



KNOCK
METHODIST CHURCH

LEARNING THE WAY | LOVING EACH OTHER | LIVING THE FAITH

Financial Statements and Freewill Offering



Year ending 31st December 2023

Commentary on Knock Methodist Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2023

Knock Methodist Church has various bank accounts representing different areas within the life of the church.

This report concentrates on:

- the No. 1 account, which is the general day to day account;
- the No. 3 account, which is the property account for payments for any repairs & maintenance work done on the church, the centre or the manse; and
- the Restoration and Building Fund, incorporating development work.

Note that the report does not cover the bank accounts for the youth organisations e.g. Guides, Brownies, etc., which are deemed to fall outside of the church's jurisdiction.

1. No. 1 Account – General Account

The No. 1 account shows a closing balance of **£88,689** at the end of December 2023, compared to £66,349 at the end of December 2022.

The key point to note within the accounts is that we have a **surplus** for the year of **£22,341** (2022: surplus of £17,231), an **improvement of £5,110**. Last year's result however was skewed as a result of there being no minister in place for the first half of the year. The underlying year on year improvement in surplus is therefore about £25,000.

Total income (before charitable collections) was **up £29,541 (19%)** on last year, with the main variances as follows:

- £22,787 / 21% increase in income from the weekly envelopes, standing orders and loose collections, our highest total freewill offering figure since 2016.
- £7,950 / 1242% increase in income from fundraising activities (further details in section 5).
- £1,247 / 5% increase in receipts from the hire of the church hall to outside groups such as Venture Kids, painting classes, dance classes etc.
- £569 / 3% increase in Gift Aid reflecting the increase in offering received in 2022.
- £102 / 5% higher income from Church Groups (further details in section 6).

Total expenditure (excluding charitable donations) was **up £19,431 (14%)** with the main variances as follows:

- £16,521 / 31% increase in amounts paid by the society to the circuit as result of not having a stationed minister in the first half of 2022. On an underlying basis, this actually decreased by approximately £4,000 due to a reduction in overall circuit expenditure.
- £9,550 / 23% decrease in payroll costs due to the departure of the Youth Pastor in August 2022.
- £8,765 / 109% increase in energy costs. The year-on-year increase in energy consumption was 11%, with the remainder of the increase being accounted for by a further increase in the cost per kWh of both gas and electricity during the year.
- £1,503 / 9% increase in cleaning costs, primarily due to an increase in the National Minimum Wage.
- £1,688 / 12% increase in administrative costs. The most notable increase within this was £1,278 for the purchase for new IT hardware (a PC and a laptop) for use by church employees.

2. No. 3 Account – Property Account

The No. 3 account has a balance of **£12,672** at the end of December 2023 compared to the December 2022 figure £2,854, giving a **surplus of £9,818**.

Total income was **down by £6,048 (26%)** on last year, with the main variances as follows:

- £8,598 / 41% decrease in total freewill offering, because the prior year included monies received of £9,835 following appeals for support for the manse works and the new projector. The underlying freewill is up approximately £1,237 / 11%.
- £2,550 / 131% increase in Gift Aid receipts reflecting the increase in offering received in 2022.

Total expenditure decreased by £39,736 / 85%, to £7,160 as there was considerable expenditure in the prior year on the manse and the new church projector. The main items of expenditure in the current year were as follows:

- £900 repainting metal railings at front of church
- £840 to repair the broken water mains at the Manse.
- £769 repairs to the boilers and heating in the church and hall.
- £550 to trim trees overhanging neighbouring properties
- £480 to deal with a vermin infestation.
- £480 rodent control
- £350 repairs to Manse roof downpipes
- £264 new pads for defibrillators
- £240 annual lightning protection maintenance
- £202 annual intruder alarm maintenance
- £192 annual fire alarm maintenance.

