



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What is With Arms Open Wide all about?

With Arms Open Wide expresses Resurrection's audacious dreams for doing God's work through our extraordinary mission and ministries.

And it's the name and theme of this year's appeal to fund Resurrection's 2020-2021 daily operating budget.

With Arms Open Wide exemplifies our love for God, for each other, and for our neighbors.

God's arms are open wide, abundantly giving us all that we have and blessing us with promises of unconditional love, acceptance, and grace.

As a Resurrection people, our arms are open wide, too. We reach out to God for strength and healing. We reach out to each other for comfort and support. And we reach out to our neighbors - the marginalized, the lonely, the hurt - with a radical spirit of love and inclusivity that says: *Come and see. You have a home here. You belong.*

Resurrection's bold reach is planted firmly in our foundation. More than 50 years ago, a

courageous group of believers went door-to-door, sharing their vision for building a compassionate community of faith.

These pioneers staked out a ministry which now flourishes beyond even their wild imaginations.

Today, Resurrection's light has never been brighter.

But we can't sit still.

We graciously invite you to respond to God's call with arms open wide and pledge your financial support to our vital ministries.

Why give?

Giving is essential to living out our faith. In giving, we stretch our faith and act on our trust that God blesses and gives us everything we need.

Generosity is a result of the Spirit's work in our lives. It is not a response to God's grace but a result of it. The difference is subtle but important. We don't act generously because we

want to “give back”. We are generous because it’s who we are.

We give so that God’s giving may continue through us; when we fail to give, we build a dam on the river of God’s generosity.

Beloved author and priest Henri Nouwen put it this way: *“Giving is a way to proclaim what we believe is our No. 1 priority -- that God is the center of all our lives.”*

What does the daily operating budget allow us to do?

Be God’s voice and open arms in the world!

At Resurrection, mission is our legacy. We are passionate about it, and our many ministries embody this passion.

We knew it more than 50 years ago when we broke ground on the southside; we knew it seven years ago when we bravely leaped forward and expanded our facility; and we know it now as we dream even bigger: We belong to God. We belong to each other. We belong to our neighbors.

This belonging is alive in Resurrection’s profound welcoming culture - believing we are all people worthy of God’s love. This ignites hope in those who are hurt and empty, extending to them a community of love, a sense of belonging, and meaningful relationships with others.

“Giving everyone a place at the table where they are free to be themselves and connect with others,” Nouwen wrote, *“may be one of our most special gifts. I wonder how many churches...realize that community is one of the greatest gifts they have to offer. We have something to offer -- friendship, prayer, peace, love, fidelity, affection, ministry with those in need -- and these things are so valuable that people are*

willing to make their resources available to sustain them.”

What should I give?

Each individual or family must decide what to contribute. But Resurrection urges every member to make a pledge to lift up God’s vision. And since the cost of doing ministry increases every year, we challenge you to increase your financial gift as well.

If it helps you determine what to contribute, one interesting financial fact is that it costs about \$2,945 per day to fund our mission and ministries.

“Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.” - Matthew 6:21

Why use the word pledge?

Pledging is a spiritual practice. The biblical standard is to give our “first fruits” to God, not our leftovers. Giving is an act of love and hope, a way to expand our souls.

Trusting in God’s promise of abundance, we pledge our commitment to God’s work in the world.

What if my financial circumstances change?

We understand. A pledge is a commitment, not a contract. You can increase or decrease your pledge at any time by contacting finance@rlcindy.org.

No matter what your circumstances, know that you are a vital part of our shared ministry.

How will the 2020-2021 budget compare to the current budget?

We’re still working with ministry teams to get the clearest picture, but early drafts of the 2020-2021 budget anticipate a 6% percent increase in expenses. That budget starts in

August 2020. Our leaders are working hard to provide excellent fiscal management in service to God's vision at Resurrection.

The biggest pieces of our budget are related to facilities and personnel.

Some of our larger facility expenses next year come from securing our building with an alarm system and installing LED lights in the parking lot. Over time, both of these will bring down costs and protect vital assets.

Resurrection now has a full, passionate, and dedicated staff leading us in new directions. They are working together to teach us how to deepen our spiritual journey and challenging us to respond to God's calling in new ways. We are committed to compensating our staff fairly, which includes offering merit increases from year to year.

What are our building payments?

Seven years ago, we stepped out in faith and boldly deepened our roots on the southside by expanding our facilities. This has connected us to the community in ways we could not have imagined. A diverse array of groups now gather here to educate, nurture, and celebrate.

Resurrection's monthly building payment is \$16,500. That's \$12,400 for principal and interest and \$4,100 in extra principal payments. All of this comes from our daily operating budget.

Here's the great news: Because of your generosity, we are on track to pay off our mortgage by 2038, which is years ahead of schedule, saving hundreds of thousands of dollars.

Where does the current budget stand?

Year-to-date, our 2019-2020 income exceeds expenses by approximately \$40,000. Our finance team monitors cash flow closely, and this surplus won't always be there as it provides

the breathing room we need when the balance shifts. Your generosity is inspiring, and your joyful giving deserves celebration and gratitude. Thank you!

Has Resurrection done any long-term financial planning?

Absolutely. More than a year ago, the congregation urged our financial leaders to look ahead and set long-term goals to help us maintain a healthy financial footing.

With input from the congregation, we've mapped out expected big expenditures over the short, mid, and long term in order to minimize the potential for surprises or tremendous ballooning of expenses from one year to the next.

Didn't we have challenges a year ago when we raised money for our daily budget?

Initially, there was a gap between projected giving and expenses. But generous members stepped up and made bigger one-time commitments to make sure our ministries continued to thrive.

That was a challenging time, but we learned from it. We took steps toward long-term financial planning and began reflecting on how we can grow generosity across our congregation for years to come. This is another reminder of how important it is for each of us to contribute.

How do I make my pledge to Resurrection?

You have two options: You can fill out your pledge card and mail it to the church. Or complete your pledge online at tinyurl.com/RLC-Pledge. The deadline is Friday, May 1. We encourage you to turn in your pledge card well before the deadline.

What happens after pledges are collected?

First, we celebrate and thank God! May 3 is Resurrection's **Sunday of Hope**. We will come together, either in person or online, and enthusiastically express gratitude for the good work God does through this community of faith.

After that, the finance team will go to work, analyzing income and expenses for the 2020-2021 budget proposal. A congregation meeting will be held Sunday, May 31, and the congregation will have the opportunity to vote on the budget proposal.

If you have other questions, please contact:

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