know that He expects us to pay attention to the world around us. Changes in the economy have led to increases in utilities, contracts, benefits, and costs associated with maintenance and supplies. This year's budget reflects these changes and takes into account increasing usage of our facilities as ministry continues to grow.

#### **Fostering Community**

As we have prayed about this upcoming year, we believe that God wants to instill in us a fresh desire and commitment to gather as His Church, build friendships and grow in Jesus together. For this reason, this year's budget appropriately allocates resources to connections ministry, adult discipleship and specific initiatives within our next generations ministries (children, youth, young adults).

#### **Arise and Shine**

We are excited for this next year's annual theme, "Arise and Shine," and believe that this budget supports the vision that God has given us. Please see the Annual Report to read more.

God has given Walnut Hill a great vision to ignite a passion for Jesus in Connecticut, New England and around the world.

It's an honor to do this together as a family. Thank you!

5

### **Walnut Hill is setting a fiscally responsible 2023-2024 budget.**

Our Finance Team and Elders have prayerfully labored over the proposed budget.

#### **Aligning Ministry Costs with Giving**

In assessing giving trends, our leadership believes it to be prudent to maintain the same Operating Budget of \$3,702,000.

While operational costs have increased, our staffing levels have decreased due to transitions within Worship and Arts, Care and Local Outreach ministries. This has enabled us to present a balanced budget.

While this budget supports ministry needs for this upcoming year, we prayerfully anticipate God building His Church so that in future years additional resources will become available.

#### **Planning for Leadership Transition**

As our Elders continue to seek God for His direction for Walnut Hill, including the future model and makeup of our Senior Leadership, we believe it is vital to have flexibility and capacity within the 2023-2024 budget.

As such, this year we have included a Supplemental Budget of \$200,000. Supplemental items will be authorized by the Finance Committee and Elders upon evidence of increased giving or through the use of our operational reserves. These items will include costs associated with leadership transition or unanticipated inflationary costs.

#### **Aligning Expectations**

We will closely monitor giving and make necessary adjustments to our budget to ensure that contributions and expenses are in line with one another. We thank God that we have been able to do this well over past years.



# 2023-2024

## Church Budget Framework

This year, our annual Church Budget of \$4,542,000 is made up of four components. As in prior years, we will monitor expenses on a monthly basis and make necessary decisions to ensure that contributions and expenses are in line with one another.

### 1. Operating Budget

The proposed 2023-2024 Operating Budget is \$3,702,000 which is the same total amount as last year. The Operating Budget does not include Ignite Legacy, Church in Action or Benevolence. Those are separate funds.

### 2. Programs, Trips and Retreats

Each year, the ministry of Walnut Hill includes individually funded youth retreats as well as ministry events, programs and trips. These activities pay for themselves.

### 3. Use of Facility Reserves

Our Finance and Operations Team has developed a 20-year maintenance strategy that outlines the large property repairs and costs that will be incurred each year at all church properties. We have budgeted up to \$400,000 to allow for both planned and emergency facility costs.

### 4. Supplemental Budget

The proposed 2023-2024 Church Budget seeks approval to spend up to \$200,000 on transition related/unexpected inflationary costs that will be approved by the Elder Board. These expenses will be funded by increased giving or through use of Operating Fund reserves.

### Proposed 2023-2024 Church Budget

1. Operating Budget .....	\$3,702,000
2. Programs, Trips and Retreats .....	\$240,000
3. Use of Facility Reserves .....	\$400,000
4. Supplemental Budget .....	\$200,000

Total: \$4,542,000

(4.6% increase if the Supplemental Budget is fully utilized)

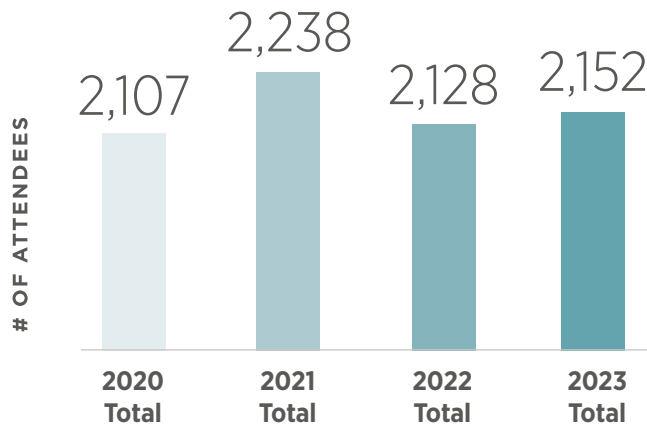
Expense	2022-2023 Approved Budget	2023-2024 Proposed Budget	Increase (Decrease) In Current Year Proposed Budget	Variance Explanation
Weekend Worship and the Arts	626,000	578,000	(48,000)	Change in staffing and ministry costs
Adult Ministry	311,000	311,000	-	
Children's Ministry	288,000	295,000	7,000	Increase in curriculum and community events
Youth Ministry	268,000	268,000	-	
Prayer Ministry	125,000	125,000	-	
Care and Connection	345,000	323,000	(22,000)	Change in staffing and ministry costs
Evangelism and Local Outreach	297,000	271,000	(26,000)	Change in staffing and ministry costs
Communication and Marketing	210,000	210,000	-	
Campus and Facilities	848,000	933,000	85,000	Increase in utility and maintenance contracts
General and Administrative	384,000	388,000	4,000	Increase in professional fees and contracts
<b>Total Operating Expense</b>	<b>3,702,000</b>	<b>3,702,000</b>	<b>-</b>	

# 2022-2023

## Campus Attendance Averages

We praise God for the growing number of people who call Walnut Hill home! Each of our campuses saw incredibly healthy growth as more people returned to consistent in-person attendance and newcomers connected into the life of the church. We are grateful for our Online Campus, which often serves as the entry point for newcomers to the church.

