August 14, 2020

Dear Hope,

I’m drafting this note on my phone while wearing a mask and standing 6 ft. behind the man in front of me. The C-19 pandemic has changed how we communicate, wait in the line at the DMV and much more.

Yet the earth remains the Lord’s. He holds it, waters it, commands the sun to shine upon it and is working all things toward its ultimate purpose... “For the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the LORD as the waters cover the sea.“ (Hab. 2:14)

And God’s approach to achieve this purpose remains for us who abide in Jesus to listen to skeptics, serve our neighbors, walk alongside seekers and equip believers so that more people across the street and around the world may join us in God’s exquisite purpose for His world.

As we look toward 2021 with this clear assignment and a resilient virus among us, *how* we carry out our calling must change. Moved by love for people and respect for civil authorities, Hope must seek God to discover how to be an enduringly faithful relational disciple making church in ways that are different, effective, safe and agile. We must put past strategies on the table before God and ask him to renew and re-create Hope in ways that we would have never anticipated otherwise. Unexpectedly, together we are church re-planting pioneers charged to redesigned Hope for our new world.

In addition to seeking God for fresh ways to carry out his work in 2021 we must be faithful stewards of his resources. Thank you to those of you who continue to sacrificially invest in Hope! Through praying, serving and giving we get to be a part of fulfilling Jesus’ promise that His church will prevail. Yet since the pandemic began in March, we have seen a 7% decrease in giving. So, after much prayer and discussion, our elders and budget team are proposing that we do the following.

1. Begin with an initial decrease of $13,000 in next year’s budget (from 384k to 371k) beginning Sept. 1, 2020.
2. Utilize a portion of our savings if needed.
3. Prepare to reduce our staff expenses after the first of the year if our income does not increase.

Will you help us in this process by completing p. 2 below where you can…

1. vote on #1,
2. relay any thoughts that you sense might be helpful for us as we plan and
3. consider your desire and ability to help resource Hope in the present and next ministry year?

The elders, staff and I are excited to enter this new ministry year with our Lord on the throne, His promise that his purpose will be fulfilled, a tumultuous world around us and the camaraderie of all of you near and far in the Hope family.

Love,



Dean Wertz (on behalf of our elders, budget team and staff)

Budget & Input

for Ministry Year 2021 (Sept. 1, 2020 – Aug. 31, 2021)

Thank you for reading Hope’s Plan for next year and the budget information on the previous page. As you consider uniting with Hope to pursue this future together please prayerfully answer the following questions and either mail a hard copy of this sheet to: Hope Community Church, c/o Arik Stewart, 1801 S. Logan St. Denver, CO 8010 or email a digital copy to arik@hopechurchdenver.org anytime on or before Thursday August 27, 2020.

**Your Name(s):\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Approximately, how long have you been united with Hope?\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Are you an official member? [[1]](#footnote-1)\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

If not, would you like to be notified when we offer our next *Intro to Hope* (our pathway to membership class) in the fall?\_\_\_\_\_\_ What is the best way to contact you?\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**If you have anything to relay to Hope’s elder team concerning our plan and/or next year’s budget, please share your input here (use back if needed).**

**Would you pray about your giving to Hope and, for planning purposes, relay what you sense the Lord wants you to give financially on a monthly or annual basis this next ministry year? [[2]](#footnote-2)**

**$\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Comments:**

**Do you approve of the budget reduction as proposed by the elders & budget team?\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

If not, please explain.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Your signature Date

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Your name (printed)

1. According to Hope’s by-laws, the budget’s official approval is determined by a majority of the members. Votes received from those who are not official members, however, are also valuable as we seek God’s mind together. All input provided will be seriously considered.

2 As with any question we ask of God, when we wait before Him, He may reveal that we are right on track or that there is something new He is calling us to. If He shows you something and you would like to process and/or if you would like to connect with someone to help you pursue greater financial faithfulness in general , please initiate with any of our leaders who would be honored to connect with you and walk alongside you in whatever way may be helpful. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)