# TEXAS METHODIST FOUNDATION <br> FOR CHURCHES AND DISTRICT BOARDS OF CHURCH LOCATION \& BUILDING 

# REALISTIC BORROWING: SAFE DEBT LEVELS 

## FINANCES

While these guidelines help you calculate the absolute maximum amount your church should borrow, this does not mean you should borrow the maximum. It is in the best interest of the church to consider many factors before determining the amount of debt that is safe, including:

- Current budget items
- Available cash future growth
- Capital campaign pledges
- Amount of debt service available in the budget (loan payment)

TMF has developed a Cash Flow Model to help churches analyze their proposed project and their ability to pay for the associated expenses. Using this model, the remaining loan balance should be equal to or less than the amount that the church's
operating budget can service, after the completion of the capital campaign.

To illustrate this model, an example of a Cash Flow Model is attached, using the following assumptions:

| Operating Budget | $\$ 625,000$ |
| :--- | :--- |
| Estimated Project | $\$ 1,793,000$ |
| Cash for Project | $\$ 125,000$ |
| Budget Growth | Year One $-2 \%$ <br> Year Two $-3 \%$ <br> Year Three - 2\% |
| Outstanding Debt | $\$ 88,275$ |
| Annual Debt Service | $\$ 60,000$ |
| Capital Campaign (3-year) | $\$ 937,500$ |

## CASH

## FINANCES

The Cash Flow Model has three sections:

- Current financial position and estimates on campaign pledges and collection of those pledges
- Growth and interest rate assumptions
- Budget growth projections and growth in debt service

The first section uses numbers provided by the church for budget, existing debt, annual debt service and cash on hand that can specifically be used for the upcoming project. This section will also contain either an amount that was pledged on the capital campaign or an assumption for a future campaign. This model assumes that the church is raising 1.5 times the current budget for the campaign and that the campaign is collected at $85 \%$. This section also contains the estimated cost of the new project.

The second section contains the interest rate, growth and debt allocation assumptions. In this model, the assumption is an interest rate of $5.00 \%$ with an annual increase in the operating budget of 2\% for the first year, 3\% for the year after construction is complete and $2 \%$ again for the third year. The assumption section for this model also reflects the "set-a-side" from each year's growth to specifically increase debt service. In this model, it is assumed that 20\%of each year's growth will be used to increase debt service.

The last section is a projection of growth based on the assumptions listed above. The projections reflect growth in the budget ( $\$ 625,000$ to $\$ 643,750$ is a $2 \%$ increase, $\$ 643,750$ to $\$ 675,938$ is a $3 \%$ increase and
$\$ 656,625$ to $\$ 669,758$ is a $2 \%$ increase) each year the campaign is being collected. The debt service within the operating budget is increased by $20 \%$ of each year's growth (\$637,500-\$625,000 = \$12,500. 20\% of $\$ 12,500=\$ 2,500$ and $\$ 60,000+\$ 2,500=$ $\$ 62,500$ for 2020) and continues annually during the campaign so that debt service is increased from \$66,325 in 2021 to \$68,952 in 2022.

The second page shows a month-by-month cash flow of the project. This page will account for all the cash inflows and outflows of the project. This section also reflects cash on hand, existing debt, interest that is paid as well as the collection of the capital campaign. The main focus is the estimated remaining loan amount balance.

The purpose of this model is to compare the estimated remaining loan balance and the amount of annual debt service that will be gradually built into an operating budget over a three-year period. While this model will help determine if a project is feasible, the factors that have been included in the model must be evaluated. Many assumptions and projections affect the model - project size, capital campaign size, growth rate of budget, interest rate, collection of campaign, etc. The reasonableness of each one of the assumptions must be reviewed and discussed to properly evaluate the project the church has proposed. Overly aggressive assumptions will result in an excessive loan balance or will require the church to build debt service at a rate that will jeopardize existing missions and ministries.

