

**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 240th Diocesan Convention

To: Bishop Sally French, Clergy, Lay Deputies and Alternates to the 240th 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 240th Diocesan Convention

Dear Members of the Convention:

This report accompanies the Diocesan Budget for calendar year 2024, supporting the mission and ministry of the Diocese of New Jersey which I am submitting for your consideration on behalf of Bishop French, the Diocesan Council, the Finance and Budget Committee and the Diocesan Finance Office. This budget was first proposed and approved at a Special Convention of the Diocese of New Jersey on December 9, 2023.

The 2024 Proposed Budget

Finance & Budget Committee met several times from late September 2023 through October 2023. The initial budget was presented to the Diocesan Council on October 17, 2023. This budget was finalized at the November 21, 2023 Diocesan Council meeting and presented to the Special Convention of the Diocese of New Jersey on December 9, 2023, and approved. A key objective of the Finance and Budget and Finance Committee was to reduce the draw from the Trustee funds dramatically from 2023 levels. Working with Bishop Sally French and Diocesan staff the committee reduced the expenses significantly from the 2023 budget. This in turn would reduce the amount needed from the Trustee funds.

Highlights of the 2024 budget include total income of \$3,954,816. Mark of Mission (MoM) Pledge income is \$2,823,879 which is level with 2023 MoM pledges. Draws from the Trustee Grants was reduced from over \$1.3 million to \$734,937. The Bishop and Committee note that a challenge going forward is to find other sources of income besides MoM giving and Trustee Fund Grants. During 2024 we will seek additional income in the form of capital fundraising or planned giving.

The key areas for reductions in expenses are lower support for Mission Congregations, reduction in payments to The Episcopal Church (TEC) and staff costs. Support for mission is reduced to \$475,000 in 2024 down from \$575,500 in 2023. Also, we have reduced the Diocese of New Jersey payment to TEC from an ask of \$599,000 to \$300,000. We have asked for this reduction due to the challenging financial situation the Diocese faced in 2023. To goal is to bring the payment back up to the asked offering within 3 - 4 years. There were also some minor adjustments in other areas of Diocesan Priorities and Congregational Development. Another key reduction is the accrual of funds for the General Convention. The 2024 budget has no budget for Veneral Convention versus an accrual of \$25,000 in 2023. The reason for this reduction is due to lower actual expenses for the 2022 general convention resulting in considerable saving.

Another area of budget savings is in the Diocese staff. In 2024 we do not have expenses for transition of Bishops and other administrative staff. Also, Bishop French's staff restructuring plan has eliminated two senior position from 2023 (Chief Financial Officer and Canon for Congregational Development & Mission). Other positions have been introduced at lower salary levels to provide support to congregations, formation

and ministry development. In summary total expense budget has been reduced from \$4,584,998 in 2023 to \$3,954,826 a difference of (\$630,172).

The detailed line item budget report ([Exhibit 1](#)) and additional financial reports can be found on [240th Convention](#) site.

Schedule changes for new Convention Date

Due to the proposed new dates for Diocesan Convention being November of 2024, the schedule for 2025 budget development will be updated to allow the Budget and Finance Committee to prepare a budget for review and approval in October 2024. Budget requests from ministries, commissions and programs will likely be due by early September.

In Conclusion

I want to thank the members of the Diocesan Finance and Budget Committee, for all their support and Diocesan finance staff, Canon Phyllis Jones and Tanya Rainey for their support in financial reporting. Lastly, Bishop French and Diocesan Council for their leadership in Diocesan Mission and Ministry.

We respectfully request that the 240th Convention of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the Diocese of New Jersey ratify the Budget for calendar year 2024 in support of the mission and ministry of our Diocese, as recommended by the Finance and Budget Committee, and approved by Diocesan Council.

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 Lamptey
Canon Donna Freidel, Esq.
Canon Karen Moore
The Reverend Gail Bennett, Deacon
Ms. Meg Holland
Canon Paul Wolfgang
The Reverend Paul Van Sant
Ms. Sheila Cooper
Mr. Bruce Anderson