

**WH**



— 2022 —

# **COVENANT PARTNER**

**ANNUAL GATHERING**

## **AGENDA**

**1. WELCOME**

**2. COVENANT VOWS**

**3. CONSTITUTIONAL CHANGES**

**4. TRUSTEE APPRECIATION**

**5. RECAP OF LAST YEAR**

**6. FINANCIAL UPDATE**

**7. LOOKING AHEAD TO NEXT YEAR**

**8. CLOSING**

# FINANCIAL UPDATE

## ORIGINAL BUDGET 2021-22

<b>Income</b>		<b>\$2,934,515</b>
Offerings	\$ 2,929,845	
Other	\$ 4,670	
<b>Expenses</b>		<b>(\$2,813,548)</b>
Human Resources	\$ 1,854,656	
Ministry Expenses	\$ 958,892	
<b>Capital Improvement Fund</b>		<b>(\$120,000)</b>
<b>Surplus/(Deficit)</b>		<b>\$967</b>

## GIVING AWAY OUR RESOURCES IN 2021-22

**During this fiscal year, we shared over \$239,500 with others:**

Missionary Support: \$95,400  
Thanksgiving Meals: \$7,500  
New Neighbors to support refugees in MN: \$53,588  
MLK Race & Peace Learn-a-thon: \$25,000  
Blanket Drive: \$5,250  
Food Fundraiser: \$16,647  
Food Shelf Groceries: \$36,117

## FISCAL YEAR FORECAST THROUGH JUNE 30

<b>Income</b>		<b>\$3,014,031</b>
Offerings	\$ 3,007,044	
Other	\$ 6,987	
<b>Expenses</b>		<b>(\$2,892,533)</b>
Human Resources	\$ 1,737,802	
Ministry Expenses	\$ 1,154,731	
<b>Capital Improvement Fund</b>		<b>(\$120,000)</b>
<b>Surplus/(Deficit)</b>		<b>\$1,498</b>

## TINY HOME WAREHOUSE UPDATE

At last year's annual Covenant Partner gathering, we launched a Making Space fundraiser. Our goal was to renovate part of our building so we could be more efficient with tiny home construction projects. We were hoping that a "warehouse" space would be finished by now, but we hit delays with our contractors and supplies. Please be praying that we can complete it this summer!

## THE PLAZA THEATER

As most of you know, the Plaza has been closed since the start of the pandemic. Unfortunately, the future of second-run theaters is still very uncertain since movie studios have shortened the window of time before films are available on streaming services.

We continue to keep tabs on the industry; please pray we get more clarity this coming year.

## NEXT FISCAL YEAR

<b>Income</b>		<b>\$2,984,822</b>
Offerings	\$ 2,980,451	
Other	\$ 4,371	
<b>Expenses</b>		<b>(\$2,864,104)</b>
Human Resources	\$ 1,843,629	
Ministry Expenses	\$ 1,020,475	
<b>Capital Improvement Fund</b>		<b>(\$120,000)</b>
<b>Surplus/(Deficit)</b>		<b>\$718</b>

## SAVINGS BALANCE

<b>Capital Improvement Fund*</b>	<b>\$649,502</b>
<b>Cash Reserves</b>	<b>\$234,462</b>
<b>Total Savings Balance</b>	<b>\$883,964</b>

\* as of 6/30/2022

# PROPOSED CONSTITUTION CHANGES

## PROPOSED CHANGE #1 – BOARD NAME

Current Board Name	Proposed Board Name	Commentary
Overseer Board	Elder Board	<i>For many years this group has been known as the Overseer Board. Over the last few years, however, a number of people have pointed out that the word “overseer” was used on southern plantations during the slavery era as the title of the person who managed slaves for the plantation owner. For many people, when they hear “overseer,” the first thing that comes to mind is the African-American slavery experience. This is not what we want to communicate! Recently, the board discussed this issue and would like to change their name from “Overseer board” to “Elder board,” which is also a more biblical term. This is language that appears in our church constitution, and a change requires affirmation from our Covenant Partners.</i>

