

## 2008 Proposed Budget Convention Narrative

Although a budget description usually involves talking about money, what it really communicates is the work and ministry of the individuals, congregations, committees and commissions that share the desire to further the work of Christ through our combined Episcopal witness: The Diocese of Iowa! The 2008 Budget being presented to Convention shows disbursements exceeding receipts by \$52,609, because after discussing a variety of options to balance the budget, the Board of Directors thought it best to have the discussion and decision made at Convention.

### Receipts:

The total proposed receipts are \$1,219,450, which is down \$155,234 from 2007. At the 2006 Convention, the formula for the individual congregational asking was changed beginning in 2008. It is to be based on 20% of the Total Operating Revenue for the most recently completed year (in this case 2006) as reported on the Parochial Report, with a prorated exemption for clergy costs up to \$65,000. *Pledges* from congregations make up the greatest portion of the funding for the Diocesan budget at 72% of the estimated income.

*Investment income* from gifts given to the Diocese to endow ministry and support the Episcopacy together represents 18% of anticipated income. The income from the Episcopate Fund supports 73% of the Bishop's salary and benefit package.

2007 was the third and final year of a draw on principal from the Thelma McClure Reserve for the *McClure Mission Venture* which helped support funding of Ministry Development and Evangelism Initiatives. The gifts and sponsorships from the Bishop's *Cathedral to Cathedral Run* in Spring 2006 began the drive to establish a new fund for future Mission Ventures including global mission immersion experiences, new church starts, and internships for congregations committed to redevelopment.

January 2006 saw the launch of the *E-Seminary*. Income from tuition will make up 2% of the 2008 budget and corresponds to the E-Seminary expense line under Congregational Life.

*ECCC Income for Youth Ministries* receives funding from investment income from the sale of the camp and a camp endowment, as well as an additional principal draw from the proceeds from the sale of the camp for 5% of the total budgeted income. This income was increased beginning in 2007 to cover fully the program expenses of the *Youth Ministry Development Team*.

Income and principal from the Thelma McClure and McMullen Reserves will fund our current obligation for health and life insurance for our *Retired and Needy Clergy in 2008*. This offsets the corresponding expense line under Designated Purpose Expense and represents 2% of the budget.

The Diocese also receives *Gifts* from generous individuals and groups, which will make up less than 1% of budgeted income.

### Disbursements

The Diocesan budget provides funding for the program of six commissions, Episcopate functions, administrative functions, and specific designated purposes. A 3% cost of living adjustment (COLA) for 2008 is reflected in salaries and Ministry Grants in the budget. There is no increase in medical insurance expenses budgeted for 2008 due to changes in plan offerings.

The work of the ***One World, One Church Commission (OWOC)*** facilitates ecumenical and interfaith dialogue, connects us with the national church and Anglican Communion, with ecumenical structures within the state and beyond, with our companionship with Brechin and Swaziland, and the Millennium Development Goals. Specific areas of work include Global Missions, Episcopal Relief and Development, United Thank Offering, and International Development Grants.

In 2008 the diocesan *Pledge to Episcopal Church*, has been increased but is still approximately \$40,000 under the asking from the National Church. *OWOC* is planning to work towards getting more Iowa congregations involved in the companionship relations with Brechin and Swaziland, find new mechanisms for ecumenical work within Iowa, pursue growth of the Called to Common Mission interactions, and work on Methodist/Episcopal Eucharistic Sharing and Dialogue.

The mission of the ***Congregational Life Commission*** is to develop and support healthy congregations. This includes working with the Bishop on his visitation process, and planning for events that will develop leadership, visioning, planning, and development skills for parishes throughout the Diocese.

Also under *Congregational Life Commission's* budget are ongoing projects that support congregational ministry: Ministry Grants to help make a clergy presence possible in congregations with financial need; the annual Summer Ministry School & Retreat which is an annual weekend event that provides spiritual refreshment through education, fellowship and fun; the Living Stones Diocesan partnership where representatives from participating dioceses gather to share and review case studies in order to improve the work of ministry development; funding for new starts, start-overs and other mission and evangelism initiatives; and the E-Seminary, which is making theological education available to all through innovative and creative methods. Classes using the Iowa Communication Network (ICN) were launched in January 2006 allowing participants throughout Iowa to access education and training right in their own communities. There is no staff position for E-Seminary administration in 2008. The work of the Diocesan deployment officer, assisting congregations in their "search" process, is also shown in the Congregational Life section. Fresh Start is new in 2008 and is a diocesan-led program for clergy which seeks to strengthen the relationships among them, their congregations, and their dioceses during the critical period of transition when they are building new relationships with one another.

