

Penn West Conference Proposed 2021 Budget Plan

Penn West Conference Mission:

“Engaging in covenantal relationships; sharing God’s love with all.”

The Conference budget is prayerfully prepared by the Financial Stewards, in consultation with the Conference Minister, as we seek to faithfully fund the mission of our conference while remaining attentive to the realities of our income and expenses.

Our Conference Minister, Office Manager, and Associate for Youth Ministry faithfully and generously serve our congregations, pastors, the various ministry teams and committees of the conference, take care of all administrative tasks, and work with the Church in National and Ecumenical Settings. This year, our staff has been, and continues to be, the source of vital information and the voice of inspiration as we shelter in place while the Coronavirus sweeps among us. We cannot thank them enough for their prayers, continued communication, and creativity as they offer us new ways to share in ministry during this unusual time.

At present we find that the income amounts we have received so far this year do not predict that we will meet our 2020 budget. This finding, and the Financial Stewards’ budgeting work, took place even before the coronavirus disrupted our usual worship gatherings, rocked national and world economies, and many people lost family incomes. We realize that we need to reduce our budget expectations for 2021. If you compare the budget for 2020 with the presented budget for 2021, you will notice we reduced the amounts of expected income \$27,600.00 and the expected amount of expenses \$25,880.00. This means that in 2021 we will not be able to offer our three staff members a raise, and in order to supplement the Youth Associate’s salary we will use some funds from Strengthen the Church offerings and Youth Programming monies. We will also no longer be able to offer certain subsidies for our General Synod Delegates. The Conference Minister’s Sabbatical Fund had to be dissolved to cover current expenses, and in our current version of the budget, the percentage we usually give to the National Church has been reduced from 22% to 10%.

Dear Friends, for these reasons, the 2021 budget is not one we joyously present, but one we must present. We could say that we are living in challenging times, but when have we not been living in challenging times? We must remember that through all the years of change and challenge God’s love and generosity has always provided a way when we did not see a path forward. Therefore, it is our prayer that as we accept this budget, we do so with courage and Generous Holy Determination to over-fund it to the Glory of God and the benefit of all our people and the ministries and missions we serve together as the Penn West Conference of the United Church of Christ.

The Financial Stewards thank you for your prayers and continued support for all our Conference ministries.