

## **Penn West Conference Proposed 2022 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, and in consideration of conference investment and endowment policies as we seek to faithfully fund the mission of our conference while remaining attentive to the realities of our income and expenses.

This year our Conference Minister, Office Manager, and Associate for Youth Ministry continued to help us all be our best disciplined selves as they have continued to do extraordinary ministry for and with us during this extended period of pandemic. We certainly cannot thank them enough for their prayers, continued communication, and support.

We also realize that our pastors and congregations have been finding new and unique ways to be the church as they practice safe measures for gathering in worship and in mission. We thank God for you, and pray for the ministry you do locally.

Last year we did not give raises to our three valued employees due to projected budgetary concerns for 2021. Unfortunately, our OCWM income in 2021 thus far has not met the approved 2021 budget expectations. You may say we exceeded our projected income when you look at the profit and loss budget worksheet. However, we have to point out that the governmental Paycheck Protection Program loan was forgiven and generated income of \$32,232.00 which kept us solvent. The personnel committee recommended that we hold on employee raises again for 2022. Our Conference Minister did not take his scheduled, and very well needed, Sabbatical this year, and we recommended to the Penn West Conference Board of Directors that \$15,000.00 from our unrestricted funds be set aside to be used by the Conference Minister toward a sabbatical within the next 24 months.

The reality is that the conference cannot continue to do the work it is called to do, and all the things we expect the conference to do for us, if we do not make it financially possible for them to do so. The Financial Stewards would like to present a budget giving raises to our staff, and increasing budgets for our ministry teams to engage in the mission Christ sets before us in Penn West. But if we do that, where will the money come from?

The Financial Stewards are very concerned for the future financial health and well-being of the conference, so to this end, we have begun a conversation with the Board of Directors, to develop a long-range financial plan in hopes that we can find ways to insure the future of our conference ministry.

The Financial Stewards of the Penn West Conference ask for your earnest prayers for the conference staff and its mission among us as we covenant with one another doing justice, loving kindness, and walking humbly with our God.