

# Evergreen Town Hall

September 1, 2019

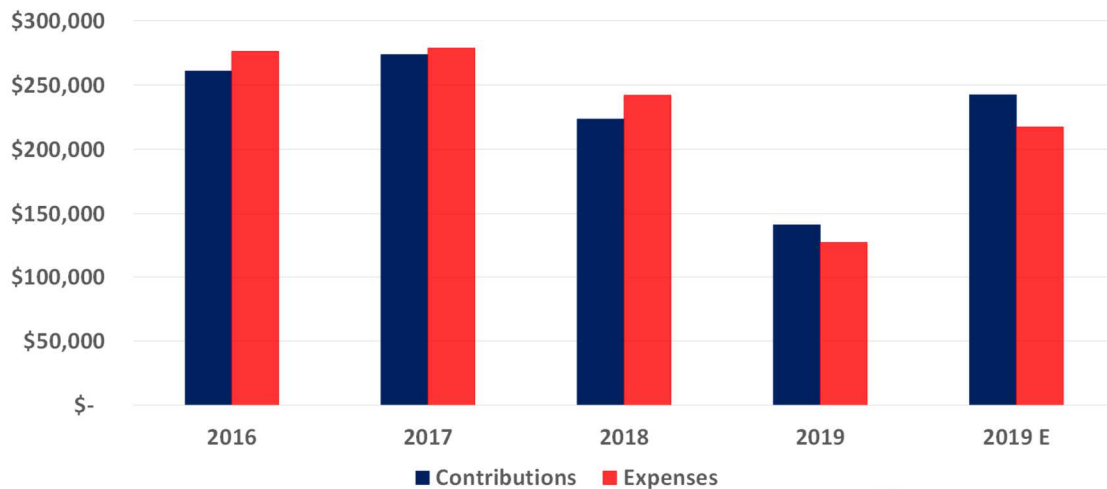
*Evergreen Friends and Family,*

Please read the enclosed material thoughtfully and prayerfully. It provides some very valuable information on our current financial status, some specific kingdom-building goals and plans the Lord has put on our heart and how your contributions can help us get there.

### Current Financial Status

Below you will see a history of Evergreen's income and expenses for the past 5 years, as well as our cash reserves for the past 15 months.

## Evergreen Financial Summary



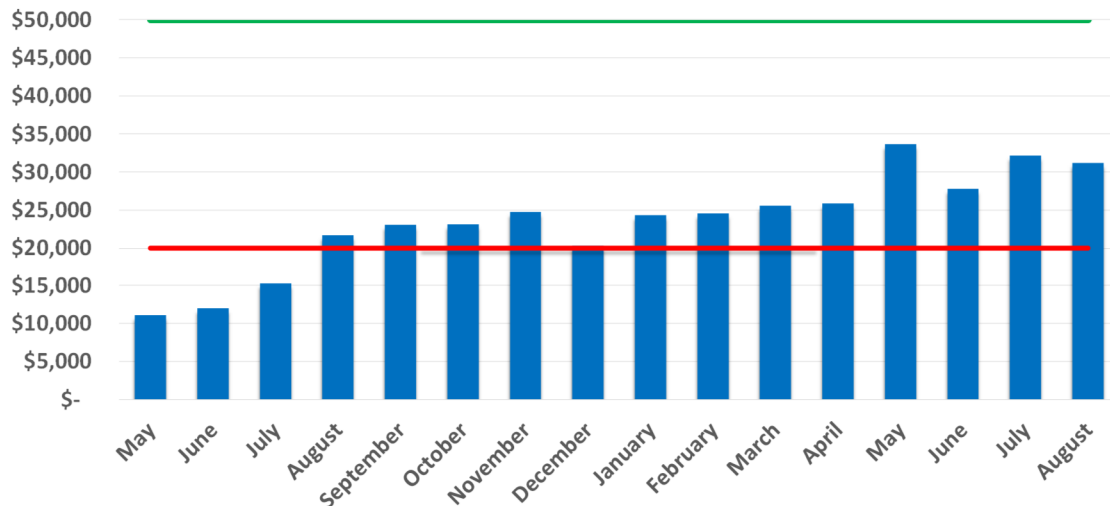
*Deeper, Wider, Stronger*



evergreen  
Community Church

You will note the chart shows a downward trend in overall revenues, with a projected upswing this year. Looking strictly at tithes and offerings from Evergreen members and attendees, we have gone from \$249K in 2015, \$237K in 2016, \$240K in 2017, \$211K in 2018 to an estimated \$232K in 2019. The decline in contributions (revenue) in recent years had a direct effect on our cash-on-hand, as you can see from this chart:

## Evergreen Cash Reserves



*Deeper, Wider, Stronger*



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As contributions declined, the pastors and financial council made several proactive decisions to reduce expenses and minimize the impact on our cash reserves. These included the following:

- \* Defer any raise to our full-time pastor until the situation improves. Dave Blum's last salary increase was in January 2015, almost 5 years ago.
- \* Defer any stipend or conference/travel reimbursements to our two bi-vocational pastors, Tom Millar and Daniel Hall.
- \* Accept Great Commission Church's offer to reduce our typical tithe and contribution to GCC from 5% of our revenue to 2.5%.
- \* Proactively collect most of our \$6.5K in accounts receivable (these were conference costs/expenses for individual attendees paid for by the church but never reimbursed. Most have now been collected.)
- \* Keep all operating costs and expenditures at a 'bare bones' or 'only as needed' protocol.

