

*Madison Christian Church  
(Disciples of Christ)*



*2022 Narrative Budget*



*2022 Budget: \$141,500*

*"Money is not the only commodity that is fun to give. We can give time, we can give our expertise, we can give our love, or simply give a smile. What does that cost? The point is, none of us can ever run out of something worthwhile to give."*

*Steve Goodier (United Methodist minister)*

# Our Mission

## *BECOMING. BELONG. BELIEVE. BEFRIEND.*

### **We are BECOMING Disciples of Christ.**

- We are constantly evolving as disciples. In order to do this:
  - We are part of a movement known as The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).
  - We value both faith and reason. Discipleship is a life-long process where questions are valued as part of growth.
  - We follow Jesus by putting our faith in action locally and around the world.

### **We BELONG at the table, everyone.**

- All means all – You are welcomed and celebrated for who you are here!
- Come as you are. We mean it!
- No matter who you are, what your beliefs are, what you've done or haven't done we want you here with us.
- You are welcome to participate in all areas of church life. Participate as you feel comfortable.

### **We BELIEVE in life-changing connections.**

- Jesus calls us to genuine relationships of love.
- The Bible is alive with relevance today. We take the Bible seriously; not literally, and we interpret it in the light of Jesus' life and teaching.
- Through our gifts of time, talent, and money we build loving relationships with our community.

### **We BEFRIEND the world around us.**

- We are a church of open doors. We are called to reach out beyond ourselves in love to others in need.
- Compassion compels us to act to help others in any and every way we can.
- We work with other churches, faith groups, and organizations to bring hope and fight injustices.



# *An Invitation*

As a part of our community of faith, you are invited to participate in the practice of giving. Regular, generous giving to God through the church is one way that we grow deeper in our faith. It is a way by which God can work through us to change the lives of others within our community, state, nation, and world.

## *2022 Narrative Budget*

The Stewardship Ministry Team is excited to present the 2022 Madison Christian Church Narrative Budget. The Narrative Budget highlights the ministries of our church in a visual format. We believe this reflects our calling at this time and in this place. The information in this packet is designed to encourage you to connect your giving to all our individual ministries by exploring their purpose and mission. We are continually amazed at the results of how our collective gifts are used for God's work. Madison Christian Church is a generous church! We encourage everyone to read this narrative budget, learn about our many opportunities for ministry, and determine how to best apply your time, talent, and treasure to participate in the success of our many missions.

*Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.  
2 Corinthians 9: 6-7*



# *Becoming*

## Ministry Teams

IT  
Property  
Van

At Madison Christian Church we believe that discipleship is a life-long journey and that we are always evolving in our Christian faith.

Our church building and grounds provide us with opportunities to grow in discipleship as we learn, worship, pray, and serve together. Our church building is a place where people come together for weekly Bible study and worship, and where our community members can participate in support groups and counseling.

Our Outdoor Worship Center is a place where we worship in nature through our Easter Sunrise Service and our new community-wide Blessing of the Pets service. Our front lawn is the perfect place to set up our Trunk or Treat festival and Easter Egg Hunt, so we can serve the community at special times of the year.



Our Information Technology and Social Media teams ensure Madison Christian Church has a reach into the wider community.

Our worship services are streamed live via Zoom and recorded each week and uploaded to our YouTube channel, our Facebook page, our email Weekly Update, and our website so that those who are unable to attend worship are still able to stay connected to our worship practices. Our Facebook page, Weekly Update, and website have up-to-date information about upcoming events, serving opportunities, and ministries.



Our covenant partnership in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) provides us support in a wider range of discipleship opportunities. Through the Alabama-Northwest Region our youth and adults attend Christian camps and retreats, grow in faith at Regional sponsored transformation events, and attend Regional Assembly where all of our churches gather together for worship, learning, and service. Our church van is essential in our travel to such events and as we partner with the wider church to help provide a means for all to participate in church life.

Through our participation in general church special offerings we are an active part of the world-wide ministry of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), a movement for wholeness in a fragmented world.

