WEST HOUSTON CHRISTIAN CHURCH
曉士頓西區基督教會

October 30, 2026

Dear WHCC Brothers and Sisters:

The Lord is with us! In 2026, we celebrated 35 years of Christ's faithfulness to us at WHCC and saw the Lord continue to lead us in our 10-year vision of Expanding the Tent. We are ever so grateful and hopeful toward the future as we welcome sojourners home to the joy of following Jesus together! As we prepare to call our year-end membership meeting, the Church Council brings two proposals for membership confirmation:

1) **The first is the Vision Fund of $10,000,000.** After a season of prayer and discernment, the Church Council is proposing a $10,000,000 Vision Fund, to fund two priorities: Ministry Spaces ($4M) and Church Planting ($6M). This Vision Fund is in addition to our regular giving to the annual operating ministry budget. More information about the vision fund can be found here: en.whcchome.org/vision. The following are additional details of the proposal:
   a. **Fundraising goal and timeline:** The goal is $10,000,000, to be raised within five years beginning January 1, 2027 and closing on December 31, 2031. If the goal has not been reached by then, any extension of the campaign requires membership confirmation. Once $10M is reached, any additional gifts designated to the Vision Fund will be directed to the general fund.
   b. **Budget flexibility:** The Council may reallocate up to $1,000,000 in total (10% of the Vision Fund) between Ministry Spaces and Church Planting to meet unanticipated costs. Any reallocation will be reported to the membership in the Council's regular updates.
   c. **Spending limit:** Vision Fund spending is limited to funds received. Total Vision Fund expenditures will not exceed $10,000,000 without membership confirmation.
   d. **Loans:** Our goal is to remain debt-free. Any borrowing, including loans or bonds, requires separate membership confirmation.
   e. **Accountability:** The Council will regularly update members on fundraising, spending, and project progress.
2) **The second proposal is the 2027 budget of $3,593,576.** As we invite the congregation to support the Vision Fund, the Church Council has also sought to steward our regular giving faithfully and responsibly. With rising costs like health care and additional staffing needs for succession planning, total ministry spending is projected to be $3.82 million, up 5.6% from $3.62 million in 2026. However, after prayerful consideration, our Financial Stewardship Committee recommended to cover certain expenses using reserve from Church Planting and the Shirley Lu Memorial Fund, which led to the Council's final proposed 2027 operating budget of $3.59 million, which is $26,114 (1%) lower than the 2026 budget.
   The Table below shows the full cost of each ministry, the portion covered by reserves, and the operating budget members are being asked to confirm.

Departments	**2027 Budget**	**2026 Budget**	**Change (%)**
General Operations	$ 2,573,738	$ 2,491,227	+$82,511 (3%)
Ministry Operations	$ 259,438	$ 249,698	+$9,740 (4%)
Church Planting	$ 152,886	$ 38,720	+$114,166 (295%)
Global Ministries	$ 636,400	$ 640,045	($3,645) (−1%)
FARM Reserve	$ 200,000	$ 200,000	0%
Total cost before reserves	$ 3,822,462	$ 3,619,690	+$202,772 (5.6%)
Less Church Planting reserve fund usage	*($ 152,886)*	none	
Less Shirley Lu Memorial Fund (Global Ministries) usage	*($ 76,000)*	none	
Operating Budget Total	**$ 3,593,576**	$ 3,619,690	($26,114) (−1%)

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A few noteworthy observations for this budget:

- General & Ministry Operations: The increase in these two budget categories are primarily due to rising healthcare costs and additional staffing needs to support pastoral succession planning.
- Church Planting: In 2026, $38,720 for church planting was part of our operating budget. In 2027, the church planting budget of $152,886 will be funded from the Church Planting reserve fund. The reserve kickstarts church planting today while the Vision Fund would allow us to multiply churches on a much larger scale over the next five years.
- Global Ministries: The budget is $636,400, 1% lower than 2026, so our level of commitment to missions remains the same. In 2027, $76,000 for strategic projects, seminarians, and global partner care will be funded from the Shirley Lu Memorial Fund.
- FARM Reserve: In 2027, we plan to continue building up the Facilities & Assets Reserve Management (FARM) reserve, which is intended to fund our capital projects (large non-routine projects that involve repair, replacement, or renovation of the facility or equipment such as A/C units). We are anticipating a total of $185,000 to be spent on capital projects that include modernizing one last portion of our sanctuary AV system as well as updating various parts of our campus.

The Church Planting Reserve and the Shirley Lu Memorial Fund are designated funds, so using them does not draw on regular giving. Please keep these proposals in your prayers and let us finish the year strong with our faithful and generous giving in support of the continual growth of W. As an ECFA-accredited church, we are committed to the highest standards of transparency and accountability in stewarding every gift.

Starting Friday, October 30, online voting to confirm these two proposals will be open. Please visit whcchome.org/member-vote to submit your online vote by Sunday, November 15. We will hold two Q&A sessions for these two proposals:

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1) On Sunday, November 1, at 1pm, there will be a Q & A meeting in the sanctuary; and
2) On Sunday, November 8, at 8pm, there will be a Q & A meeting on Zoom (whcchome.org/member-qa).

A General Membership Meeting has been called for Sunday, November 15, 2026, during or at the end of each of the worship services for the membership to pray and as a final reminder to vote.

May the Lord's will be done in our midst as we continue to be a faithful and fruitful church!

Pastoral Staff and Church Council of
West Houston Christian Church