3. Renovation and Building Fund

The fund continues to benefit from the generous contributions from the congregation with a balance of **£42,463** in the fund at 31 December 2023 compared to £34,551 at 31 December 2022.

Income of £6,500 was received during the year through congregational giving and donations, as well as £1,427 Gift Aid receipts. There was no expenditure in the year other than £16 bank fees.

4. Charitable Giving

The following amounts were paid by Knock Methodist in 2023 to charitable causes:

	2023	2022
MCI Charities	£	£
East Belfast Mission	5,000	-
Home Mission	727	588
MWI	785	-
World Mission Partnership	-	465
World Development and Relief	4,040	3,693
Childcare Society	1,898	1,409
Total	12,450	6,155
Non MCI Charities	£	£
British Red Cross for Ukraine	-	870
The Larder	240	638
Marie Curie	449	-
Christian Aid	240	-
Total	929	1,508

The payment of £5,000 to East Belfast Mission fulfilled the church's commitment to raise this amount for the Hosford House project. £3,992 of this amount was funded by the church's fund raising activities during the year (being 50% of the net funds raised).

5. Fund Raising

The following amounts were raised in 2023 from fund raising activities (net of costs):

	2023	2022
	£	£
Christmas Quiz	1,705	640
Surf Day	(30)	-
Quiz Night	1,000	-
Bell Ringers	704	-
Flower Arranging	1,050	-
Grosvenor Chorale	308	-
Christmas Fayre	3,247	-
Total	7,984	640

6. Other Accounts

The following movements for the year ended 31 December 2023, were disclosed to the Trustees for other accounts held within Knock Methodist Church:

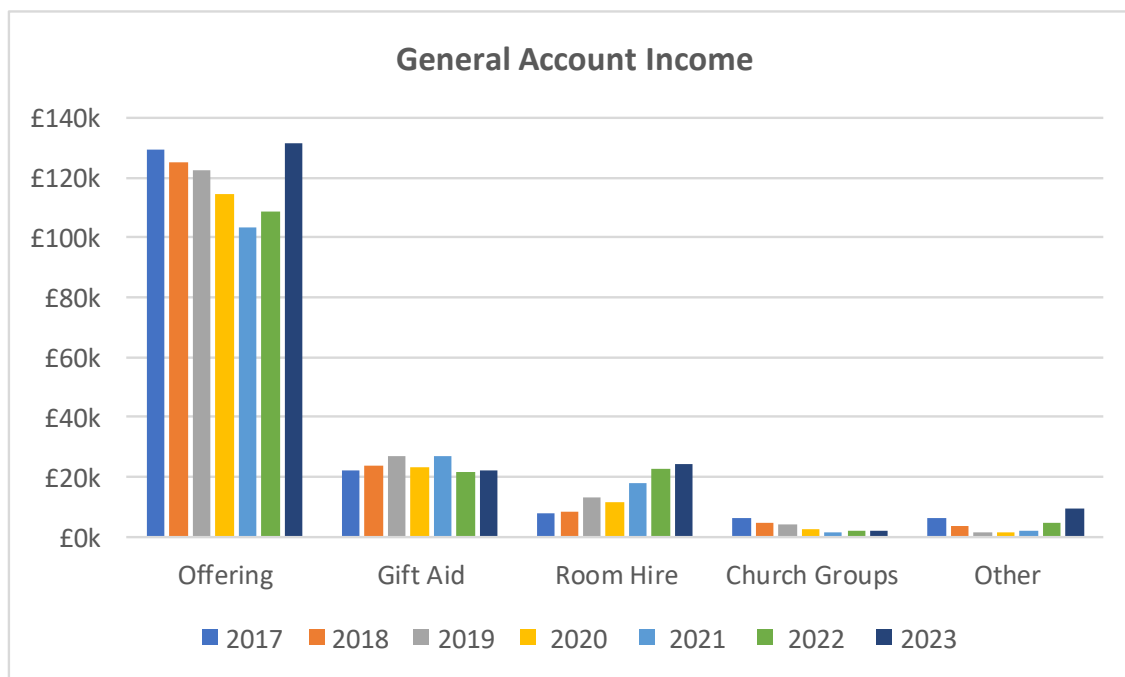
Organisation	Opening Balance	Receipts	Church Donations	Other Donations /Expenses	Closing Balance
	£	£	£	£	£
Drama club	6,422	6	0	30	6,398
Choir	1,111	296	0	368	1,039
Care Fund	888	1,198	0	24	2,062
Busy Bees	189	571	200	200	360
Badminton	0	365	365	0	0
Friendship group	974	7,748	1,000	5,684	2,038
Total	9,584	10,184	1,565	6,306	11,897

