

New Ipswich Congregational Church

Update on Finances and 2021 Budget

2020 has been a challenging year for all of us. We have been blessed during this year to know that our church family is still there to support and care for each other whether it be socially distant or virtual. As your Treasurer my focus as we have gone through this time has remained the same of making sure that the pastor gets his paycheck on time and that all the bills for our operating expenses are paid. Back in the Spring I was concerned that our economy would become so strained that people would no longer be able to give and to be honest I was not sure how NICC would make it through this pandemic. Fortunately God always goes before us and He has made sure that his people remained faithful in their giving. Thank you to all of you who even during times when you have not been able to attend in person you have continued to mail your check or give online. It was also a significant help that NICC qualified for some relief funding under the CARES Act and received \$8,477.00 Payroll Protection Funds to cover Pastor Ken's salary for 8 weeks.

Over the last couple of months we have seen a decline in giving. We are still confident we will make it to the end of 2020 with all bills paid, however the balance in the bank that we will have to start out 2021 will likely be less than \$2,000. The annual operating budget that has been prepared by our Church Council shows that on average we need just over \$6,500 each month just to keep basic operations functioning. We are not anticipating any Federal assistance in 2021 so the funds received this year for Payroll Protection will have to be replaced in another way. Some members have left and some may have circumstances that have changed. For those of us who continue to be committed to NICC and the work it does in our community I need to ask that you prayerfully consider your pledge to NICC for 2021 – if you can increase your giving, even by a small amount, it will help. If your situation allows I ask that you consider a one time special donation here at the end of the year to bolster our finances as we go in to the new year.

We are optimistic that as life returns to the normal of being able to socialize and be in the company of others, we as a church body will be able to reach out to members of our community and grow our church membership. Let me stress that our motivation for doing this should not be to help with the finances of the church, but more importantly to bring them to a relationship with Jesus Christ and the fellowship of other believers. It will be an additional benefit that a larger membership will lighten the load and for now we must accept the responsibility of carrying on the work of NICC.

In addition to our regular operating budget we also have a mortgage that needs to be paid each month. A little background information for those of you that may not be aware. Back in 2007 the church building had some major structural issues and the building was deemed unsafe for use. A contractor was hired, fundraisers were held, church savings accounts were cleaned out and \$470,000 was borrowed from TD Bank to complete the work. The mortgage is paid every month and under the leadership of our current pastor a capital campaign was embarked on to

pay down the outstanding principal. We went from an outstanding balance of \$315,000 in August 2018 to \$237,000 as of November 2020. Unfortunately the barn roof is currently in need of major repair and we have reached agreement to rewrite the mortgage allowing approximately \$23,000 of funds previously used to pay down principal to be returned to allow the roof repair to happen. We anticipate we will end the year with an outstanding loan of approximately \$260,000 however the good news is it will be at a lower interest rate of 3.69% and our new required monthly payment will be \$2,150.00 (\$400 less than our current monthly payment).

We maintain a Building Fund Savings Account that the mortgage payments are made from. We do receive donations directly to this fund from former members, friends of NICC and fundraisers designated for our building fund. We do, however, also need the support of our current membership to ensure that we continue to meet this obligation. The Building Fund Savings currently has a balance of just over \$17,000 enough to pay the mortgage for almost the next eight months however we are required by the bank to always keep a cushion of four months payments in a savings account so I am sure you can see the importance of us all continuing to pledge and make contributions to the building fund as well as the general fund. Hopefully in the future when we are no longer faced with the challenges of social distancing we will be able to return to holding fundraisers to pay down this debt and free our membership of this obligation well ahead of the loan maturity date of October 2033.

I continue to be confident that God still has work for NICC to do here in our corner of NH and that he will provide the resources for this to happen. Please prayerfully consider what your role is in accomplishing this and may God bless you all for your generous giving.

Respectfully,

Carol Romeril

Treasurer

Contributions can be made :

- Weekly via the offering plate
- By mail to : Receivables Clerk
 New Ipswich Congregational Church
 PO Box 141
 New Ipswich, NH 03071
- Online <https://www.nicc.church/>

Please indicate how your contribution should be split between the General Fund and Building Fund.