The mission of the ***Youth Ministry Development Team (YMDT)*** is to empower adults who minister with young people, support our youth through events and opportunities for ministry and leadership, provide needed resources and information, and plan for future growth.

Salaries and benefits for two half-time Campus Chaplains (the Chaplain position at University of Iowa was reduced to one-half time beginning in 2007) and ¾ time Youth Missioner make up nearly 54% of the *YMDT* budget. 19% of this budget assists with chaplaincy programs at the University of Iowa, Iowa State and the University of Northern Iowa, along with a new line, *Chaplaincy Grants*, allowing for assistance to a variety of congregations with college ministries.

The remaining 27% of this budget is for the youth ministry program and corresponds to the income line, *ECCC Income for Youth Ministries*. Diocesan level programming includes diocesan trainings and workshops for adults involved in youth ministries as well as assistance to participate in regional conferences and trainings; diocesan membership for J2A and Godly Play programs and access to their trainings and resources; youth participation in leadership conferences, diocesan youth events, and outdoor ministry opportunities; scholarships for young

people to participate in trainings and events; and regular communication through the diocesan youth newsletter, *Living Arrows* and other special mailings.

The ***Justice, Peace, and Integrity of Creation Commission (JPIC)*** supports ministries that deal directly with people in need. 84% of the *JPIC* budget supports the work of St. Paul's Indian Mission in Sioux City. With the remaining 16%, *JPIC* provides direct assistance and grants to organizations that support persons with AIDS, prison ministry, rural issues, human rights, restorative justice, and homeless ministries, as well as assistance for commission members to attend trainings and conferences for Prison Ministry and Jubilee Ministries. The Chemical Dependency Committee sponsors two *Pathways to Serenity* retreats each year.

The newly formed ***Multi-Cultural Commission*** is to provide leadership for the Diocese in the work of dismantling racism and other systems of oppression in the Diocese of Iowa. Areas of emphasis for 2008 include providing Anti-Racism Training, St. Paul's Indian Mission, as well as exploration of ministry to Iowa's newcomers such as Latinos and Sudanese.

The *Ways & Means Committee*, the *Investment Committee*, and the *Property Committee* primarily carry out the work of the ***Stewardship Commission***. In addition, staff and committee members provide trainings and resources for congregations, and utilize the work of *The Bishop's Advisory Group on Stewardship (BAGS)* to engage congregations in evaluating their stewardship ministry. We hope that in 2008 there will be a revitalized Stewardship Commission to oversee committee work, planned giving, work with congregations, and long-range planning.

The program and commission ministries make up 50% of the diocesan budget.

The ***Episcopate Function*** makes up 33% of the budget and includes the ministry and work of the Bishop, his Assistant, the Financial Officer, the Operations Manager and the half-time Ministry Developer. These people work to serve and resource congregations. The Operations Manager position was previously included in Administrative Assistants line.

***Administrative Function*** at 12% reflects the cost of doing diocesan business. It's the annual diocesan convention; the production of the Journal; communication through *Iowa Connections*, the web page, email, telephone and mail; insurance; as well as the facilities, equipment and labor.

***Designated Purpose Expense*** is 5% of our budget, and reflects some of the additional costs of being a family. As the Diocese of Iowa, we have boards, advisory groups, and task forces that plan and work for us; we take care of clergy that are needy and retired; we provide opportunities for instruction, fellowship and refreshment for the clergy in our midst; we implement a process and walk with individuals through discernment, formation, and ordination; we are part of the make-up of Province VI and involved in its support; we have a stake in the decisions made at General Convention every 3 years; and each decade our Bishop represents us before the Anglican Communion at the Lambeth Conference. New in 2008 is a Health Reimbursement Allowance line to help Diocesan employees defray increased out-of-pocket expenses.

We hope that this narrative has increased your awareness of what it means to be an Episcopalian in Iowa—part of a mission which is bigger than yourself, and cannot be done by yourself. As the title of our strategic plan says, we are *One Church, Many Locations*.