In addition to the above, amounts of £220 and £300 were received from the Craft & Chat and Bowling clubs respectively.

7. Outlook for 2024 and beyond

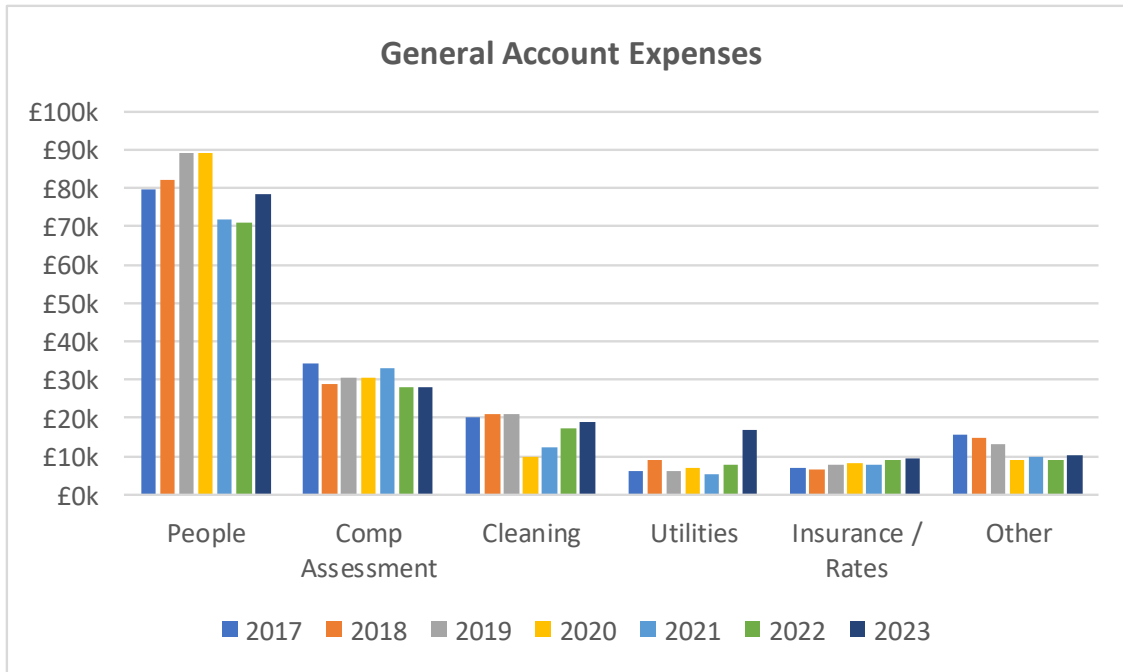
All in all, 2023 has been a very successful year, building on the growing momentum that we saw in the second half of 2022.

As the chart below shows, our offering increased substantially year on year to the highest level seen since at least 2017. Room hire reached a new record high of just over £24,000, and we saw continuing growth in amounts received from church groups and other sources of income, particularly in our fund raising activities. Combined with the generous giving from the congregation, this allowed us to donate over £13,000 in the year to charitable causes, including £5,000 to the East Belfast Mission Hosford House project.

