

# RESILIENT FAITH

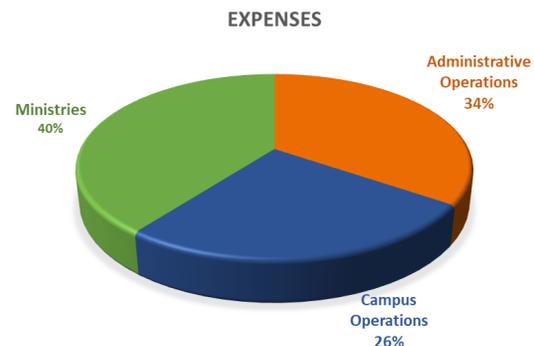
STEWARDING OUR RESOURCES FOR 2021

To be resilient means to withstand or recover quickly from difficult circumstances. We are all too familiar with difficult circumstances in our lives right now. While there are many things outside of our control, the ability to love one another well, cannot be taken from us. We are a resilient people. In the midst of a year that has seen no shortage of adversity, no shortage of things outside of our control, with resilience and hope, we have found a way to remain connected to each other and to our God. Now let us commit our gifts to God as we open ourselves to the Spirit's leading for our ministry in 2021.

**Our 2021 goal is big because our 2021 vision is big.** When so much is on the line and so many neighbors are at risk, God calls us to step up and be bold for the sake of the gospel of Jesus Christ. As we plan for the year ahead, we are grateful for the tremendous show of support for Oak Lawn UMC's mission and ministries that has carried us through a very difficult year of pandemic.

I'm excited in the coming year to strengthen the digital community that has been developed over the past year-- even as we look forward to the day when we re-engage in person. My prayer is that even more people may be encouraged to join in and actively engage Oak Lawn UMC's life and world-changing mission as a hub of transformative Christian community that is inclusive, expansive and entrepreneurial.

This year, we need everyone's help to reach the goals for our 2021 budget. More specifically, we need \$343k in pledges to reach our \$880k budget for 2021. As you can see from this graph, there are costs associated with the operation of our growing campus. We have also increased the administrative support needed to run our church and our ministry goals are ever expanding. With your help, we can continue to grow into what God has called us to be for such as time as this.



We give thanks for the 172 individuals and families who are established givers at Oak Lawn. Now is the time to submit an estimate of giving once again for 2021. If you are an established giver, please consider increasing your support this year. If you have not established a regular giving pattern, please consider making 2021 a year to engage this spiritual practice of committing to an amount that you can give each month. The only way the church can financially be sustainable is by the support of its members and community. Please submit your pledge for 2021. Every amount matters.

[olumc.org/pledge](http://olumc.org/pledge)

Our God is a God of justice and of mercy who confronts us in the ordinary. Stirring our desires for more. Luring us to futures more just. This is a time of challenging our stubborn commitments to what is familiar, asking ourselves what risks we are willing to take for our shared ministry. We do not settle for what is because we are afraid. No, we stand in resilient faith, ready to face what is ahead.

Faithfully yours,

Rev. Rachel Baughman