

Penn West Conference Proposed 2025 Narrative Budget

Penn West Conference Mission:

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

In the last chapter of John, it is recorded that Jesus appeared to the disciples by the Sea of Tiberias. The disciples were fishing, and not having any luck. Jesus asked them to cast their nets into the right side of the boat, and then they caught so many fish the boat was sinking. Later, on the shore, Jesus asked Peter three times, “do you love me?” and three times he said yes; and three times Jesus’ response to Peter was “Feed My Sheep”

Jesus’ request to Peter is the very same request that has come down through the history of the church to this day. “If you love me, Feed my Sheep”. OCWM dollars given to the Penn West Conference and the United Church of Christ help spiritually feed us here in Penn West, and around the world. We, of the Financial Stewards, are very thankful for your support. The monetary gifts you donate help teach, equip, support, and send disciples into the mission fields whether here at home, or far away, as we continue the message of the extravagant love of God who offers us the gift of Holy Presence in our lives today, and the hope of eternal life to come.

Please look carefully at the Pie Chart on the second page to see how Penn West Conference feeds the sheep of the Penn West pasture with very little paid staff, and an abundance of volunteer hours. Please note that this chart doesn’t include the function of administrative, fiscal, and legal oversight, which absorbs roughly 20% of our staff time as a whole.

Sadly, since 2023, our OCWM giving has declined roughly 4% each year, both in OCWM gifts to Penn West Conference, and OCWM gifts to the National Church. We have 91 active churches in the conference, 69 churches contribute to the Penn West Conference ministries. 47 of those 69 churches also contribute to the wider church. In addition, we very much appreciate the extra loving donations of our Faithful Stewards, and gifts to the Caring for Clergy Caring for Churches Initiative.

As much as we try to keep expenses to a minimum, and we have reduced our very competent office staff to part time hours, we still are morally and fiscally responsible to provide them a living wage, and provide our conference minister with appropriate salary and benefits which he so very much deserves. Therefore, we are asking that this 2025 budget provide a roughly 4% salary increase to the conference minister and office staff.

Please take careful note of the enclosed proposed 2025 Conference OCWM contributions of \$157,000. This still leaves us with a 2025 deficit budget of \$34,442.00.

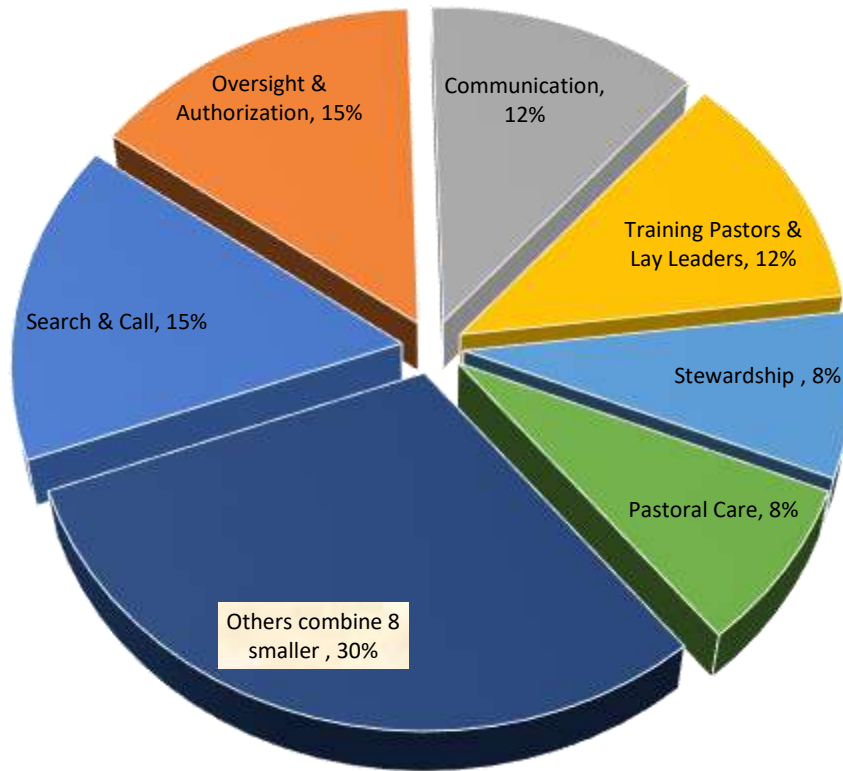
Jesus asks us, “Do you love me?” If so, “Feed my Sheep”.

What will be our faithful and thankful response to the only One who hears our prayers, comforts us in our time of need, heals our diseases, helps us find our way through the changes in our lives, forgives us, and promises the offer of resurrected hope?

To feed less sheep cannot be the correct option!

Respectfully, The Financial Stewards of Penn West Conference

Key Functions of the PWC Staff



Others combine 8 smaller

- | | |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Mission, 6% | UCC Identity, 4% |
| Congregational Futures, 5% | Spiritual Revival, 3% |
| Ecumenism, 4% | Digital Ministry & Tech, 2% |
| Faith Formation for All Ages, 4% | Disaster Ministries, 2% |

These numbers do NOT include the many volunteer hours that we are so grateful.

These functions are paid for through your "Our Churches Wider Mission" or OCWM offering.