



**Congregational
Church** of san mateo
...open, progressive, spiritual

Imagine Together: Our Narrative Budget for Progressive Faith in Action

CCSM Finance Committee

DRAFT

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Introduction

Narrative Budgets: Our Vision and Principles in Action

Inspired by our vision and principles as a community and bearing in mind that we are God's hands, feet, and face, the CCSM Finance Committee and Board of Directors have developed a narrative budget.

Narrative budgets are meant to be inspirational and aspirational. They relate our values as a community to the tangible way we will strive to practice those values in the coming year by funding their various ministries that are working to carry out our vision.

Based on this foundation the Finance Committee has chosen four pillars to support the 2025 budget:

- Faith – Engaging in Christian spiritual community and proclaiming a prophetic voice;
- Justice – Promoting justice and living out our commitment to being Open & Affirming, Inclusive, and Progressive;
- Community – Caring for each other and building bonds through collective activities;
- Generosity – Giving of our time, talent and treasure to ensure our community stays strong.

Through the narrative budget process, CCSM's leadership is able to envision a vibrant future, transforming the church into a radiant beacon of Progressive Christianity, guiding the congregation through the ever-changing tides of faith and society. Key aspects of our long-term planning include:

- Digital Transformation: Enhancing online presence and communication.
- Campus Reimagined: Creating an inclusive, sustainable, and multifunctional space.
- Cultivating Generosity: Encouraging financial and time-based stewardship across all ages.
- Modern Ministry: Evolving programs to meet diverse community needs, including multicultural and intergenerational initiatives.
- Community United: Fostering diversity, social justice, and partnerships.
- Visionary Leadership: Focusing on innovation, communication, and strategic planning.

Faith

- Engaging in Christian spiritual community
- Proclaiming a prophetic voice
- Weekly gatherings and study sessions

CCSM stands as a steadfast Pillar of Faith, radiating a serene aura of spiritual refuge and unwavering belief. This church is more than just a place of worship; it is a vibrant community, deeply committed to engaging in Christian spiritual fellowship and proclaiming a prophetic voice of the good news.

At the heart of our church's mission has been the creation of a thriving spiritual community. Every week, congregants gathered not just for Sunday services, but for a multicultural service on Wednesdays, Second Hour study sessions and guest speakers, numerous small groups, Bible studies, and prayer circles. These gatherings provide a space for individuals to connect on a deeper level, sharing their joys and struggles, and supporting one another in their faith journeys. CCSM fosters an environment where everyone, regardless of their background, can find a sense of belonging and spiritual nourishment.

This commitment to community extends beyond the church walls. Members regularly engage in outreach activities, bringing the love and compassion of Christ to those in need. From organizing our food pantry, serving meals for Samaritan House in Kloss Hall, hosting Fiestas on the front lawn or marching in the Pride Parade, CCSM lives out our faith in tangible ways, embodying the teachings of Jesus through acts of service and kindness. These efforts are a testament to our belief that faith must be accompanied by action, a principle that resonates deeply within our congregation.

Proclaiming a prophetic voice of the good news is central to the church's identity. The sermons delivered from the pulpit are not just messages of comfort, but also calls to action. The church's leaders were unafraid to address pressing social issues, speaking out against injustice and advocating for peace and reconciliation. They believed that the gospel of Jesus Christ was a transformative force, capable of challenging societal norms and inspiring profound change.

Through our unwavering faith and active engagement, our church serves as a beacon of hope in the community. It provides a space for spiritual growth and communal support while boldly proclaiming the good news of Jesus Christ. This church not only strengthens the bonds within our own community but also extends our reach to impact the world beyond, embodying the true essence of the Christian mission.

Justice

- Promoting social justice
- Open & Affirming, Inclusive, Progressive
- Partnering with local organizations

In the heart of San Mateo stands our church, CCSM, an architectural marvel with its towering spire and intricate stained-glass windows. Yet, it isn't the physical structure that makes our church remarkable; it is our unwavering commitment to justice, inclusivity, and progressiveness. CCSM is proud to be Open & Affirming, a beacon of hope and acceptance in a world often divided by prejudice and discrimination.

The church's leaders understand that promoting justice is not merely an abstract concept but a vital, tangible mission. Everyone in our community believes that to live out the church's values, we need to take bold, concrete actions. We have funded numerous programs that embody our commitment to justice and inclusivity, ensuring that our efforts are not confined to words but manifested in deeds.

One of the most impactful programs is the church's outreach to the LGBTQ+ community. In a society where many still face marginalization, the church provides a safe haven, a place where everyone is welcomed and celebrated for who they are. This Open & Affirming stance goes beyond mere tolerance; it is a radical acceptance that seeks to uplift and empower.

