



**uniting
church**
Orange

10th June 2020

**OUR BUILDING
IS CLOSED.**

**THE CHURCH
IS NOT.**

JOIN US FOR WORSHIP
HELP US SERVE
GET CONNECTED

Distant Socialising

A Letter from Rev Andrew

Readings for Sunday 14th June: Pentecost 2

Genesis 18:1-15, (21:1-7); Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19; Romans 5:1-8 & Matthew 9:35-10:8, (9-23)

What would you grab if your house was at risk from fire or flood – what is most important to you? That question works for possessions, physical items, but what else do we hold onto with determined loyalty whatever the cost? Our family and friends? What about our job?

In times past a job was the stable basis of most people's lives, something that identified who you were and seldom changed. John the postman. Gill the baker. We knew who and what people were. Have you ever been known in this way? What about Dave/Anne the Christian? Is our faith one of the ways that we are identified?

Society has moved on: making new life choices is now common, even advisable. Being in the same role for 20 years is a reason to change, not to stay. I wonder what those early followers of Jesus felt when he called them from their jobs – fishing and tax collecting – to send them out with the good news of the kingdom. And to people who might reject and persecute them! It doesn't seem like a good career move.

But they went. In our risk-averse age we like our comfort and security, and we are told not to do certain things (e.g. run in the corridors, participate in very dangerous pursuits). If faced with difficulties, are we more likely to give up than to deal with them? But the disciples went. Why do you think they were able to do that?

How might that apply to and help us, today? Distant worship? Finding new ways to worship in the post COVID world? Caring for each other? Connecting with our community? Looking at church finances in new ways?

Probably all of the above!

Let's step out together as witnesses for God, and showing that God is worth trusting with our present and future.

Thank You...

This week I sent an extra email looking for volunteers to clean, delivery newsletters and to seek accommodation for a young woman.

Thank you for your willingness to respond.

You may remember a couple of months ago, I asked you to commit to connect with and care for each other during this time. What an example you are being!

New Email Address

Please note that we have another new email addresses for you to use.

The **office** is now orange@nswact.uca.org.au

Sunday Worship

Worship this Sunday will again be using the YouTube channel and Zoom (a new 'meeting invite' from this Sunday which is included in the email).

Please get in touch, and someone will be happy to talk you through how get connected. You can also phone into Zoom gatherings if you don't have a device. Just ask!

Hopefully see you then.



Contact Details

Due to the current health situation, the church office is not open to the public.

The care and administration of the church will continue, so if you want to contact us feel free to do so by phone or email.

Church Office

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Find us on

YouTube

Financial Stewardship

A letter from the minister, chairperson and treasurer

It is time to talk clearly about money.

You will have received the proposed budget for 2020-2021 (I have attached the most update version of that with this mailing).

You no doubt have some concern about the proposed deficit for the coming year, and the fact this is increasing year on year. The current COVID 19 situation has compounded the issue with the loss of some hall and car park rental income.

We want to thank you all again for how you have made great efforts to keep your offerings and donations coming in and supporting the work of the church.

In this last 6 months, the Resources Team (Finance, Property and Risk) have made a commitment to seek to have your offerings, donations and fundraising go towards the Mission and Ministry of Orange Uniting Church, and for the buildings to become self-funding. This is no easy task, but something must be done, and we feel that this is a way that we can clearly show you how your offerings and other giving, are going towards the work of the kingdom of God.

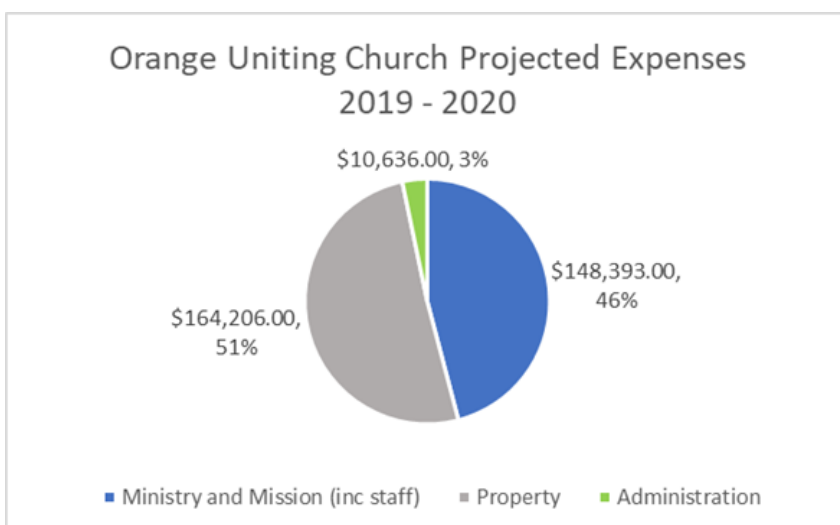
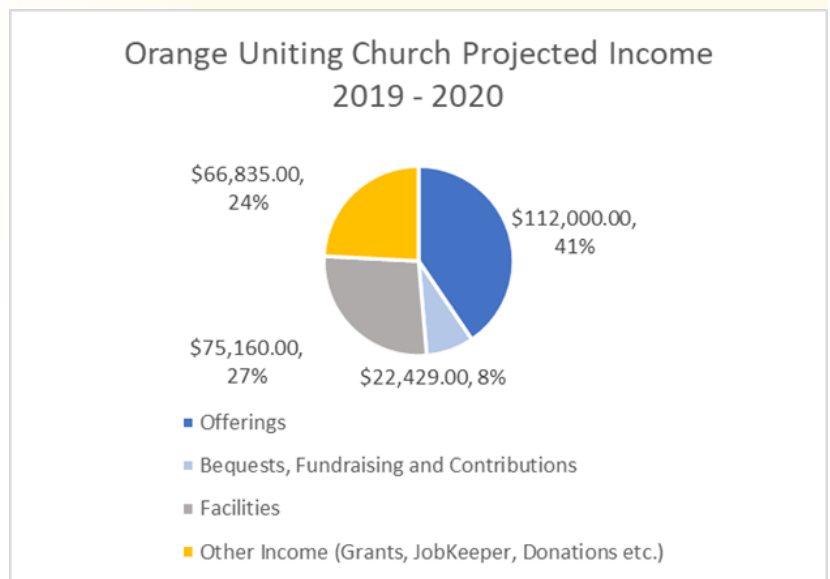
Let us show you in charts how this looks for the 2019-2020 financial year.