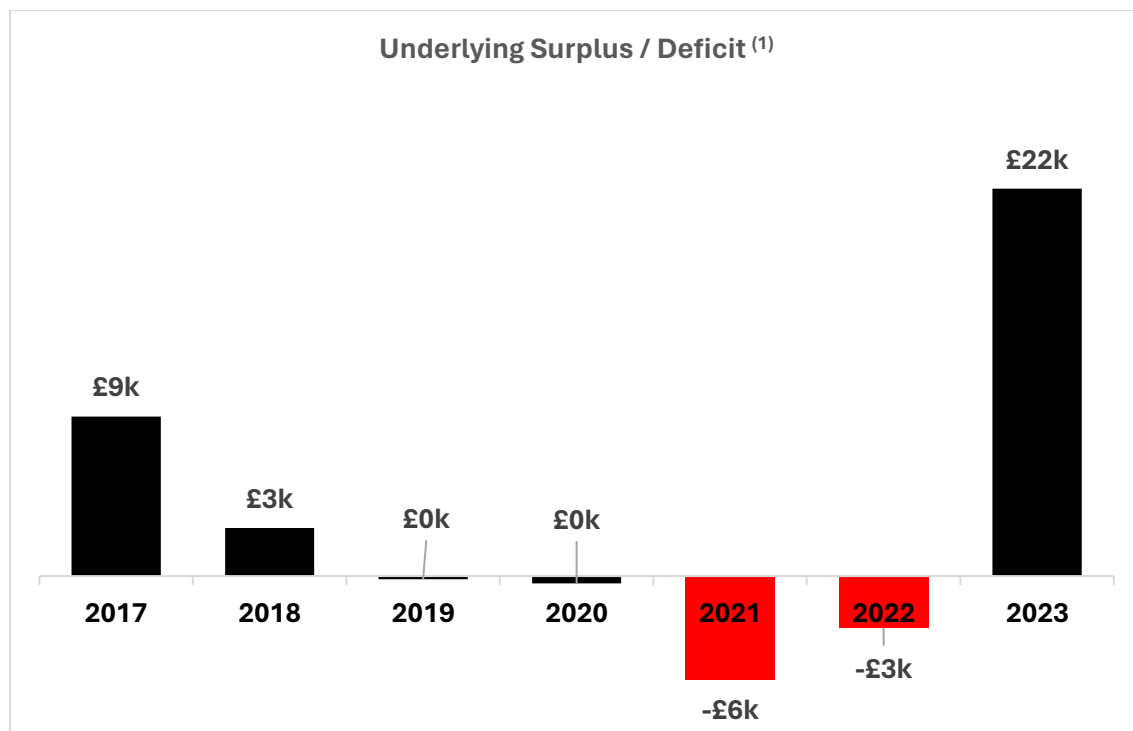


As far as expenditure is concerned, the following chart shows that our expenditure has increased to above that seen during the Covid period, but still largely remains below pre-Covid levels. Our people costs reflect the fact that this is the first full year of having a stationed minister since 2020, with the drop in expenditure compared to that period resulting from no longer having a Youth Pastor.

Despite inflationary pressures, expenditure on the Comprehensive Assessment, Cleaning and “Other” (mainly administrative) costs remain well controlled. The only real areas of cost increase are in relation to property insurance / rates (which are largely driven by inflation) and utility costs (which have increased substantially in the year as a result of a significant increase in energy costs over that period).



All of this means that the church this year has a reported one of the highest surpluses it has seen for quite some time, as shown in the following chart.



⁽¹⁾ Normalised in 2021 / 2022 for minister's salary

So far in the first four months of 2024, our total Freewill Offering (FWO) has held up reasonably well, with a slight increase on the same period last year of 3%. However, our utility costs have continued to increase quite substantially (up by a further 50% on top of the doubling in cost we saw last year), although this should ease in the second half of the year as energy prices are expected to fall.

