

## Methodology

In looking at our budget, we see how our funds speak to our priorities. That's why we wanted to break it down for you, so you can see how the money you give to Bear Creek is being used to support ministries and programs that support our corporate growth into our mission - to be a thriving, inviting, and inclusive community that is reaching out with the love of Jesus.

With that in mind, we looked at our budget and started considering how each line item supports that mission.

### Thrive - 31% of budget

In this category we include things like staff time and ministries which create worship experiences that draw us closer to Jesus and encourage us to grow in our faith. Adult discipleship and programming for children and families are also included, as is a portion of our building expenses which gives us a warm and welcoming space for these activities.

### nvit - 15% of budget

In this category we include things like staff time and programming intended to draw people to Bear Creek. In this category we find mundane items like our marketing materials and signage, but also a big portion of the vital work of our connect initiatives, creating an environment of welcome in our space for all people. We also include hosting non church-related events like recitals, concerts, and even birthday parties on site, bringing groups of people into our building who might never darken the door in another way. Making this a welcoming place makes it more likely they will be intrigued.

#### Include - 17% of budget

In this category we include things like staff time and ministries which are intentionally expanding our worldview to engage people who are typically excluded. Our building is used by The Madrone School for children who do not "fit" in a typical classroom environment, and AA to give hope to people navigating serious addiction. We support events that bring life and joy to LGBTQ+ people. We care for anyone - inside or outside the church - through our Stephen Ministry program. We work toward social justice through initiatives which support housing, refugee and asylee relief, and food security.

## Community - 24% of budget

In this category we include things like staff time and ministries which build stronger bonds within our congregation and help to create space for connection and belonging. Caring for one another, learning together, serving together, and playing together are all ways in which we see community being an important part of what we do. Most of what we do includes some aspect of community-building.

# Reaching Out - 14% of budget

In this category we include things like staff time and ministry support of the volunteers and projects which enable us to be Jesus' hands and feet to our neighbors and the world. Much of this work uses non-budgeted funding, but we do dedicate 14% of our budget to support these ministries, including ways in which we use our building as a place to collect and distribute. This includes 20% of the monies that we send toward our Conference Apportionments.