## CASH FLOW model

## FINANCES

Financial Information and Projections for Example United Methodist Church as of $1 / 15 / 2018$. This model solves for total maximum project amount with a 3-year capital stewardship program of $1.5 x$ the 2018 annual income.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION (projected for 2019) 2018 Annual Income

| Annual income | $\$ 625,000$ |
| :--- | ---: |
| Annual debt service in operating budget | $\$ 60,000$ |
| Cash on hand specifically for this project | $\$ 125,000$ |
| Capital Stewardship Program (May 2019 - April 2022) | $\$ 937,500$ |
| (Collected at 85\%) | $\$ 796,875$ |
| Total project cost* (August 2019 - July 2020) | $\$ 1,793,000$ |
| (*Total project includes all costs associated with the project - architect/engineering |  |
| fees, construction contract, landscaping, furnishings, contingency, change orders, etc.) |  |
| Existing debt (Parsonage loan balance as of 1/15/2019) | $\$ 88,275$ |

## ASSUMPTIONS

| If the interest rate is Wall Street Journal Prime @ 1/15/2019 = 5.50\% and the operating income grows (Growth projections for planning purposes only.) | 5.00\% |
| :---: | :---: |
|  | 2.00\% 1st Year - 2020 |
|  | 3.00\% 2nd Year-2021 |
|  | 2.00\% 3rd Year - 2022 |
| and you set aside ___\% of the new money for debt service. | 20.00\% |

## GROWTH PROJECTIONS

2020 Operating Income \$637,500 with Debt Service of \$62,500 9.80\%
2021 Operating Income \$656,625 with Debt Service of \$66,325 10.10\%
2022 Operating Income \$669,758 with Debt Service of \$68,952 10.29\%
Which will support a loan in the amount of
\$870,658 * ${ }^{*}(\mathrm{~A}) \quad 1.30$
The remaining loan balance is projected to be
\$870,532 ${ }^{*}$ (B) 1.30
Which requires debt service of
\$68,942 10.29\%
(20 year amortization)
*Look at (A) and (B). IF (A) is equal to or greater than (B), this means that the budget can support the remaining debt without additional capital stewardship programs. IF (A) is less than (B), these figures indicate the operating budget cannot support the remaining debt on its own.

If all of these figures are accurate, the operating budget can afford a total project of The highest loan balance will occur at the end of the construction phase Estimated new funding amount
\$1,793,000
\$1,307,673 July 20
\$1,307,673
9.60\%
1.50
\$796,875
\$88,275
20.00\%

This is not a commitment for a loan. All rates, terms and other assumptions are for discussion purposes only. Final rate and terms will be outlined after loan committee approval and issuance of commitment letter.