## PROPOSED CHANGE #2 – COVENANT LANGUAGE

Current Covenant	Proposed Change	Commentary
As a follower of Jesus Christ, I recognize the Biblical call to, and spiritual value of, covenant relationships with other Christians. I choose to unite in covenant with the local body of Woodland Hills Church.	As a follower of Jesus Christ, I recognized the biblical call to, and spiritual value of, covenant relationships with other Christians. I choose to unite in covenant with the body of Woodland Hills Church.	<i>There are two unstated assumptions behind this opening section. The first assumption is that if you are entering into covenant with Woodland Hills as a church body, you have already entered personally into the New Covenant Church with God through Jesus. Entering the New Covenant involves making a conscious decision to turn to and trust in Jesus; to publicly express that decision through baptism; and to grow in following Jesus’ teachings and way of life.  The second assumption is that your covenant commitment with Woodland Hills is based upon God’s calling. It is important for each person – with the help of others – to discern what church body God has called them to become part of. It is also important to continue to regularly confirm God’s calling, which is why we have an annual covenant renewal ceremony together as a community. God’s calling should be the primary reason we commit to – or depart from – a church body.</i>
I have read and I affirm the Statements of Mission, Vision, Values, and Faith, and I commit to:		<i>No changes.</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Follow the leadership of Woodland Hills as they seek to accomplish the mission.</li> </ul>	Remove this bullet	<i>This has been one of our covenant terms up until now. However, the way this original vow is worded can be read as saying that the responsibility for accomplishing our mission really only falls upon those who are in an official leadership role. But scripture is clear that missional responsibility falls upon all members of the church – each of us must do the part God has called us to for our communal mission to be accomplished.</i>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Live a life that is consistent with scripture.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Aspire Seek</b> to live a life that is consistent with the life, teachings and example of Jesus as revealed in Scripture.</li> </ul>	<p><i>Being transformed into a person who reflects the radical agape-love of Jesus toward God, others, ourselves, and creation is the ultimate aspiration of the Christian life. We come to know this way of life in the example and teachings of Jesus recorded in the Bible. To live out this commitment, Woodland Hills must be a community that recognizes the inspiration and authority of Scripture and, therefore, the value of biblical literacy (II Timothy 3:16-17). Through regularly engaging with Scripture, we aspire to learn and live into the ways of Jesus both individually and, together, as a community.</i></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use my spiritual gifts in ministry inside and/or outside our church body.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Seek out ways to sacrificially use my spiritual gift(s) by serving in ministry within and/or beyond the church body.</li> </ul>	<p><i>Every person who has entered into covenant relationship with Jesus has been graciously given spiritual gifts by the Holy Spirit (I Corinthians 12:4-14). This means that all followers of Jesus are ministers – no one in the Kingdom is a mere spectator! Spiritual gifts are to be used in humility and self-sacrificial love for the primary purpose of blessing others. Certain gifts will be used for encouraging and building up fellow believers within one’s Christian community, while others will be used to actively love and minister to those outside of the community. In making this commitment, we are agreeing to discover how God has uniquely gifted us. Then, depending upon the spiritual gifts and specific calling we’ve been given, we commit to intentionally look for ways to serve others, both within the Woodland Hills community and beyond it.</i></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support the ministry of Woodland Hills Church through prayer, attendance and (as the Lord leads) finances.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Actively partner with and support the body of Woodland Hills Church through prayer, learning, participation, and finances as, together, we seek to become a community of mature followers of Jesus.</li> </ul>	<p><i>As human beings, we naturally express our values and priorities through the ways we choose to direct our time, energy, and resources. Prayer, learning and participation represent love-gifts of our time. Financial support represents a love-gift of our resources. As we actively pursue these things together as a community, we learn to love together (Hebrews 10:25). Each of the elements of this commitment can be expressed, regardless of where a person lives. For example, for those who live in St. Paul and the surrounding area, participation and learning may come primarily through in-person attendance at weekend services, classes and other events hosted at our building. For those who live elsewhere, participation and learning will come primarily through experiencing weekend services, classes and other events in online formats.</i></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Practice right-relatedness with God and others by maintaining relationships characterized by covenant trust and faithfulness; by avoiding dissention, gossip and self-centeredness; and by doing all I can to heal broken relationships.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strive to practice right relatedness with God and others by pursuing spiritual friendships, by maintaining relationships that are characterized by covenant trust and faithfulness, by avoiding dissention, gossip, and self-centeredness, and by doing all I can to heal broken relationships.</li> </ul>	<p><i>Jesus taught us that the two primary terms of our covenant relationship with God are to radically love God and love others (Matt 22:36-40). As we see in numerous passages in Scripture, the health of our relationship with God is connected to the health of our relationships with each other (Matt 5:23-24; I John 2:9-11). By making this commitment, we promise to strive for “right-relatedness” in all our relationships. This will include practicing the things that make for healthy relationships, avoiding the things that harm relationships, and becoming experts in healing and reconciling broken relationships. One of the primary ways we grow in right-relatedness is by forming intentional spiritual friendships that provide a context for mutual spiritual and relational growth through encouragement, challenge, and accountability.</i></p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Seek to live a missionally-oriented life that includes modelling and sharing the love and message of Jesus with a hurting world.</li> </ul>	<p><i>In his final words recorded in the Gospel of Matthew, Jesus instructs his followers to live as a missional people who bring the words, ways and love of Jesus to every corner of the world (Matt 28:18-20). In making this final commitment, we recognize that the term “missionary” is not only reserved for those who God calls overseas. Rather, all of us are to serve as missionaries wherever we currently reside. Jesus has called us to live as a counter-cultural community that focuses on loving and meeting the needs of those around us who do not yet know Jesus (Matt 25:31-46; James 1:27). In light of this, we commit to exploring ways of living out this missional calling of Jesus, individually and collectively, as we learn to love together.</i></p>

