

## PSEC Treasurer's Report

October 1, 2018

At its September meeting the consistory approved the 2019 budget and recommends that the member churches also approve it at the Fall Meeting in November. The budget details are attached. Please review this information and send questions to me at [redwa1106@gmail.com](mailto:redwa1106@gmail.com) or to Tammie Wisniewski, Finance Operations Manager at [tammie@psec.org](mailto:tammie@psec.org) or 484-949-8774x304. The following are some of the highlights of the proposed spending plan:

- an overall increase of 0.4% from the 2018 budget.
- 2.5% increase in salaries for staff
- OCWM increase of 2% of prior 12 months' giving as of the date budget was created
- scholarship money is budgeted for retirees to attend conference events(annual meeting)
- student grant assistance will be funded strictly by endowment draw
- 2019 General Synod budget has been reduced.

Some general observations regarding the financial overview:

- OCWM contributions continue to be short of budgeted amounts. The Budget and Finance group continues to discern ways to reverse the trend of decreasing contributions to the Conference and Wider Church. The subcommittee for OCWM has spent considerable time exploring ways to bolster OCWM awareness and commitment to Conference ministries. We recently met with representatives of AKCG Public Relations Counselors and discussed the PSEC status of membership and OCWM contributions measurable goals for a Conference relations campaign. Their presentation was met favorably by members of the committee. With Consistory's approval, AKCG has agreed to prepare a proposal for PSEC that would help us improve connections and make our goals for OCWM. We look forward to receiving that proposal and beginning to implement a plan in 2019.
- Pass through income (contributions that are sent to the Conference to pass through to another ministry: ie, OGHS, NIN, Bethany Children's Home) continue to grow as does the other types of income that the Conference receives like program income and individual/church contributions for specific purposes.

- The Conference continues to send 1/12 of the amount promised to National each month regardless of the amount received from the local congregations.
- The Conference also continues to monitor spending, thus coming in under budget on expenses year to date.
- At the Spring Meeting the body approved raising \$50,000 to support the Pension Board's Capital Campaign, "Generations of Service: Faith and Finance in Action" \$20,000,000 Capital Funds Campaign. The goals of the campaign include 1) enhancing direct support for current and future UCC retirees across the spectrum of existing grants 2) funding for sustainable ministry and leadership initiatives 3) launching MFVI, a program designed to enhance financial education among UCC authorized ministers, with an emphasis on ministers from historically underrepresented groups facing educational debt. A second component of the program, open to all UCC authorized local church ministers, provides matching grants to 100 recipients in the amount of \$1,000 for an approved purpose - e.g., educational debt, establishing an emergency fund, etc. Grants must be matched by the congregation where the minister serves.

Pledge requests are being prepared and will be sent shortly.

Thus far in 2018 your OCWM contribution has supported:

- ◆ Search and Call processes at over 35 churches.
- ◆ Reporting that is required between pastors, churches, conference, and national.
- ◆ Attendance at Youth events so that no one is unable to attend due to financial reasons.
- ◆ Clergy events and the whole spiritual life ministry programming, including the clergy convocation.
- ◆ Clergy leadership training with the Pastoral Excellence program and the Lay Ministry in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century program.
- ◆ Physis testing for clergy.
- ◆ Committees on Ministry training.
- ◆ Clergy Retirees' events and retirees' health subsidy through national
- ◆ Justice and Witness and Disaster Relief projects.

- ◆ Lancaster Theological Seminary, Locust Lake, E&R Historical Society, the Interfaith Center of Greater Philadelphia, and the PA Council of Churches.
- ◆ Church revitalization efforts through the Center for Progressive Renewal and other workshops/programming.
- ◆ Website implementation for churches without a website presence or one that doesn't function well.
- ◆ Grants for students attending seminary.
- ◆ MIDs' and new pastors' events.
- ◆ Provision of recognition materials for new pastors or new calls.
- ◆ Interim pastors' events.
- ◆ Clergy boundary training, safe church training, and training on working in the internet based world, especially social media.
- ◆ Connection with the wider church and each other through emails, Communitas, and eNews.
- ◆ Financial training for local churches.
- ◆ Churches and pastors in their time of need or celebration.
- ◆ Administer fiscal responsibility over the monies and endowed funds that have been contributed to the PSEC.

Ray Edwards, PSEC Conference Treasurer