## *Belong*

### Ministry Teams

Evangelism  
Fellowship  
Worship

As a congregation, we engage in a variety of acts of care for our members, friends, and community. This includes minister and elder visitation to hospitals and care facilities delivering companionship, encouragement, affirmation, support and, when asked, the Lord's Supper. MCC members visit those in need as well as provide meals, cards, and prayer. Our church leadership and members within the church pray for, and pass prayer requests for members, families, and friends throughout the congregation.

Our minister provides counseling and guidance when appropriate. Events including showers, weddings, ceremonies, and funerals are celebration of life, which our staff provides for members, friends, and the community around us. Our minister visits with individuals and their families preparing for and during surgery or illness, experiencing life transitions, and spends hours when other stressful circumstances occur. Milestones of life are recognized and celebrated as well through our presence and support.

Our Helping Hands fund has provided financial and spiritual support directly to members of Madison Christian Church when needed.

Our ministry offers the congregation opportunities for worship and fellowship activities that help connect members and others as they live out their faith as one body of Christ. We start each week with coffee fellowship before our Sunday school classes and worship service, giving us a chance to visit with one another. Worship is central to who we are as God's people. At worship we gather to sing praises to God, offer our prayers, proclaim the word of God, and celebrate God's grace and love at the Lord's Table where all are welcome. We celebrate communion during each worship service with allergy-free elements so that all can participate regardless of dietary restrictions.

We also gather to celebrate special occasions and annual events including our Easter sunrise service, Thanksgiving Interdenominational service, Elders' Holiday dinner, and



Christmas Eve service. We also celebrate the joy of togetherness outside of holidays with monthly potluck dinners, and occasional gatherings at church.

## *Believe*

### Ministry Teams

Camps & Retreats  
Education  
Stewardship

Our congregation seeks to provide every age a sound foundation for exploration on our faith journey. Educational leaders provide learning opportunities that foster growth and spiritual development that enrich our relationship with God and the world around us.

We offer weekly learning opportunities through Sunday school classes, Thursday morning Bible study, and a young adult study group. These gatherings offer a closer and more personal understanding of Biblical texts and spiritual practices that lead us to live lives of faith in action.



Disciples Men and Women meet monthly for fellowship and study. Other monthly activities include potluck fellowship lunches or dinners. Occasionally we invite a guest speaker to share experiences, knowledge, or opportunities for missions.

Summer activities include our Disciples on a Mission (for all ages) and youth Church Camps. Through gifts, MCC is able to provide our community youth scholarships for camps and retreats.

Our congregation members participate in and support Alabama and Northwest Florida regional activities including the Men's, Women's, Youth, Young Adult, and Senior Adult Retreats.



# *Befriend*



As a congregation, we reach out to the Lord's people with compassion and minister to those in need. We reach out to the local community at our annual events including the Easter Egg Hunt, Pancake Breakfast, Fish Fry, Trunk or Treat, Blessing of the Pets service, and Veterans' Dinner. The congregation provides for others in many ways including support of Grateful Life Ministries and funds to assist the emergency needs of our community.

Our ecumenical activities continue to provide aid to the needy through the church food pantry, protein packs for the homeless, Toys for Tots, Heifer International, CASA, SS Kids, and Fifth Sunday Missions.

Our Disciples Mission Fund and Outreach giving provides support to agencies and ministries within the Alabama Northwest Florida Region. Beyond our local community, we support the Special Offerings of the Christian Church (DOC), such as Reconciliation Fund which combats racism and the Week of Compassion Offering which is the ministry of disaster relief, recovery, and humanitarian aid. A significant portion of our Disciples Mission Fund support provides for the ministries of the general Christian Church (DOC). Our giving to this fund provides overseas missions, home mission work, scholarships to youth camps, ecumenical ministries, and relationships, and leadership development to members of the larger church across the world.



Our members put their faith into action in a variety of ways. Many in our congregation serve as members of our Regional committees and boards – making faithful decisions about the future ministries of the church. Our members also participate in hands on mission opportunities rebuilding homes in areas destroyed by natural disasters, tutoring in local schools, working with animal rescue services, leading scout troops, and directing/counseling at our church camps.

