

**Finance and Budget  
For the Mission and Ministry of  
The Convention of the Protestant Episcopal Church  
in the Diocese of New Jersey**

**Report of the Treasurer to the 239<sup>th</sup> Diocesan Convention**

*To: Clergy, Lay Deputies and Alternates to the 239<sup>th</sup> Convention of the Diocese of New Jersey*

*From: Jonathan A. Gloster, Treasurer*

*The Budget and Finances for the Mission and Ministry of the Convention of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the Diocese of New Jersey – Report to the 239<sup>th</sup> Diocesan Convention*

To my dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

This report accompanies the Diocesan Budget for calendar year 2023 and the Proposed Preliminary Diocesan Budget for calendar year 2024, supporting the mission and ministry of the Diocese of New Jersey for the next two years, which I am submitting for your consideration on behalf of Bishop Stokes, the Diocesan Council, the Finance and Budget Committee and the Diocesan Finance Office.

**The 2023 Proposed Budget**

Finance & Budget committee met as usual throughout December 2022 and into January 2023 over 6 times including evenings and weekends. The committee reviewed budget allocation requests from many groups, all of which were reasonable, sound, and robust. Unfortunately, revenue constraints made it clear that we could not begin to fund all of the requests we received. At the end of the first run-through we had a \$1.7 million deficit, which was completely out of the realm of consideration. After some intense deliberations Finance & Budget committee reduced this deficit to \$1.5 million, which was still not a reasonable amount to consider.

Finance & Budget committee then engaged Bishop Stokes in further conversations. A decision was made to hold each budget line item at no greater than the amount approved as the 2023 preliminary budget by last year's convention unless there were other obligations or commitments which would prevent us from doing so. That approach reduced the deficit to \$1.3 million and resulted in the budget document that was then presented to and emergency meeting of the Trustees for their consideration in funding the deficit.

The Trustees noted that the \$1.3 million request was approximately \$580K higher than the amount anticipated under the 2023 preliminary budget approved last year. They approved the \$1.3 million funding request with the provision that the next \$580K in proceeds from future sales of church property be used to reimburse the trust funds for that differential rather than being directed to the Mission Renewal Fund as would normally be the case. This restriction does not impact funds from the sale of properties designated to on-going congregations.

This 2023 revised budget was then approved by Diocesan Council and will now come before Convention.

The following are highlights of the 2023 revised budget and the notable differences between this revised budget and the 2023 preliminary budget from last year:

### Revenue

- MoM Giving reduced by \$185,000 from Preliminary 2023 budget

### Expense

#### *Diocesan Priorities*

- Mission Congregations (+\$95,000)
- The Episcopal Church (-\$7,500)
- Youth Activities (-\$20,000)

#### *Congregational Development*

- Congregational Development (-\$15,000)
- Christian Formation ( -\$1,000)

#### *Ministry Development*

- Committee on the Priesthood (-\$10,000)
- Transition Ministry (formerly Clergy Deployment) (+\$8,000)
- Committee on the Diaconate (+\$3,325)
- Deacons Council (-\$3,350)
- Ministry Institute (-\$800)

#### *Diocesan Gatherings*

- General Convention & ECW (+\$10,000)

#### *Programs and Covenants*

- Episcopal Mental & Spiritual Health Ministry (-\$100)

#### *Diocesan Staff*

- The Bishop of New Jersey (mainly due to the overlap of Bishop & Bishop elect) (+\$70,000)
- The Chief Financial Officer (approved by the 2022 convention with market adjustment) – (+\$21,350)
- Canon Missioner for Black Ministry (2022 convention mandate) (+\$94,475)
- Administrative Staff, payroll taxes, and employee benefits (mainly due to overlap of retiring & new administrative staff) (+\$75,852)
- Transition Committee (Electing Convention & Transition) (\$+10,000)

Also, we want to note that there were no staff cost of living (COLA) increases included in the budget.

Total revenue is **\$4,584,998** with total funding from the Diocesan trust Funds at **\$1,322,168**. Expenses are **\$4,584,998**. This is **\$332,935** more than the preliminary 2023 budget passed last year.

The detailed line item budget report ([Exhibit 1](#)) and additional financial reports can be found on the [239<sup>th</sup> Diocesan Convention](#) site.

### ***In Conclusion***

I want to thank the members of the Diocesan Finance and Budget Committee for all their support and the following Diocesan staff, Canon Phyllis Jones, Gary Kamath and Tanya Rainey for their

support in financial reporting, Canon Ann Notte and Canon Steve Welch for their administrative and communications support. Lastly Bishop Stokes and Diocesan Council for their leadership in Diocesan Mission and Ministry.

We respectfully request that the 239th Convention of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the Diocese of New Jersey adopt the Preliminary Budget for calendar year 2022 in support of the mission and ministry of our Diocese, as recommended by the Finance and Budget Committee, and approved by Diocesan Council.

We have prepared a preliminary 2024 Budget but are not recommending approval at this time due to a desire to enter into a phase of discernment diocesan-wide with the Bishop-Elect to better define mission priorities and strategies for carrying out those priorities.

Respectfully submitted,

Jonathan A Gloster,  
Treasurer, Diocese of New Jersey

Dioceses of NJ Finance and Budget Committee Members:

The Reverend Amy Cornell  
The Reverend Canon Clive Sang, Deacon  
Mr. Daniel Lamprey  
Canon Donna Freidel, Esq.  
The Reverend Gail Bennett, Deacon  
Mr. Jack Daugherty  
Canon Paul Wolfgang  
The Reverend Paul Van Sant  
Ms. Sheila Cooper  
Mr. Bruce Anderson