

Narrative Budgets:
Put YOUR Pictures in it!

We all know a picture is worth a thousand words, so follow these guidelines to create your own picture budget instead of the usual (Click on the samples below):

- Open with a friendly, personal letter from the pastor -- don't forget the pastor's picture!
- Keep your stories brief and joyful.
- Include scripture that captures your church's vision.
- Use the words "we" and "our."
- Group church spending into categories, like "Worship," "Community," "Outreach."
- Use active photos that show people's faces. Close-ups are good!
- Avoid pictures of people at meetings!
- Invite your congregation to prayerfully consider their pledge and to grow their giving each year.



Sample full-color, multi-page narrative budgets

[United Church of Chapel Hill — Chapel Hill NC \(929KB\)](#)

A PDF of the church's PowerPoint narrative budget, with photos, pie charts, ministry lists, critical notes and more in one-page highlights of each mission/ministry category.

[Bethany UCC — Cuyahoga Falls OH \(968KB\)](#)

Designed to print on both sides of four legal pages, this budget uses numbers sparingly but is still effective.

[Christ Church UCC — Orrville OH \(538KB\)](#)

An 11-page budget with percentages, pie charts, ministry lists and photos in one-page summaries of each budget area.

[Church of the Redeemer UCC — Westlake OH \(1.2 MB\)](#)

A more elaborate, 17-page booklet with narrative, pie charts and lots of color photographs.

[Hillsborough UCC — Hillsborough NC \(396 KB\)](#)

Designed in Word to print on legal pages, this budget includes a number of categories with explanatory text.

[The UCC of New Smyrna Beach FL \(384 KB\)](#)

Ten pages with narrative, photographs, pie charts and percentages.

[Pilgrim Congregational UCC — Cleveland OH \(2 MB\)](#)

Lots of photographs, a little bit of narrative, and no numbers!

[Holy Covenant UCC \(816 KB\)](#)

Designed to print on three legal pages on the church's color printer, this budget incorporates a range of ways for readers to engage budget information.

[Penn West Conference \(357 KB\)](#)

A 16-page booklet with narrative and photos.

[Connecticut Conference \(704 KB\)](#)

A double-sided page with narrative, numbers and pie charts.

[Indiana-Kentucky Conference \(576 KB\)](#)

A legal-sized page, printed both sides offers a simple but effective narrative budget style.

[Central Atlantic Conference \(88 KB\)](#)

A Word document without photos, but with narrative that highlights both the income and expense sides of the budget.

[Plymouth UCC](#) (129 KB)

A one-page, one-side, one-color narrative budget with narrative, numbers, and some fun clip art.