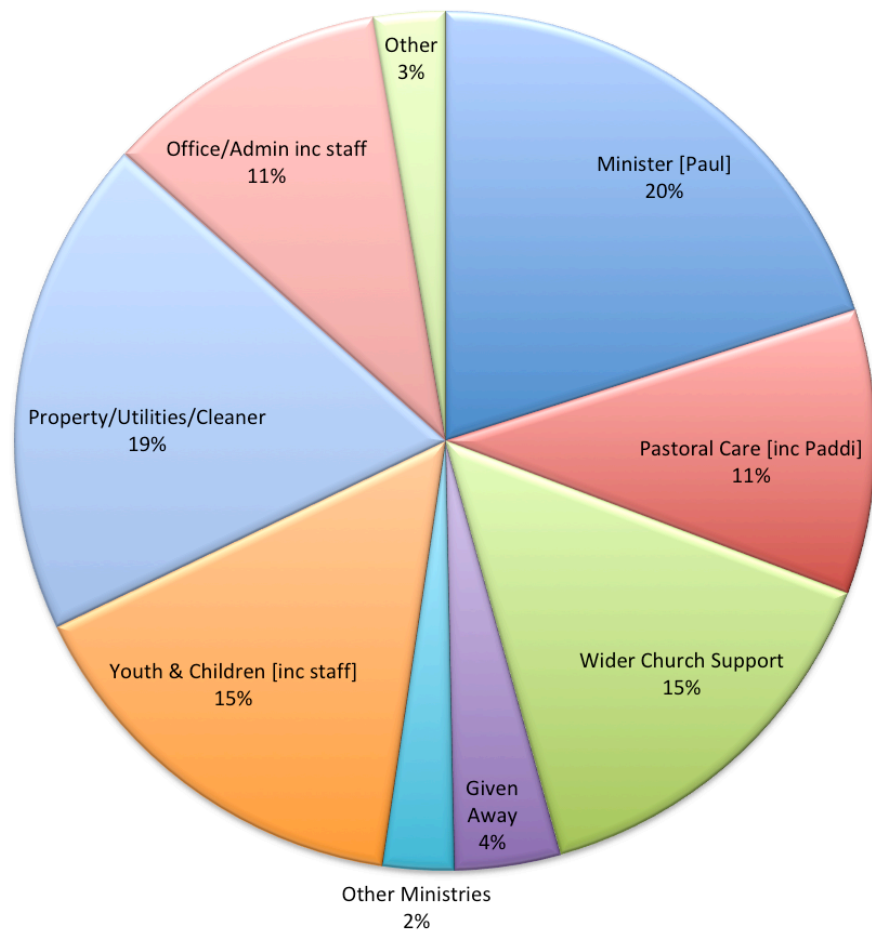


Finance FAQ's

How is our church money spent?

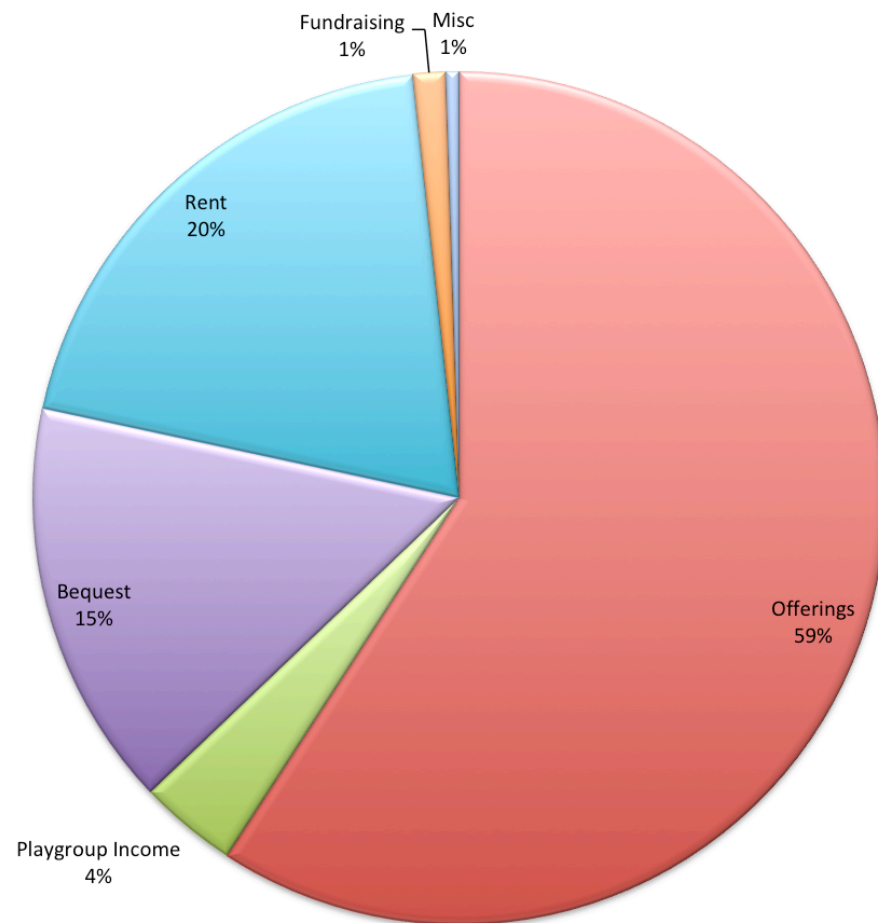
When you put money in the offering, this is how it is spent!



