

Temple Sinai Financial Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

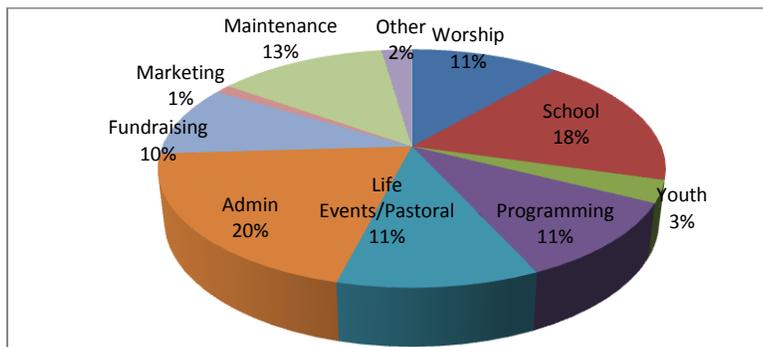
Q Is Temple Sinai financially sound?

Yes. Fiscal responsibility is a key priority for the Board of Trustees, clergy, and Executive Director: we place great importance on proper stewardship of our income and assets. This is often challenging, as most of our expenses are fixed and we can't always count on increasing revenues. Temple Sinai has the financial resources to deal with "lean years" and the unexpected. We have worked very hard to control our expenses and manage operations with greater efficiency so that we can remain strong for generations to come. Finally, we are working to continue to build our endowment (the "Fund For The Future"), which provides a permanent source of annual income.

Q How do we allocate our budget to meet the needs of the Congregation?

The hardest part of our budget process is determining a budget that best meets the needs of Temple Sinai's community of 850 families and 2,300 souls. Temple is more than *shabbat* and High Holiday services. It enhances the spiritual needs of each member; educates the next generation with a dynamic school that instills a sense of Jewish values and identity; provides learning and music opportunities for members of all ages; enriches the life cycle events we celebrate; comforts us when we are sick or grieving; creates a community for all members in the way that best fits each of us; and improves the world through *tikkun olam*. (Below is a chart that illustrates how our budget is allocated to meet the various needs of the congregation.)

Temple Sinai Budget by Need



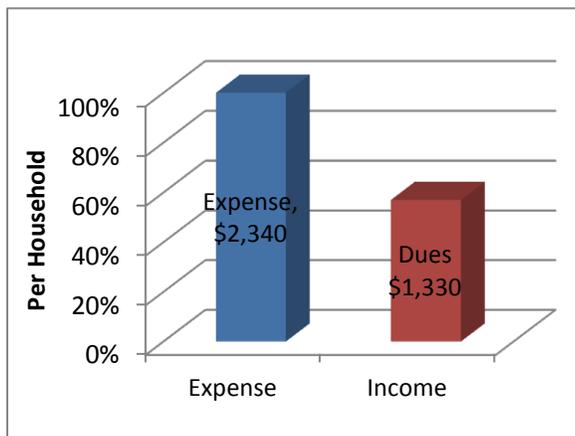
Q Just how much does it take to run the Temple each year? Don't membership and school fees cover the cost?

The 2015-2016 operating budget is approximately \$2 million. **With just over 850 families, it takes \$2,340 per household to provide the programs and services our congregants expect.** Of course, not all households are able to pay the full dues rates, but Temple Sinai does not turn away anyone due to an inability to pay. Approximately 40% of our members are therefore on "adjusted" dues. As a result, dues cover approximately 57% of our needs to meet the obligations of the Temple family. The support of members who pay full or reduced dues is augmented by the generosity of our Pillars (members who pay higher-than-full dues), and income from other sources such as the Fund For the Future, to enable us to offer all of the benefits of membership to all our member families, regardless of financial circumstances.

