

Financial Sustainability Update

Frequently Asked Questions

[Why are we talking about financial sustainability now?](#)

We are emerging from a period of structural budget deficits and are focusing on our long-term stability.

[What does financial sustainability mean?](#)

Living within our means, planning for the future, maintaining reserves, and funding operations and long-term needs.

[Why is this important?](#)

Financial sustainability is one of the congregation's top priorities ([click here to read the Dream Team report](#)). We all want to see Asbury First continue to thrive as a vibrant, progressive, inclusive Christian community- where we can grow spiritually, connect and care for each other, and care for our neighbors.

[How much does it cost to operate Asbury First?](#)

\$2.7 million annually, or about \$7,300 per day.

[What progress have we made?](#)

Improved transparency, stabilized cash flow, reduced expenses, ended 2025 without a deficit, and adopted a balanced 2026 budget.

[What work remains?](#)

Developing a multi-year plan, aligning staffing, planning for fixed asset replacements and capital needs, and growing engagement and stewardship.

[Are the recent staffing changes part of this?](#)

Yes, moving from a four to three clergy model is part of right-sizing personnel expenses for 2027 and beyond.

[Is the church in trouble?](#)

No, but proactive planning is necessary to ensure long-term health.

[How can the Asbury First community help?](#)

Pray, continue to give generously, and stay engaged and informed.

[Who can I contact if we have ideas or questions?](#)

Speak to someone on the Financial Sustainability Task Force or the Finance Committee, or email Finance@AsburyFirst.org

[How can I stay informed?](#)

Please read the communications you receive. We will provide monthly Financial Sustainability updates in the Asbury First Monday Reader, and these will be archived on our website for easy reference ([Monday Reader Archive](#)).

Who is on the Financial Sustainability Task Force?

David Allen, Michelle Bogue- Trost, Deb Bullock-Smith, Pat Dupont, Patrick Fulford, Tim Mahan (Chair), Rick Phillips, Dawn Riedy

Who is on the Finance Committee?

Fred Aten (Investment Committee), Michelle Bogue-Trost (Senior Minister), Deb Bullock-Smith (Director of Operations), Paul Campbell (Property Stewardship Committee), Jim Connell, Tim Mahan (Chair, Financial Sustainability Task Force), John Ormsbee (Director of Finance), Dawn Riedy (Chair and Governing Board Treasurer), Joe Stankaitis (Generosity Team), Scott Turner (Audit Team), Ellen Williams, Beth Wilkins (Staff Parish Relations Committee) and Mark Wright (Past Chair)