

## Financial Stewards report:

The Financial Stewards, working with the Endowment Committee, oversee the funds needed to sustain the Conference programs. These funds provided by the generosity of each church and each Faithful Steward support the ministry and mission of the Penn West Conference.

This year our financial record review for the 2021 fiscal year was performed by members familiar with accounting practices. The review team reported their findings to the Stewards and then the Board of Directors for approval of the report. The records for 2022 are currently being prepped for a review later this year.

The Mission Spending Plan, located in the financial section of the report, tells the story of the conference, what we do, how we support programs, and ways the conference plans to support local churches and pastors. The Budget is created by reviewing the past year, looking at where we are so far in the current year and with the assistance of other committees sharing the hopes and dreams of next year. The Narrative Budget adds words to our 'numbers' and helps to bring the financial picture to life.

Another avenue individuals have to show support to conference and its programs is the Faithful Steward Program. If you are interested in contributing and have not been contacted, please see one of the Financial Stewards.

Rev. Ackerman works hard to find volunteers to visit churches and present the OCWM certificates, share in conversations on the life of the conference and personally thank congregations for supporting the conference and OCWM. We would like to thank all of you who complete these visits.

The committee reviews financial statements, balance sheets, OCWM statements, and receives updates from the Endowment committees. Trends in church giving are reviewed, examining year to year changes. We meet prior to the Board of Directors meeting to assess the quarterly expenses and provide a Treasurer's report to the Board Members. The Budget and Mission Spending Plan are prepared and presented to the Board of Directors to approve and present to the annual gathering.

This is not the budget we would have liked to present for 2025, but a realistic picture of the OCWM trends, showing a 4% decrease per year. This trend is similar across the conferences in Pennsylvania. We have been reduced to a bare bones budget for the past few years. As the Budget is reviewed and voted on in our Business Meeting, if you vote 'Yes' you are voting to support this budget. We will need all of your help in 2025 to meet the challenge.

## Committee members:

Deb Long, Tom Croner, Nancy Harclerode, Jim Neatrou, Linda Miller-Pretz, Diane Wiley.