Additionally, the church's progressive stance extends to social justice initiatives. We actively partner with local organizations to address systemic issues such as poverty, racism, and homelessness. Our commitment to serving our neighbors through our Multicultural Minister has invited new friends into CCSM and given us the ability to serve a community that is often overlooked. These initiatives are not only about providing immediate relief but also about fostering long-term, sustainable change.

CCSM's commitment to justice and inclusivity also manifests in our approach to worship and community life. Services are designed to be welcoming to all, with inclusive language and diverse representation in leadership. Educational programs encouraged members to explore and understand different perspectives, fostering a community of empathy and mutual respect.

Through these efforts, CCSM illustrates that living out its commitment to being Open & Affirming, Inclusive, and Progressive is not just a moral obligation but a transformative journey. By funding and supporting programs that embodied these values, the church not only enriches the lives of individuals but also contributes to the creation of a more just and compassionate society.

Community

- Caring for each other
- Building bonds through activities
- Youth programs and mission trips

CCSM believes in the power of and need for community, a place where caring for one another and building bonds through collective activities are foundational principles. The church is more than a mere gathering spot; it is a living, breathing embodiment of communal love and support, where every member feels like family.

Central to our church's ethos is our profound commitment to caring for each other. Whether celebrating joyous occasions or navigating life's challenges, the community is always there for one another. When a member faces illness, the church organizes meal trains and prayers, ensuring that no one faces their struggles alone. Birthdays, anniversaries, and achievements are celebrated collectively, fostering a sense of shared joy and unity.

The church's dedication to community care extends beyond immediate needs. We establish various groups, ranging from spiritual life to education about environmental justice to providing a safe space for members to share their experiences and seek guidance. These initiatives are a testament to the church's belief that true community involves not just offering help, but also empowering individuals to grow and thrive.

Building bonds through collective activities is a cornerstone of CCSM's mission. Every season, the church organizes events that bring people together, from potluck dinners and picnics to community service projects and holiday celebrations. These activities are more than social gatherings; they are opportunities to deepen relationships and create lasting memories.

Youth programs play a crucial role in fostering a sense of community among the younger members. Through youth groups, mission trips, and educational workshops, the church nurtures a sense of belonging and responsibility in the next generation. These programs teach the importance of compassion, service, and unity, ensuring that the values of community care will continue to flourish.

Through our unwavering commitment to caring for each other and building bonds, CCSM exemplifies the true spirit of community. It's a place where love and support are abundant, where every member feels valued and connected. As a Pillar of Community, the church not only enriches the lives of our congregants but also stands as a shining example of what a compassionate, united community can achieve.

Generosity

- Giving of time, talent, and treasure
- Supporting church initiatives
- Annual stewardship campaign

CCSM thrives due to our unwavering value of generosity. This church is a testament to the power of giving—of time, talent, and treasure—ensuring that our community remains resilient and united.

Generosity is the lifeblood of our church, evident in every aspect of its operation. Congregants of all ages have devoted countless hours to volunteer efforts, recognizing that their time is one of the most precious gifts they could offer. Whether organizing charity events, mentoring youth, or assisting in church operations, members contribute selflessly. This collective effort creates a sense of ownership and belonging, strengthening the community's foundation.

Talent is another vital component of the church's generosity. The congregation is a mosaic of skills and expertise, and everyone is encouraged to share their unique gifts. Musicians and artists enrich worship services with their creativity, while professionals offer workshops and consultations to those in need. The church leverages its members' talents to uplift others. This sharing of skills not only benefits individuals but also fosters a culture of collaboration and mutual support.

Financial generosity, too, plays a crucial role. CCSM members understand that their financial contributions are essential for sustaining the community and our initiatives. Regular tithing and special fundraising drives ensure that the church can maintain our facilities, support local charities, and fund outreach programs. These acts of giving are expressions of faith and commitment, reinforcing our mission to serve others.

CCSM's annual stewardship campaign is a poignant reminder of the power of generosity. Stories of lives transformed by the church's ministries are shared, illustrating the tangible impact of giving. This inspires members to contribute even more, knowing that their generosity directly enriches the community.

Through its dedication to giving time, talent, and treasure, CCSM cultivates a robust and compassionate community. Members support one another, share our blessings, and work together to ensure the church remains a beacon of hope and strength. This culture of generosity not only sustains the church but also radiates outward, touching countless lives and embodying the true spirit of Christian love and service.

Embracing Our Future

As we look ahead to the next five years, the Congregational Church of San Mateo envisions itself as a beacon of Progressive Christianity on the San Francisco Peninsula and beyond. Our mission is clear: to build a beloved community and lead in championing social justice for all. This vision statement outlines how we will transform our church, deepen our impact, and live out our faith in meaningful ways.