This graph is based on 2018 budget. This does not include the money we give away through our bequest program.

Where does our Church's income come from?

This is where our money comes from [mostly from you!]



How much Government Funding do we get?

None! It is a very common misconception that churches get Government money! No! Agencies like Uniting Care get Government funding but not the church. We do receive Government grants from time to times for various projects, but rarely. We survive on the giving of our people!

My partner doesn't go to church so...

We understand how hard it is when a partner doesn't go to worship, so therefore doesn't want you to give much to God. This is fine, we understand, and God does. If it is a tricky topic, don't feel guilty. Some people give in other ways, with their time or talents – baking for morning tea, or serving in playgroup.

We're in real financial difficulty, if we don't tithe will we be cursed?

St. Paul said, 'he didn't want giving to relieve some while others suffer!' [2 Cor 8:13] If you have to step back from giving for a season, God understands. A belief that we are cursed or blessed by giving is to step back into a superstitious world-view, not a Christian world-view. Christians believe there are benefits to tithing/giving related to giving. Eg releasing us from the control of money; Developing generosity which is a great character trait; Developing trust in God. If we don't give then the opposite happens, we become stingy, tight fisted, lovers of money. God loves a cheerful giver. If giving is difficult for you, pray for God to soften your heart and free you in this area.

I've heard the Church pays no tax. Is that true?

We do pay tax, but we don't pay a lot. We pay normal payroll tax on all our wages. We pay some GST but are able to claim lots back in a similar way to schools. As a not-for-profit we don't make profits, so we don't have to pay profit tax [Company tax.] It really is a furphy to say churches pay no tax. They pay as much as any other community service organisation.

Isn't the Church rich! Why do you need offerings?

The Uniting Church is asset rich but income poor. Because the church has been around for a long time it has lots of property that is worth lots of money, but its income is very low. It's the same situation for many farmers. Land worth heaps, very low income! Why doesn't the church sell its land I hear you ask? Most of the land has a community

attached to it. If you sold their land, no more church! So the church is 'rich' but it can't realise its assets easily.

If I put more in the offering, does the Minister get richer?

No! In the Uniting Church Ministers are paid a living allowance [stipend]. The stipend doesn't change based on the size of the church. They all get the same across Qld. If you put more in the offering the Minister gets paid the same, but the Church can do more!

How much should I put in the offering?

This is something you should work out with God! 'Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.' 2 Cor 9:7.

The Bible does have a lot to say about money; its dangers, its purpose; and the church and what it means to *belong*, not simply attend. Giving is really a life long journey! If you want to know more talk to a mentor or elder about this topic and do a bible study about it.

Is there a verse that sums up a Christian's attitude to money?

That's a huge call to find one verse, but here is one that is pretty good. What would you select?

Lord, Give me neither poverty nor riches,
but only my daily bread.
Otherwise, I may have too much and forget you
Or be too poor and steal,
dishonouring your name.

Proverbs 30:8b-9

What is the Bequest Fund I have heard about?

Over the past seven years a number of members have left us money in their wills. A significant amount of money that we want to be a lasting legacy!

RUC has committed to;

1. Reinvest one third of the income to maintain and grow this legacy.
2. Use one third to grow mission and new ministry at RUC.
3. Give one third away to enable mission locally, across Qld and the world!

This fund has generated \$1Million since 2012. One third of that has been re-invested, one third is driving mission from RUC, and we have given one third away!

Why do we give so much of the Bequest money away?

Basically, because that is what God is like! Generosity is at the very heart of God's nature. In Christ God gave himself away for the sake of others! Our desire is to be Christlike! As Jesus said, 'It is better to give than receive.'

This generosity also has some pragmatic benefits! It helps put money in its place, behind our faith in God! It spreads the blessing, and it means we have to continue to be challenged about our own giving to achieve things here at RUC.

What is tithing, and where is it in the Bible?

Tithing is the practice of setting aside one tenth [one dollar in every ten] of your income for God. You can read about it in these passages; Genesis 14:18-20; Numbers 18:8-32; Malachai 3:6-12; Matt 23:23; If you search for tenth or tithing on Biblegateway.com you will find more. Remember this is just background information about tithing. You can read more about tithing on our webpage.