

Executive Council Standing Committee on Finance

January 18, 2022

Minutes of the Teleconference

Attending: Mally Lloyd, Kurt Barnes, Patty Downing, Cornelia Eaton, Anne Hodges-Kopple, Mike Ehmer (PB&F), Jeff Fisher, Tess Judge, Anne Kitch, Zena Link, Andrea McKellar, Diane Pollard, Holli Sturm, Bill Fleener (PB&F), David Quittmeyer (PB&F); from the staff, Margareth Crosnier de Bellaistre, Patrick Haizel, Cecilia Malm, TJ Houlihan, Chuck Robertson, Mark Stevenson; from the GCO, Michael Curry and Gay Jennings.

Mally called the meeting to order at 5:02 PM. Patty offered a prayer.

The agenda was presented, moved and seconded. Anne K requested the addition of a grants committee report. Motion with addition was carried.

Anne K reported that Conant Grants will be coming to FIN for approval. The process will be reviewed for Anne's use at that time.

Budget 2023-2024

Mally recapped the gist(s) of prior budget discussions. Truth and Reckoning Committee will be funded off budget. All of that will be determined at General Convention. COLA at 3% for staff will be kept; total number of staff to remain constant. Recognize trauma brought about by the pandemic – increase the deduction from \$140K to \$200K to keep some money in the dioceses. Money will be preserved to fund GC resolutions at \$2.5 million.

Staff were asked to reduce expenses by 5% using those basic underpinnings. Line 697 would be reduced to \$2 million, continue virtual meetings, have one virtual EC meeting per year.

The ELT and staff reduced where they could. Surprised that \$2.5 million for GC resolutions was eliminated. Mally walked through the ELT memo of January 14 that covered the budget. There were two references to the use of the surplus - \$5 million appears to be the amount used. Mally suggested that EC would be the place to discuss changes that are questionable. Acknowledgement was made that staff saved a great deal of money during COVID. And over four years, preCovid, there were \$10 million surplus.

Line 697 discussed in the memo. FIN is firm that money should remain in place for GC resolutions. Mathematical discussion covered concerning assessment reductions. Recommendation of Andrea's committee not to fund Truth and Reckoning. The actual surplus is \$5.6 million. The staff reductions amounted to 2.5%.

Issue of not setting aside funds for unfunded resolutions is very unfortunate. Diane was not in favor. 5% reduction was requested – staff work came in at 2.5% in reductions and another 2.5% from the elimination of the GC funding line.

Andrea took on the discussion. Important to the committee to save money for GC resolutions. Need to reduce budget by \$2 million. The committee can either send back to the ELT and staff or make cuts in

committee during EC. By next Wednesday the budget must go to EC for a vote. The PB supported having a line for GC resolutions and of the ELT finding the 'sweet spot' for arriving at the amount. Kurt suggested that the money is most likely to be found from grants lines. Mally – seems like ELT would rather take another whack at the budget rather than having FIN do it.

Discussion included: Mission Beyond – looks like EPPN went up significantly in two areas (infrastructure and subscriptions).

ELT is a good idea to look at again. Intersection of programming and grants. Will programming remain the same? How do we evaluate the current program after our experience with COVID? Budget surplus is a mixed reality between COVID and normal years. Noted: circumstances have been changing up to this week, requiring nimbleness and flexibility in many areas.

There will be time at EC for FIN to review the ELT's additional work and create the presentation for EC. PB said again that the ELT will give it their best shot. Talked about the partnership between the board and staff in creating the budget that is ultimately the GC/EC budget. Short discussion covered the funding for Truth and Reckoning work off budget. PB&F appreciates having money to work with at GC. Request was made for a new draft by the weekend before EC meets.

Questions on specific areas were invited.

Kurt did a short course on Excel management for the non-genius Excel users.

Patty talked about simplifying the spreadsheet for PB&F to accommodate new members and the need for printing hard copies for those who need it. Mally has been asked to present the budget to PB&F on the occasion of the hand-over. She and Patty will work together on that.

Resolution concerning use of the 2019-2021 surplus was raised and Andrea discussed the background dating back to 2017. This will be FIN-169.

Mally went over the EC Zoom schedule. January 24, 25 and 26 will meet from 3:00 to 5:00. On Monday and Tuesday evenings, FIN will meet from 6:00 to 8:00 and hope not to have to meet on Wednesday night.

There will be a joint meeting with Mission Within to talk about grants and some of the non-financial support that Province IX and Cuba requested. Members were asked to review their notes and August/September minutes from the Province IX meetings for those requests.

Thanks were extended to the staff for their work on the budget a second time.

Zena offered a closing prayer and the meeting was adjourned at 6:03 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Caparulo

Staff support to the committee