## *Special Offerings*

Special offerings are not included in the total budget as they are pass-through items, but they are an important part of MCC's mission.

**Week of Compassion** – This offering supports the Week of Compassion organization, which works through a remarkable network of church partner organizations and partnerships that ensures that our response to humanitarian needs in the world is efficient, effective, and faithful. The Week of Compassion offering will be collected in early February. 100% of this offering will go to Week of Compassion.

**Easter** – Gifts to the Easter offering help bring life, love, and learning through the various general ministries of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

**Pentecost** – This offering supports Disciples new church development. Planning, nurturing, and sustaining new congregations are part of the Disciples' vision.

The spring offering will combine Easter and Pentecost offerings. This offering will be collected most likely in April/May and will move according to the Easter schedule. This offering will be divided 50/50 between Easter and Pentecost.

**Reconciliation Fund** – This offering is used to fund our Church's mission imperative to become a pro-reconciling and anti-racist church utilizing experimental education, inclusive worship, and intentional dialogue. It enables programs for leadership development, curriculum for dialogue and learning, and partnerships with the Church and our communities.

**Thanksgiving** – The Thanksgiving offering provides direct support to Disciples colleges, universities, and theological institutions. Gifts from the Disciples Mission Fund Thanksgiving offering continue a Disciples tradition of developing leaders for our communities and the church.

The fall offering will combine the Reconciliation and Thanksgiving offerings and will be collected in November. This offering will be split 50/50 (which reflects the giving history of MCC) to Reconciliation and Thanksgiving offerings, respectively.

**Christmas** – The Christmas offering supports Regional Ministries. In 32 regions across the U.S. and Canada, ministers are nurtured, and congregations are provided opportunities for work and worship.



December is a busy time of year with many outreach projects, so the Christmas offering will be moved to July. 100% of this offering will go to the Christmas offering.

Anyone may choose to donate to a specific offering. Be sure to write the name of the offering on the memo line of your check or on the envelope in which you place your donation. All other monetary donations will be divided as specified above.

## ***Fiduciary Funds***

To support ongoing Madison Christian Church Acts of Ministry, the Fiduciary Committee provides oversight for longer term funding. These endeavors include a Property Improvement Loan, Capital Improvement Fund, Building Fund, and Legacy Fund.

The **Capital Improvement Fund** is established to keep safe annual tithes and donations from the congregation until such a time as the Property Committee, Board, Trustees, or congregation choose to expend these funds to purchase needed repairs or upgrades to present facilities.

The **Building Fund** is established to keep safe the annual tithes and donations from the congregation until such a time as the congregation chooses to expend these funds to purchase or build new facilities.

The **Legacy Fund** provides a means for persons to exercise their stewardship beyond support of an annual budget or a special needs gift. It is not intended to compete with regular annual giving of members or to diminish the opportunities for responsible stewardship by present or future members. All gifts received by the Legacy Fund will be invested or held to benefit the church through their earnings.

The Fiduciary Committee asks that you partner with us to ensure Madison Christian Church continues to do great things in our community. Consider supporting one or more of these endeavors in 2022.

## *Search and Call*

The Search and Call Process will be vital to Madison Christian Church in 2022. This committee will embark on a process to identify and call a new minister to Madison Christian Church. Funds are set aside to assist the committee in calling a minister. These funds may be used for potential minister visits to Madison, AL and relocation expenses.

The 2022 budget includes a salary for a full-time minister, Madison Christian Church must be prepared to support a new minister spiritual, emotionally and financially. Surplus funds on hand will allow a new minister to ‘grow’ into the position without concern of an immediate financial crisis. Look to the future with the Search and Call Committee and apply your time, talent, and treasure in 2022.

## *The Future with MCC*

Madison Christian Church in Madison, Alabama confirms its commitment to the call of the gospel of Jesus Christ to be an ambassador of unity and reconciliation. MCC confesses its own participation in the sin of racism and is committed to the dismantling of racism wherever it exists in its own institutional life and in the life and witness of our sister congregations. This will help us better fulfill God’s call to live lives of compassion and service. By serving, we change the world and God changes us.

# Acts of Ministry

