

Penn West Conference Proposed 2024 Narrative Budget

Penn West Conference Mission:

“Engaging in covenantal relationships; sharing God’s love with all”

The budget according to Romans 12:2: “Do not be conformed to the figures on this budget, but be transformed by the inspiration and experience of God that we may be generous and joyous givers for the work God sets before us!”

Dear Friends, our budget is only a guideline necessary for the financial direction and responsibility for the mission God calls to in Penn West. Sometimes we financially achieve our goals, and sometimes we do not. No one ever enjoys making donations to support a written budget, but when our hearts experience the blessings of God in our daily life, we cannot help but give of our time, talent, and treasure, thankful that we can be an integral part of God’s mission.

The ministry and mission of Penn West Conference would not exist without the faith, love, and generosity of each church, and each Faithful Steward that financially supports the ministry and mission of Penn West Conference. We give you our sincere thanks and praise!

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.

The Financial Stewards, in preparing a budget, can only predict Conference income for the up-coming year on past, current, and projected trends in giving through OCWM gifts, and the personal gifts generously given by our Faithful Stewards. With input from our ministry teams, the Financial Stewards estimate what future expenses we may expect in the coming year in order to give a realistic balance to the budget. If there are budget items in the proposed 2024 budget that you wish were increased, know that we wish so too. Trends in giving have limited what we believe we can do with our budget. The growth of our Penn West ministry is up to each one of us.

In 2024 we are able to offer our Conference Minister a 4% salary increase, and the Conference Minister’s travel expense has been increased 5% since we are hopefully past Covid, and safe for David to care for our churches in person when necessary.

There has been a change in support staff, in that Diane Fox is now part-time, and Andrea has been hired as part-time secretary, both will receive fair compensation without benefits.

Youth Ministry is key to the future of Penn West. Therefore, we are presently seeking a Youth Leader, and have budgeted for that expense.

Rev. Ackerman, and the Keystone Study Group have been meeting with our three sister Pennsylvania Conferences to perhaps find ways to share resources for ministry. Conversations are going well, but there is much to think about.

Note also that without our volunteers engaging selflessly in various ministries of the conference, we would not be able to do the ministry we do on our present budget.

On Friday evening, during the 2023 Annual Meeting, 7:15-8pm, in the Convocation Center, there will be a 2024 Budget Listening Session. Our Treasurer and Financial Stewards will be able to address any concerns/questions you may have.

We hope to see you at Annual Meeting Friday June 9-10, 2023 as we seek to be transformed by the inspiration and experience of God that we may be generous and joyous givers!