All of this means that whilst we should still report a healthy surplus in 2024 on the main No1 church account, it is likely to be lower than that seen in 2023 (estimated at between £12,000 and £18,000). Likewise, expenditure on the No3 property account is expected to be higher this year due to repair works required to the stained glass windows in the church, plus to areas of leaking roof around the centre and church entrances.

8. Governance

I would again assure the congregation that:

- The No. 1 and No. 3 accounts are independently reviewed each year by Eric Bell.
- The treasurer has no role in counting the money received each week, or banking it; in other words, there is a reasonable segregation of duties.
- A reconciliation is performed between the separate record that the Church office keeps of contributions by person and the amount that has gone through the bank.
- Bank reconciliations are carried out each month.

9. Thanks

There are a number of people who I would like to thank, all of whom have been a great help over the last year, so in no particular order:

- Laura in the office for her support with scanning documentation and chasing up of cash.
- Grahame Capper and the team who meet up to both count and bank cash receipts.
- Jimmy and Jeannie Boyd for administering the envelope system.
- Sam McCann and Laura for the work required to complete the Gift Aid return.
- The fund raising team for the various quizzes etc.
- John Stothers for all the time and effort spent in reviewing and changing the utility providers.
- Eric Bell and Grahame Capper for agreeing to independently review the accounts again this year.

Peter Gibson, May 2024

KNOCK METHODIST CHURCH**No.1 ACCOUNT (Main Account)**

	12m	12m		
	Dec-23	Dec-22	YoY - £	YoY - %
Offering (Standing Order)	74,610	56,516	18,094	32%
Offering (FWO Envelopes)	47,396	46,096	1,300	3%
Offering (Loose)	9,563	6,170	3,393	55%
Total Offering	131,569	108,782	22,787	21%
Rental Income (Hall/Room Hire)	24,198	22,952	1,247	5%
Gift Aid /Tax Rebate	21,992	21,423	569	3%
Bequests and Legacies	1,370	4,260	(2,890)	-68%
Bank Interest	54	0	54	
Dividends - from Trustees	76	72	4	5%
Other Income received by Church Orgs	2,085	1,983	102	5%
Sale of resources income	937	323	614	190%
Sale of resources costs	(1,074)	(785)	(289)	37%
Fundraising events income	8,590	640	7,950	1242%
Fundraising events costs	(606)	0	(606)	
Income excl Charitable Collections	189,191	159,650	29,541	19%
Collections for MCI Charities	7,450	6,155	1,295	21%
Collections for other Charities	929	1,508	(579)	-38%
Income incl Charitable Collections	197,570	167,313	30,257	18%
Paid by Society to circuit	(69,716)	(53,195)	(16,521)	31%
MCI Payroll Collections	(31,260)	(40,810)	9,550	-23%
Payroll & comp. assessment	(100,976)	(94,005)	(6,971)	7%
Cleaning costs	(18,791)	(17,288)	(1,503)	9%
Heat, light power (net of contributions)	(16,772)	(8,007)	(8,765)	109%
Insurance Premiums Paid	(8,236)	(7,860)	(376)	5%
Rates and rent paid	(1,348)	(1,221)	(127)	10%
Property related costs	(45,147)	(34,376)	(10,772)	31%
Organist Costs	(5,400)	(5,150)	(250)	5%
Telephone and Wifi	(2,968)	(2,834)	(133)	5%
CCLI/Copyright	(1,180)	(1,095)	(85)	8%
Stationery, postage etc	(1,822)	(1,418)	(404)	28%
AV Equipment	(617)	(960)	343	-36%
IT Hardware costs	(1,278)	0	(1,278)	
Catering Costs	(703)	(372)	(331)	89%
Bank Fees & Interest	(497)	(409)	(89)	22%
Subscriptions and Licence costs	(296)	(156)	(140)	90%
Miscellaneous	(513)	(923)	410	-44%
IT Software costs	(127)	(457)	330	-72%
Pulpit Supply	(300)	(150)	(150)	100%
Youth & childrens activities	(25)	(115)	90	-78%
Administrative costs	(15,728)	(14,039)	(1,688)	12%
Expenditure excl Charitable Payments	(161,851)	(142,419)	(19,431)	14%
Payments to MCI Charities	(12,450)	(6,155)	(6,295)	102%
Payments to other charities	(929)	(1,508)	579	-38%
Expenditure incl Charitable Payments	(175,229)	(150,082)	(25,147)	17%
Net surplus	22,341	17,231	5,110	
Opening bank balance	66,349	49,118	17,231	
Closing bank balance	88,689	66,349	22,341	