A Digital Evolution

In 2025 and beyond, CCSM will undergo a digital transformation, revolutionizing how we communicate and connect. Imagine a church where:

- Our vibrant website serves as a digital front door, welcoming seekers and long-time members alike.
- Social media channels buzz with engaging content, sharing our story, inviting dialogue, and creating connection.
- Sermon clips and video messages reach beyond our walls, touching lives across the globe.
- A dedicated Communications Manager orchestrates our digital presence, ensuring our progressive voice resonates far and wide. One person coordinating staff, lay leaders, and ministers to help effectively communicate through digital channels our mission, vision and ministry to the congregation and wider community.
- Through this digital evolution, we'll create a virtual community that complements and enhances our physical one, making CCSM accessible to all, anytime, anywhere.

A Campus Reimagined

Envision our church campus as a spiritual hub, alive with activity and purpose:

- Innovative use of our facilities generating income while serving community needs.
- Our spaces are fully accessible, welcoming all regardless of physical ability, gender identity, and language, particularly focused on creating a more inclusive campus for Spanish and Mandarin speakers.
- Sustainable practices make our campus a model of environmental stewardship.
- LGBTQ+ individuals find a home here, with every corner exuding acceptance and love.
- Diverse events, from alternative worship services to community gatherings, transform our campus into a center for spiritual and social growth.

Cultivating Generosity and Stewardship

In the coming years, CCSM will strive to foster a practice of generosity and commitment, rooted in gratitude for all God has given us:

- Members will be inspired to give generously, not just of financial resources, but of their time and talents, trusting that through their gifts, God is transforming individuals and our world.
- Stories of transformation and impact will be regularly shared through various channels (e.g., testimonials, newsletters, social media).
- Educational opportunities around personnel finance and giving will help ease anxiety around the sharing of resources.
- Age-appropriate stewardship education will be integrated into our youth programs to cultivate a lifelong practice of generosity. Youth will be given opportunities to lead and participate in giving initiatives, fostering a sense of ownership and responsibility.
- Our endowment will grow, with the help of a dedicated team focused on cultivating major gifts, securing our future through legacy and planned giving. Information on planned giving and estate planning will be made available to help members consider long-term stewardship.
- Partnerships with other congregations and organizations will multiply our resources and expand our reach.

Ministry for the Modern World

Our ministry programs will evolve to meet the diverse needs of our community:

- Worship services will be a tapestry of styles, incorporating multicultural elements and fostering personal transformation.
- Outreach initiatives will address pressing local needs, partnering with community organizations to effect real change.
- Faith formation programs will cater to all ages, helping members integrate their faith and our guiding principles into daily life.
- Youth will find a welcoming and supportive community at CCSM, where they can build meaningful, lasting, intergenerational and intercultural relationships and serve as leaders now, not just in the future.
- Faith is learned as it is woven seamlessly into the fabric of daily life; therefore, families will receive support and resources that help foster a nurturing environment and instill lasting values.

- Young adults and professionals will find a welcoming community where they are valued and supported at every stage of life. Here, they can explore their passions, develop their leadership skills, and make a meaningful impact through service and justice initiatives. Opportunities for connection and mentorship are abundant, fostering relationships with people of all ages and backgrounds.
- Our aging population will be honored and cared for, with programs tailored to their unique needs.

A Community United

CCSM will be known as a place where:

- Intergenerational and Multicultural friendships flourish, bridging gaps with understanding and love.
- Diversity is not just accepted but celebrated, reflecting the richness of God's creation.
- Social justice is more than a concept—it's a way of life, with members actively engaged in community activism and service. Partnerships with local organizations create a network of support and positive change.

Leadership with Vision

Our Board of Directors will lead with:

- A commitment to innovation, radical hospitality, and gratitude. A focus on strengthening our congregation through effective communication and programming.
- Dedication to securing the legacy of our Latino/Multicultural Ministry. A revitalized approach to youth and family engagement.
- Strategic planning for sustainable staffing and expanded ministry reach.

As we move forward, CCSM will be a church where faith is lived out loud, where social justice is pursued with passion, and where every person is embraced as a beloved child of God. Together, we will create a community that not only welcomes all but empowers each individual to make a difference in the world.

Join us as we step boldly into this future, living out our progressive faith in ways that transform lives, builds community, and spreads love beyond our walls. The next five years at CCSM promise to be a journey of transformation, growth, compassion, and meaningful action. Let us walk this path together, guided by our shared vision and unwavering commitment to being the hands, feet, and face of God in our world today.