



CLERGY ROUNDTABLE

Circuit Rider asked readers...

“What changes is your congregation making in response to the struggling economy?”

“For the first time in this church’s history we project that we might not be able to pay our apportionments in full and we usually pay more in apportionments than any other church in the conference.”

“We have no plans to replace one staff member who left.”

“Giving up on fresh flowers on the altar unless sponsored through a donation and using less expensive pastries during our half-hour donut and coffee fellowship time on Sunday morning. We’re watching our expenses but trying not to cut programming or giving to missions.”

“We’re cutting back on EVERYTHING from food for fellowship, to eliminating a phone line, etc.”

“With a significant increase in apportionments in our 2009 budget and a projected 40% increase in fuel costs for our 2009 budget, we will be making significant cuts in our church budget—including the possibility of cutting staff positions.”

“We’re making an extra effort to conserve and make do with what we have.”

“We are going to use email more than the postal service.”

“More funding will go to operational expenses, less toward ministry. We’ll also be reducing the pastor’s salary significantly.”

“Not increasing program budgets, lowering heat.”

“We are cutting staff salaries, cutting staff, cutting every single area of our budget.”

“We are trying to curtail any unnecessary expenses, such as additional music for the choir, decorations of any kind, etc. We also are keeping our thermostats at 55-60 during the week unless absolutely necessary for a meeting.”

“No frills whatsoever. Only the basics will be covered. Only emergency repairs will be made, no regular upkeep. Any outreach ministry funds will have to be collected from outside the regular church budget fund.”

“My congregation is moving my salary back to the conference minimum. (I believe I’m about \$5K ahead right now with a D.Min. and 30 years experience.)”

**Responses submitted anonymously to UMPH QuickPolls, October 2008-January 2009.*



For the next issue’s Clergy Roundtable

What resources (books, conferences, movies, websites, blogs, etc.) have helped you grow most in your congregational leadership? Send your responses to jkelly@umpublishing.org. We will include as many as possible in the August/September/October 2009 issue.

Responses will be edited for brevity and clarity.