

Penn West Conference Proposed 2018 Mission Spending Plan

Whenever we compose a budget/spending plan, we keep several principles in mind. First and foremost is *mission*. We in the Penn West Conference have a long-standing mission to serve Jesus Christ faithfully as a community of creative disciples living together in covenant as a Conference of the United Church of Christ. We help our churches live out the good news of the Gospel in their ministries. We have a wonderful brochure, “Why Give to ‘Our Church’s Wider Mission’?” which details the many amazing ministries of the Penn West Conference. To these ends, we have sought for years to faithfully fund our mission. Living into the fullness of our God-given potential requires that we be prudent stewards with regard to our income and expenses.

While this year’s budget is similar to last, we are very excited about what we are proposing. In 2015, thanks to the blessings of past member bequests, we were able to grant assistance to our local churches of almost \$30,000 to aid them in their ministry through our Mission Grants program. In 2016, we assisted our churches with more than \$30,000, and we hope to top even that in 2017, and then again in 2018! Dozens of churches have benefited from these gifts. We hope this will foster an increased sense of commitment by our local churches to the Conference, even as we continue to serve them through our various Conference ministries.

We embrace the challenge of being responsible stewards of the gifts with which we have been entrusted and continue to work for the growth, health, and vitality of our churches. As the daily work of the Conference evolves, below is a graph of our sense of how our time is used:



1. **15%** is used to help local churches prepare to search for and find new spiritual leadership.
2. **30%** is invested in supporting various teams of passionate disciples who provide a broader footprint of God’s presence to our local congregations.
3. **20%** is focused on the mission of the wider church by working with our national office and other mission partners.
4. **25%** is used to connect with our local churches and their pastors; this is key to keeping our focus on the mission and ministry of getting God’s word to the multitudes.
5. **10%** is directed toward maintaining the office and bookkeeping functions.