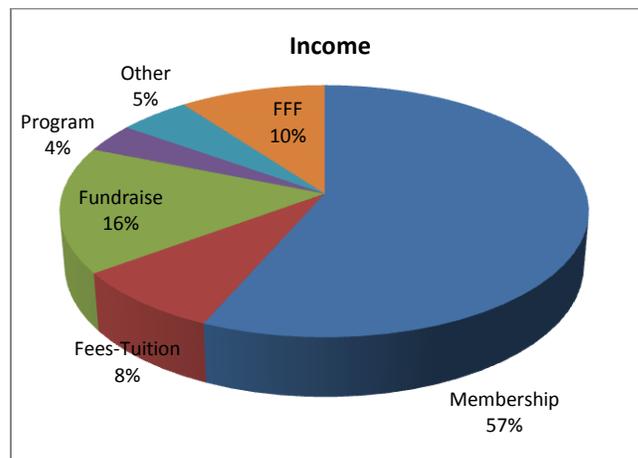
Q The cost of membership keeps increasing – Why?

This year the cost of membership rose for two reasons. First, as we have grown, we've seen a wonderfully increasing desire for spiritual experiences, pastoral care, and programming of many kinds. Because of this growth, the Board of Trustees determined that we should hire a fully-ordained, full time Cantor, for the first time in Temple Sinai history. Second, despite our efforts to keep costs in line, some costs do increase every year, in significant part due to inflation. Our values and needs include fair compensation for our hard-working clergy and staff, the cost of maintaining our historical building, and costs for technology for programs and safety. As with any organization or family, all of these tend to drive costs up. While we have worked hard to keep expenses in check and increases have been kept as low as possible, we still need a modest increase in membership fees to responsibly balance our budget.

Cost and Membership Fees Received per Household



Temple Sinai Income by Source



Q What about program fees – don't they cover program costs?

Frequently they don't. The fees charged for the Religious School, for example, have been below market and below actual costs for the past several years. The Board feels justified in increasing them given the quality of our educational programs, but we have also done so as gradually as possible. Even if we were to raise school fees to market rates, the true costs of the Religious School would continue to be subsidized by the Fund For The Future and other income in order to offer education within reach of all families. In order to balance the budget, the Finance Committee has asked that all other programs be fully or substantially funded by fees and/or donations.

Q It seems as if we're always fundraising – doesn't that make up the difference?

Only in part. We are very grateful to donors who make philanthropic contributions and these help balance the budget. In addition to dues, fundraising makes up 16% of operating fund income. Income from our endowment, the Fund for the Future, provides an additional 10%. The Fund for the Future has the potential to provide an increasing percentage of the operating budget, so it has been a focus for our fundraising activities, including our *This Is The Time* Campaign. By law, the Board is authorized to draw up to 7% of the Fund for the Future annually, but best practices dictate that the draw should be limited to 4-5%, to ensure that the corpus is not diminished over time. Growth of the endowment due to contributions and increased asset values has increased support from the Fund for the Future from \$110,000 in 2010-11 to over \$200,000 in this year's budget.

Q Why should I pay full dues if I go to Temple Sinai only a few times a year? Let someone else pay.

Temple Sinai is here for you in good times and bad. If you become ill or a loved one dies, our clergy are here for you. For life cycle events, including baby namings, weddings, conversions, and B'nei Mitzvah, your congregation is here for you. Temple Sinai educates and creates young Jews who are literate in our traditions and proud of their Jewish heritage. Our Centers and Auxiliaries put Jewish values into action by coordinating opportunities to volunteer and to support causes of critical importance in our city. We serve our entire congregation in so many ways! An investment in Temple Sinai is an investment in a vibrant Jewish future and helps assure that your community is here when you, your loved ones, and your friends need it.

Q. Why do we have a Capital Fund Assessment?

As beautiful and warm as our building is, it is aging. We have a long list of maintenance needs to keep our home structurally sound and its systems functioning. Last year, we began the process of evaluating those needs and of restoring the Capital Fund to meet them. This year we will undertake the task of detailing a timeline for projects to address the needs of the building.