### All-Church Average Weekly Attendance

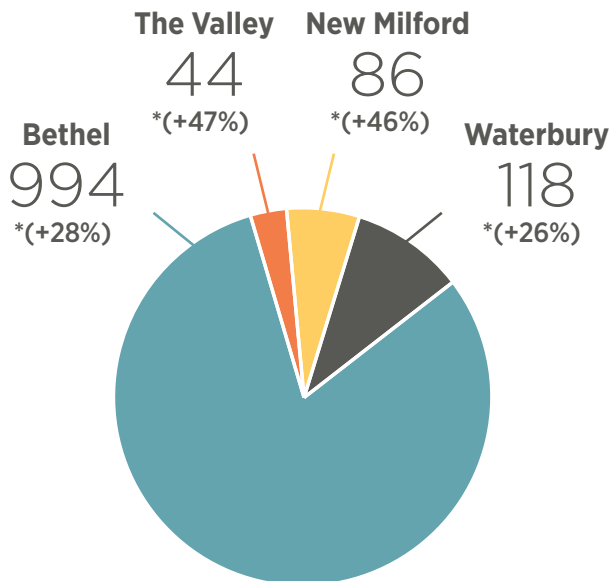


### DID YOU KNOW?

- In the past nine months, we have seen an 8% increase in the number of households that connect with us online.
- An average of 910 people join us online each week for worship.
- Approximately 20% of our viewers join us from outside our local area, including 36 U.S. states and 17 nations!

Beginning in January, we saw a sudden increase in people returning to in-person worship services. With the increase came a sense of momentum and anticipation as more people asked for prayer, engaged in worship, and stayed longer after services to talk with one another. We thank God for His work in our lives and ask Him to do even more!

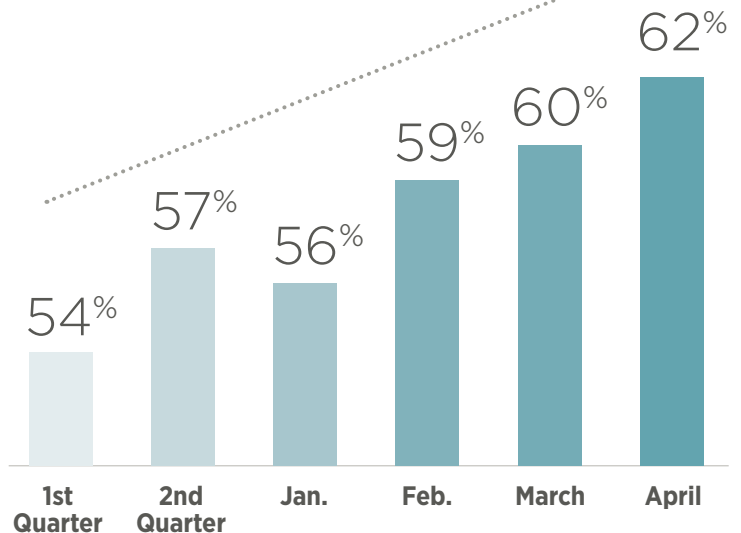
### Current In-Person Attendance



\*Percentage increase over last year.

### Percentage of In-Person to Local Total Attendance

We are excited to see an increasing number of our congregation worshipping together at one of our local campuses.





# Financial Oversight

The bylaws of Walnut Hill Community Church require that an annual church budget be submitted to the congregation for approval.

The annual church budget is a member-approved budget that helps us fulfill our mission of “Igniting a passion for Jesus in Connecticut, New England and around the world.” The budget covers ongoing costs related to children, youth, adults, prayer, pastoral care, worship services, evangelism and others, as well as the upkeep of campus facilities and the enablement of ministry (administration, support, finance, communications and IT) across our five campuses. The budget does not include money raised for Ignite Legacy, Church in Action, Benevolence or special fundraising campaigns.

Our congregants’ generous giving of their tithes and offerings to the Operating Fund allows Walnut Hill Community Church, by the enabling of the Holy Spirit, to engage in ministry and steward all that He has given us.

The finance office is accountable to the Finance and Operations Team and the Elder Board. Each month, reports summarizing the general Operating Fund contributions and expenses are presented to the Finance and Operations Team and the Elder Board. In addition, reports summarizing the financial assets, liabilities and fund balance are also presented.

In line with Walnut Hill’s bylaws, at the end of each fiscal year (June 30), an independent CPA firm is required to perform an audit of the financial statements. A copy of the audited financial statements can be found on our website at [www.walnuthillcc.org/give](http://www.walnuthillcc.org/give).

## **Have Questions About the Budget?**

Attend the budget Q&A meeting on Monday, June 5, at 7 p.m. via Zoom. For meeting information or to submit questions directly to our Finance Team, please email Doug Palmer at [dpalmer@walnuthillcc.org](mailto:dpalmer@walnuthillcc.org).