Peter Gibson
Society Treasurer

Eric Bell
Independent Reviewer

KNOCK METHODIST CHURCH**No.3 ACCOUNT (Property)**

	12m	12m		
	Dec-23	Dec-22	YoY - £	YoY - %
Property Offering (direct to bank)	5,804	5,479	325	6%
Property Offering (envelopes)	6,680	15,603	(8,923)	-57%
Total Offering	12,484	21,082	(8,598)	-41%
Gift Aid / Tax Rebate - Property	4,494	1,945	2,550	131%
Bequests and legacies	0	0	0	
Total income	16,978	23,027	(6,048)	-26%
Grounds Maintenance	(2,035)	(2,333)	298	-13%
Building Maintenance (Church and Hall)	(3,343)	(7,992)	4,648	-58%
Building Maintenance (Manse)	(1,653)	(31,119)	29,466	-95%
Property related costs	(7,031)	(41,443)	34,412	-83%
Furniture, furnishings, equipment	0	(529)	529	-100%
AV Equipment	0	(4,800)	4,800	-100%
Bank Fees & Interest	(130)	(124)	(5)	4%
Total expenditure	(7,160)	(46,897)	39,736	-85%
Net surplus / (deficit)	9,818	(23,870)	33,688	
Opening bank	2,854	26,724	(23,870)	
Closing bank	12,672	2,854	9,818	

Peter Gibson
Society Treasurer

Eric Bell
Independent Reviewer

KNOCK METHODIST CHURCH**Building Fund**

	12m Dec-23	12m Dec-22	YoY - £	YoY - %
Property Offering (direct to bank)	6,500	6,617	(117)	-2%
Property Offering (envelopes)	0	0	0	
Total Offering	6,500	6,617	(117)	-2%
Donations and collections - property	0	500	(500)	-100%
Gift Aid / Tax Rebate - Property	1,427	1,736	(309)	-18%
Total income	7,927	8,853	(926)	-10%
Grounds Maintenance	0	0	0	
Building Maintenance (Church and Hall)	0	0	0	
Building Maintenance (Manse)	0	0	0	
Property related costs	0	0	0	
Bank Fees & Interest	(16)	(18)	2	-11%
Total expenditure	(16)	(18)	2	-11%
Net surplus	7,911	8,835	(924)	
Opening bank	34,551	25,716		
Closing bank	42,463	34,551		