Income

You can see to the right that the blue slices of the chart equate to 49% of income totalling \$134,429.00. This is made up of offerings, bequests, fundraising and other contributions.

The grey slice of the chart is income from our facilities equating to 27% of income totalling \$75,160.00. The remaining yellow slice is from grants, other donations, Job-Keeper and ATO COVID support, interest and sale of furniture. This equates to 24% of income totalling \$66,835.00.

Our total projected income for 2019-2020 is \$276,424.00.



expenses.

As you can see there is a shortfall in income in this area of mission and ministry of \$13,964.00 for the current financial year. **This requires a 10% increase in this area of our income in order to break even in our Mission and Ministry Costs.**

The remaining areas of expense are Property and Administration, totalling \$174,842.00, or 54% of expenditure. Even without the loss of income from property and carpark income, we are a long way from our facilities being self-funding.

Expense

The graph to the left shows our projected expenses for the 2019-2020 financial year.

The blue slice of the chart is 46% of expense totalling \$148,393.00.

Under our new system, this is the amount of expense that is due to be covered by the two blue slices in the first graph. These are the Mission and Ministry expenses which include costs relating to **staff, worship, pastoral care, community connection, scripture in schools, the Easter Festival, Orange and District Ministers' Association, Mustard Tree Café, Hot Meals Outreach, Messy Church, support for people in need, lay person's training, Presbytery Levies and congregational**

The Way Forward

So, where to from here?

Offerings

We may have heard it said that Jesus talks more about money and possessions in the Gospels than he does about any other subject: heaven, salvation, or evangelism. What we miss sometimes is the most obvious: he doesn't talk about money and the church; Jesus talks about money and me. He talks about my possessions, what I own and what owns me; he talks about how what I have helps or hinders my walk with God. Jesus talks about how I invest my money and resources, and what that says about where I put my trust and what it says about where I think I will find happiness, security and contentment.

We will not tell you how much money that you should give to the church through your offerings. There are many practices in this area which people have used scripture and economics to support and we are happy to discuss this with you over a coffee some time!

We acknowledge that all our members are in different financial situations. For some of you, your available financial resources, after your essential costs, have reduced over the years. For some it has increased. For some you may need to have difficult conversations with your spouse or partner about how much to give to the church. For some you may support other worthy charities. The list goes on...

If you were to ask us, 'how much more should I put in the offering', we would have to suggest, based on the maths, that we all increase by 10-15% - but it's not that simple for everyone, as the previous paragraph highlights.

Another thing to do is to set up a weekly or monthly direct payment into the church account, so that there is a consistent cash flow week by week and month by month.

Based on our average attendance on Sundays, the average that each person gives in an offering each week is about \$18. Some give more and some give less.

If we could increase that to an average \$22 per person per week in the coming year, we would bridge the gap. If we could increase it even more, then we could expand our work in new ways.

Also, please engage with the leadership of the church. If you think that money is not being spent wisely, or in a way that honours God, then come talk to us.

Lives should be changed as a result of your offering – yours, other church members and the community around us.

Properties

In relation to our buildings, particularly on Anson Street, we have a great opportunity to make more money through rental and hire of these spaces. We are working towards this and the planned redevelopments are a key part of this.

The aim of the redevelopments that are planned over the next 18 months are threefold.

- ⇒ We believe that all of the planned redevelopment will support our mission through better and more usable facilities.
- ⇒ We want to bring the facilities to a high standard of repair so that general maintenance costs will be reduced over the coming years, reducing the financial burden on the congregation.
- ⇒ We believe that improved facilities will allow for more and better use of them, and ultimately a greater income which will maintain the buildings and could even support our mission and ministry.

Please be assured that these improvements will not be a burden on our congregation members as we are working closely with Synod, who see Orange as a strategic regional congregation.

The money to support these improvements will come from sales proceeds and the Synod Growth Fund.

We will not proceed with the redevelopments until that money is confirmed. We will not come to you for financial support other than to support our Mission and Ministry and any ongoing maintenance of the facilities that arises in the meantime or into the future.

Please pray about this and commit our plans for financial sustainability to God.

God bless, and keep in touch.

Andrew, Bob and Henry



Giving Direct

Confidential giving via electronic banking can be used for either a regular payment or one-off payment from your bank account to make your offering.

Account Name: Giving Direct – Orange UC

BSB: 634 634

Account Number: 100046973

- all deposits made to this account are taken as offering payments.

- do not use this account for any other church related deposits.