## FINANCES

$=$

| Month | Cash | Pledges | Service | Total | Payment | Reduction | Draws | Loan Amt |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Jan-19 | \$125,000 | \$0 | \$5,000 | \$130,000 | \$368 | \$129,632 | \$88,275 | \$0 |
| Feb-19 | \$41,357 | \$0 | \$5,000 | \$46,357 | \$0 | \$46,357 | \$0 | \$0 |
| Mar-19 | \$46,357 | \$0 | \$5,000 | \$51,357 | \$0 | \$51,357 | \$0 | \$0 |
| Apr-19 | \$51,357 | \$0 | \$5,000 | \$56,357 | \$0 | \$56,357 | \$0 | \$0 |
| May-19 | \$56,357 | \$26,563 | \$5,000 | \$87,920 | \$0 | \$87,920 | \$0 | \$0 |
| Jun-19 | \$87,920 | \$26,563 | \$5,000 | \$119,482 | \$0 | \$119,482 | \$0 | \$0 |
| Jul-19 | \$119,482 | \$26,563 | \$5,000 | \$151,045 | \$0 | \$151,045 | \$0 | \$0 |
| Aug-19 | \$151,045 | \$26,563 | \$5,000 | \$182,607 | \$0 | \$182,607 | \$149,417 | \$0 |
| Sep-19 | \$33,191 | \$26,563 | \$5,000 | \$64,753 | \$0 | \$64,753 | \$149,417 | \$84,664 |
| Oct-19 | \$0 | \$26,563 | \$5,000 | \$31,563 | \$353 | \$31,210 | \$149,417 | \$202,871 |
| Nov-19 | \$0 | \$26,563 | \$5,000 | \$31,563 | \$845 | \$30,717 | \$149,417 | \$321,871 |
| Dec-19 | \$0 | \$26,563 | \$5,000 | \$31,563 | \$1,340 | \$30,223 | \$149,417 | \$440,764 |
| Jan-20 | \$0 | \$26,563 | \$5,208 | \$31,771 | \$1,837 | \$29,934 | \$149,417 | \$560,227 |
| Feb-20 | \$0 | \$26,563 | \$5,208 | \$31,771 | \$2,334 | \$29,436 | \$149,417 | \$680,227 |
| Mar-20 | \$0 | \$26,563 | \$5,208 | \$31,771 | \$2,834 | \$28,937 | \$149,417 | \$800,707 |
| Apr-20 | \$0 | \$26,563 | \$5,208 | \$31,771 | \$3,336 | \$28,435 | \$149,417 | \$921,689 |
| May-20 | \$0 | \$26,563 | \$5,208 | \$25,130 | \$3,840 | \$21,290 | \$149,417 | \$1,049,816 |
| Jun-20 | \$0 | \$26,563 | \$5,208 | \$25,130 | \$4,374 | \$20,756 | \$149,417 | \$1,178,476 |
| Jul-20 | \$0 | \$26,563 | \$5,208 | \$25,130 | \$4,910 | \$20,220 | \$149,417 | \$1,307,673 |
| Aug-20 | \$0 | \$26,563 | \$5,208 | \$25,130 | \$5,449 | \$19,682 | \$0 | \$1,287,992 |
| Sep-20 | \$0 | \$26,563 | \$5,208 | \$25,130 | \$5,367 | \$19,764 | \$0 | \$1,268,228 |
| Oct-20 | \$0 | \$26,563 | \$5,208 | \$25,130 | \$5,284 | \$19,846 | \$0 | \$1,248,382 |
| Nov-20 | \$0 | \$26,563 | \$5,208 | \$25,130 | \$5,202 | \$19,929 | \$0 | \$1,228,453 |
| Dec-20 | \$0 | \$26,563 | \$5,208 | \$25,130 | \$5,119 | \$20,012 | \$0 | \$1,208,442 |
| Jan-21 | \$0 | \$26,563 | \$5,527 | \$25,449 | \$5,035 | \$20,414 | \$0 | \$1,188,028 |
| Feb-21 | \$0 | \$26,563 | \$5,527 | \$25,449 | \$4,950 | \$20,499 | \$0 | \$1,167,529 |
| Mar-21 | \$0 | \$26,563 | \$5,527 | \$25,449 | \$4,865 | \$20,584 | \$0 | \$1,146,945 |
| Apr-21 | \$0 | \$26,563 | \$5,527 | \$25,449 | \$4,779 | \$20,670 | \$0 | \$1,126,275 |
| May-21 | \$0 | \$26,563 | \$5,527 | \$25,449 | \$4,693 | \$20,756 | \$0 | \$1,105,519 |
| Jun-21 | \$0 | \$26,563 | \$5,527 | \$25,449 | \$4,606 | \$20,843 | \$0 | \$1,084,676 |
| Jul-21 | \$0 | \$26,563 | \$5,527 | \$25,449 | \$4,519 | \$20,929 | \$0 | \$1,063,747 |
| Aug-21 | \$0 | \$26,563 | \$5,527 | \$25,449 | \$4,432 | \$21,017 | \$0 | \$1,042,730 |
| Sep-21 | \$0 | \$26,563 | \$5,527 | \$25,449 | \$4,345 | \$21,104 | \$0 | \$1,021,626 |
| Oct-21 | \$0 | \$26,563 | \$5,527 | \$25,449 | \$4,257 | \$21,192 | \$0 | \$1,000,434 |
| Nov-21 | \$0 | \$26,563 | \$5,527 | \$25,449 | \$4,168 | \$21,280 | \$0 | \$979,153 |
| Dec-21 | \$0 | \$26,563 | \$5,527 | \$25,449 | \$4,080 | \$21,369 | \$0 | \$957,784 |
| Jan-22 | \$0 | \$26,563 | \$5,746 | \$25,668 | \$3,991 | \$21,677 | \$0 | \$936,107 |
| Feb-22 | \$0 | \$26,563 | \$5,746 | \$25,668 | \$3,900 | \$21,767 | \$0 | \$914,339 |
| Mar-22 | \$0 | \$26,563 | \$5,746 | \$25,668 | \$3,810 | \$21,858 | \$0 | \$892,481 |
| Apr-22 | \$0 | \$26,563 | \$5,746 | \$25,668 | \$3,719 | \$21,949 | \$0 | \$870,532 |
|  |  | \$796,875 | \$211,809 |  | \$122,941 |  | 1,881,275 |  |



TEXAS METHODIST FOUNDATION