Eric Bell
Fund Treasurer

Grahame Capper
Independent Reviewer

FWO No	BUILDING	CHURCH	PROPERTY	TOTAL
1	0.00	1,070.00	130.00	1,200.00
2	0.00	140.00	0.00	140.00
3	0.00	730.00	0.00	730.00
4	0.00	420.00	0.00	420.00
5	0.00	525.00	520.00	1,045.00
6	240.00	1,800.00	0.00	2,040.00
8	0.00	780.00	0.00	780.00
9	0.00	5.00	0.00	5.00
10	0.00	790.00	330.00	1,120.00
11	0.00	550.00	0.00	550.00
12	0.00	308.00	30.00	338.00
13	0.00	405.00	29.00	434.00
14	0.00	265.00	0.00	265.00
15	0.00	25.00	0.00	25.00
16	0.00	40.00	40.00	80.00
17	0.00	265.00	270.00	535.00
18	0.00	1,200.00	0.00	1,200.00
19	0.00	0.00	530.00	530.00
20	0.00	265.00	120.00	385.00
21	0.00	150.00	0.00	150.00
22	0.00	434.00	0.00	434.00
23	0.00	0.00	240.00	240.00
24	0.00	1,325.00	0.00	1,325.00
25	0.00	129.00	0.00	129.00
26	0.00	1,290.00	0.00	1,290.00
27	0.00	110.00	10.00	120.00
30	0.00	1,440.00	0.00	1,440.00
31	0.00	880.00	0.00	880.00
32	0.00	1,000.00	0.00	1,000.00
33	0.00	0.00	890.00	890.00
34	0.00	1,060.00	0.00	1,060.00
35	0.00	1,110.00	300.00	1,410.00
36	0.00	1,100.00	20.00	1,120.00
37	0.00	149.00	0.00	149.00
38	0.00	450.00	0.00	450.00
39	0.00	1,250.00	0.00	1,250.00
40	0.00	300.00	0.00	300.00
41	0.00	25.00	50.00	75.00
42	0.00	400.00	0.00	400.00
43	0.00	220.00	0.00	220.00
44	0.00	170.00	170.00	340.00
45	0.00	990.00	0.00	990.00
46	0.00	415.00	0.00	415.00
47	0.00	296.10	0.00	296.10
49	0.00	178.00	0.00	178.00
52	0.00	540.00	0.00	540.00
53	0.00	200.00	40.00	240.00
54	0.00	2,255.50	0.00	2,255.50
55	0.00	165.00	0.00	165.00
56	0.00	530.00	270.00	800.00
58	0.00	129.20	0.00	129.20
59	0.00	520.00	0.00	520.00
61	600.00	1,440.00	0.00	2,040.00
62	0.00	2,000.00	340.00	2,340.00
63	0.00	1,690.00	20.00	1,710.00
64	0.00	1,040.00	0.00	1,040.00
65	0.00	119.00	0.00	119.00

FWO No	BUILDING	CHURCH	PROPERTY	TOTAL
66	0.00	1,060.00	40.00	1,100.00
67	0.00	1,300.00	260.00	1,560.00
68	0.00	150.00	150.00	300.00
69	0.00	470.00	0.00	470.00
70	960.00	720.00	0.00	1,680.00
72	0.00	960.00	0.00	960.00
73	0.00	670.00	10.00	680.00
74	360.00	80.00	10.00	450.00
75	0.00	166.00	0.00	166.00
76	1,200.00	2,000.00	0.00	3,200.00
77	0.00	107.00	53.00	160.00
78	0.00	210.00	0.00	210.00
79	0.00	540.00	275.00	815.00
80	0.00	640.00	0.00	640.00
81	0.00	90.00	0.00	90.00
81	600.00	0.00	0.00	600.00
82	0.00	220.00	10.00	230.00
83	0.00	180.00	0.00	180.00
84	0.00	260.00	215.00	475.00
85	0.00	1,675.00	230.00	1,905.00
86	0.00	105.00	0.00	105.00
87	480.00	23.00	22.00	525.00
90	0.00	280.00	0.00	280.00
91	0.00	670.00	0.00	670.00
93	0.00	1,080.00	0.00	1,080.00
94	0.00	60.00	26.00	86.00
95	0.00	184.00	0.00	184.00
96	0.00	722.00	530.00	1,252.00
97	0.00	540.00	0.00	540.00
98	0.00	500.00	0.00	500.00
99	0.00	770.00	0.00	770.00
100	0.00	280.00	0.00	280.00
101	0.00	2,350.00	360.00	2,710.00
102	0.00	0.00	100.00	100.00
103	0.00	590.00	530.00	1,120.00
104	0.00	1,800.00	600.00	2,400.00
105	0.00	300.00	0.00	300.00
106	0.00	420.00	0.00	420.00
107	0.00	1,080.00	0.00	1,080.00
108	0.00	70.00	55.00	125.00
109	180.00	0.00	0.00	180.00
110	0.00	100.00	0.00	100.00
111	0.00	10.00	0.00	10.00
111	0.00	324.50	0.00	324.50
112	0.00	165.00	0.00	165.00
113	0.00	144.00	0.00	144.00
114	0.00	20.00	0.00	20.00
115	0.00	260.00	0.00	260.00
116	360.00	390.00	0.00	750.00
117	360.00	1,030.00	0.00	1,390.00
119	0.00	355.00	0.00	355.00
120	0.00	100.00	0.00	100.00
121	0.00	385.00	155.00	540.00
500	0.00	720.00	0.00	720.00
502	0.00	1,200.00	0.00	1,200.00
503	110.00	165.00	0.00	275.00
504	0.00	240.00	0.00	240.00
505	0.00	1,200.00	0.00	1,200.00