## PROPOSED CHANGE #3 – BOARD NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Current Statement in Constitution	Proposed Change
<p>The nominating committee shall be responsible for presenting candidates for the office of Overseer or Trustee. It shall normally present one candidate for each vacant office at the annual meeting. The Board of Overseers shall appoint an Overseer to lead a nominating committee consisting of at least three Covenant Partners and no more than six, none of whom currently aspires to be an Overseer or Trustee. Nominating committees shall be appointed by the previous nominating committee and approved by the Overseers. Each member shall meet Biblical leadership qualifications and shall serve a term of one year.</p>	<p>The nominating committee shall be responsible for presenting candidates for the office of Elder or Trustee. It shall normally present one candidate for each vacant office at the annual meeting. The Board of Elders shall appoint yearly a member of the Executive Team to lead a nominating committee along with at least three Covenant Partners and no more than six, none of whom currently aspire to be an Elder or Trustee. Every effort shall be made to ensure the committee represents a broad cross-section of the Church and shall serve a term of one year.</p>

## PROPOSED CHANGE #4 – CHURCH AFFILIATIONS

Current Statement in Constitution	Proposed Change
<p>Woodland Hills Church shall be an autonomous organization and maintains the right to govern its own affairs independent of any denominational control. However, recognizing the benefits of cooperation with other churches in local and global outreach efforts, this church shall be affiliated with the Minnesota Baptist Conference and the Baptist General Conference.</p>	<p>Woodland Hills Church shall be an autonomous organization and maintains the right to govern its own affairs independent of any denominational control. However, recognizing the benefits of cooperation with other churches in local and global outreach efforts, this church shall be affiliated with Anabaptist organizations.</p>