

Pennsylvania Southeast Conference
Treasurer's Report – Proposed Spending Plan for 2022
Bob Fogal, Treasurer

In spite of all the challenges our UCC churches and judicatories have been facing in recent years, and especially in the last (almost) two years, we are fortunate that our Pennsylvania Southeast Conference continues to serve us all well. This does not mean that we have no challenges. It does mean that several indicators point toward a healthy conference culture.

Part of my responsibility as treasurer is to give attention to one of those indicators, which is money. I emphasize that money is an indicator. It is not a commodity that holds intrinsic importance in church life. Uniting the spiritual and the material, how we use money points toward the values and priorities by which we live our lives as individuals, as congregations, and as a conference.

Our purpose at the fall meeting is to review and approve the 2022 spending plan recommended by the Conference Consistory (as approved by the Budget and Finance Committee). In your documents for the meeting are a detailed 2022 spending plan as well as a condensed version for 2022 which shows the plan by category.

Below are definitions of some of the types of PSEC income and expenses.

INCOME

Conference income includes OCWM contributions of \$771,700. Two other significant sources are individuals' gifts to the conference and investment earnings and interest from unrestricted reserves and endowment. The Investment Committee authorized a drawdown from investments of three percent for 2022.

Income from **conference programs** mostly consists of registration fees for conference activities and programs. The two largest items are the two conference meetings each year and the clergy convocation. The assumption for budgeting purposes is that events will be in-person in 2022. Restricted endowment funds also generate income for specific purposes.

EXPENSES

Ten percent of OCWM receipts are forwarded to **OCWM national**.

Staff meetings, memberships and travel are costs directly related to clergy and support staff doing their jobs. The two largest items are travel, and dues for the Council for Conference Ministers, which plays a critical role in the overall life of the United Church of Christ.

The largest items in **office overhead** are rent, which is significantly reduced due to renting a smaller space (reflecting the largely remote operation of the conference office), and property, liability & workers' comp insurance.

Office operations includes all the supplies and activities that make offices work: phone, equipment leases, auditor and legal fees, support for conference consistory, among others.

Conference supported ministries are contributions to Bethany Children's Home, Lancaster Theological Seminary, Justice and Witness issues, the Evangelical and Reformed Historical Society, and others.

Church and clergy development spending provides opportunities for congregations and pastors to enhance our effectiveness as faith communities. Examples are resources and materials for search and call, congregational revitalization programs, clergy convocation, student ministerial grants, MID academy, spiritual life ministries, and the pastoral excellence program.

An allocation for **youth programming** exists for program development.

The major items for **IT (information technology)** are tech support, equipment purchases and software.