FWO No	BUILDING	CHURCH	PROPERTY	TOTAL
506	0.00	2,700.00	900.00	3,600.00
507	0.00	360.00	0.00	360.00
508	150.00	375.00	100.00	625.00
509	0.00	480.00	0.00	480.00
510	0.00	1,325.00	0.00	1,325.00
511	0.00	0.00	200.00	200.00
512	0.00	20.00	0.00	20.00
513	0.00	720.00	0.00	720.00
514	0.00	1,200.00	0.00	1,200.00
515	0.00	420.00	0.00	420.00
516	0.00	104.00	0.00	104.00
517	0.00	780.00	0.00	780.00
518	0.00	960.00	0.00	960.00
519	0.00	600.00	0.00	600.00
520	0.00	5,600.00	1,600.00	7,200.00
521	0.00	520.00	0.00	520.00
522	0.00	1,200.00	0.00	1,200.00
523	0.00	1,480.00	0.00	1,480.00
524	0.00	1,200.00	384.00	1,584.00
525	0.00	240.00	0.00	240.00
526	0.00	1,440.00	0.00	1,440.00
527	0.00	120.00	0.00	120.00
528	0.00	400.00	0.00	400.00
529	0.00	300.00	0.00	300.00
531	360.00	0.00	0.00	360.00
532	0.00	480.00	0.00	480.00
534	0.00	300.00	0.00	300.00
535	0.00	1,200.00	0.00	1,200.00
537	0.00	600.00	0.00	600.00
538	0.00	600.00	0.00	600.00
540	0.00	240.00	0.00	240.00
541	0.00	600.00	0.00	600.00
542	0.00	960.00	0.00	960.00
543	0.00	200.00	0.00	200.00
544	300.00	780.00	0.00	1,080.00
545	0.00	1,920.00	960.00	2,880.00
546	0.00	120.00	120.00	240.00
547	0.00	1,440.00	240.00	1,680.00
549	0.00	840.00	0.00	840.00
550	0.00	3,600.00	0.00	3,600.00
551	0.00	3,850.00	0.00	3,850.00
552	0.00	4,160.00	0.00	4,160.00
553	0.00	250.00	0.00	250.00
554	0.00	1,650.00	0.00	1,650.00
555	0.00	2,700.00	0.00	2,700.00
556	0.00	640.00	0.00	640.00
557	0.00	1,200.00	0.00	1,200.00
558	0.00	1,560.00	0.00	1,560.00
559	0.00	360.00	0.00	360.00
560	0.00	960.00	0.00	960.00
561	0.00	1,440.00	0.00	1,440.00
614	0.00	500.00	0.00	500.00
617	0.00	500.00	0.00	500.00
619	0.00	500.00	0.00	500.00
900	240.00	98.40	0.00	338.40
	6,500.00	122,005.70	12,484.00	140,989.70