The changes have been very helpful with respect to cash reserves. Our goal would be to have \$50K on hand to help with unforeseen changes in either giving and/or expenses. We have not arrived, but our collective efforts have helped us move in the right direction.

## PRAISE, THANKS & CELEBRATION!

So before going any further, we'd first like to say THANK YOU to all who have made contributions over the past few years. They HAVE made a difference! They have not gone unnoticed by the Lord nor by those in leadership, either. Here are some things we'd like to celebrate with you all:

- \* Our cash reserves have gone up! They've actually increased from \$11K in May 2018 to a steady accumulation of around \$32K in the past four months.
- \* We have been able to avoid any erosion in our Capital Campaign funds of \$280K and keep them dedicated for a place of our own for 24/7 ministry.
- \* Additional free-will offerings have allowed us to meet financial needs within the body, support missions trips and fund our youth trips to Life Training in Wilmington, NC. For example, the GENEROUS contributions of Evergreen members allowed us to raise \$3,800 for this year's LT, funding the vast majority of costs for those who attended.
- \* We continue to operate 'in the black' and provide for the needs and salaries of the most critical staff, rent, and other programs.

So once again, THANK YOU!! It IS making a difference ... and it's giving us a stepping stone for the future.

## OUR CALLING and OUR GOALS

Our calling always has, and always will be, to Grow Deeper in Christ, Stronger in Community and Wider in Influence. It's the calling of Jesus to His followers (Matthew 4:19-20, 28:19-20, Acts 1:8), the heartbeat of the local church and its members/leaders (Colossians 1:28; Ephesians 4, 1 Peter 2) and the HOPE of a lost and broken world (Matthew 5:13-16, Luke 5:31-32). In addition, we have some specific goals we will continue to work and to pray for in the next few months. It can be expressed like this:

NEW PLACE for 24/7 ministry to most effectively win, build, train and send people in His work

NEW PEOPLE coming to Christ, growing in their faith and connected to our Body

NEW LEADERS rising up to take on roles in small groups, ministry teams and as deacons and elders

NEW STORIES that reflect our faith in action and God's hand on our lives and ministry

To this end, we encourage you to participate in the Day of Prayer on Saturday, September 28. We are asking everyone to commit to an hour of prayer that day, focusing on the above goals and with the opportunity for personal reflection and renewal. Save the Date and Stay Tuned for more details!!

## VISION, CALLING, and WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?

### HOW CAN YOU HELP US ACCOMPLISH THESE GOALS?

Join us as we seek the Lord in prayer, asking Him to work in the lives of people around us, build up our local church body and provide the resources we need, even in ways that would surprise us! *“Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. – Matthew 7:7 You do not have because you do not ask God. – James 4:2*

Invest your time and your talents in Spirit-led ways. Practice the ‘one-another’ verses; serve, honor, teach, encourage, admonish, accept one another and spur one another on to love and good deeds. Discover your gift(s) and fan them into flame!! God WILL honor that, bless it and expand the kingdom through it.

Give your financial resources and the first fruits of your wealth as the Holy Spirit leads. For many this could be a ‘tithes’ or 10% of your income, for others it could be more, for some it could be less. The Scriptures encourage us to give generously, to give cheerfully, to give regularly and to give with a confident expectation that the Lord will not only bless His kingdom work and our church body, but bless the giver, too!!

### What If?!

Let’s dream for a moment. What if the Lord provided \$350,000 annually, rather than the \$250,000 we have averaged over the past 5 years? Here’s how we might direct those funds:

- \* Pay Dave a salary commensurate with his work and the sacrifices he and Vanessa have made over the years for the Evergreen body. These include taking no retirement for the first 12 years of the church’s existence, accepting a salary far below what most members of ECC make at the same stage of life or even much younger, deferring his raises, and Vanessa’s decision to teach for many years to augment the lower income.
- \* Pay Daniel and Tom a stipend and conference/travel costs to recognize their many and sacrificial investments of time and energy over and above their full-time jobs.
- \* Put additional \$\$ into a place of our own. If we used half of that increased revenue toward a facility, we would be able to immediately afford space at \$8K/month, up from the current \$3.5K that we pay at the Boys & Girls Club. That would free the \$280K in our capital fund to be used for ‘build-out’ of any new space.
- \* Add part-time staff that we could DEFINITELY use to expand the kingdom. Imagine an EFM director working 10+ hours a week within that ministry, coaching and encouraging the volunteers and helping shape vision for it as a ‘city on a hill’ in our community!! Or partially fund a next-gen staffer who, with his/her own support team, could start working the local campus of George Mason University. These staff persons could go a long way toward us all GROWING .... Deeper, Stronger AND Wider!

We appreciate the time you’ve taken to read this. We look forward to further dialogue on these matters and praying, working and ministering together in the weeks, months and years ahead!!

### **Evergreen Financial Council**

Kyle Young, Brian Schmidt, Paul Marron, & Rob Morrow

### **Evergreen Pastors**

Dave Blum, Tom Millar, & Daniel Hall