

## Joint Budget Committee of the Executive Council

May 16, 2024

### Minutes of the JBC Budget Hearing

Patty Downing, Chair of the Joint Budget Committee, called the hearing to order at 4:00 PM EDT on the dot with instructions concerning the form for the hearing.

The Land Acknowledgement was made and a prayer offered.

Patty introduced herself and the JBC committee members. She reviewed the development of the budget using the Jesus Movement form.

Specifics of the triennial budget were outlined by Bishop Jeff Fisher, focusing on income to the budget. No prior surpluses were used. Assessments and income on investments equal 91% of total income. The 15% Assessment of dioceses is used and an estimated 7.5% growth rate per year on investments. The draw against investment income is 5% of a 5-year rolling average. The formation of The Episcopal Coalition for Racial Equality and Justice was briefly touched upon.

Timothy Gee talked about the expense side of the budget. \$143 million expenditures are anticipated. JBC and ELT worked together to align it with the mission of the church at present.

Patty explained that the budget cannot be changed until GC and the budget reconciliation will be done in September by the JBC. She laid out the process that would be used at that time to finalize the 2025 budget as well as the 2025-27 triennium budget.

#### Testifiers Were

Benge Ambrogi - was glad to see funding for Office of Pastoral Development.

Emily Hopkins - Talked about Creation Care as a critical mission of the church. She wants a more unified approach to this topic. Climate crisis of import to young people and is a good evangelistic tactic. Identified certain lines in the budget that could be shared with Creation Care.

Cathleen Bascom - Bishop of Kansas spoke also to Creation Care as an area that is underfunded. She advocated for networks. . . building networks of lands, eco-regions, etc., and wished to add to line 163 in budget supporting joint work.

Bishops Jonathan Folts, Barry Beisner, and Mark Lattime jointly advocated for support of indigenous peoples in their dioceses. Bp. Folts of South Dakota said the block grant allowed the support of clergy and is 1/3 of their budget. He spoke to the great size of the territories served by the clergy. Bp. Lattime talked about Alaska where more than half congregations are accessible only by air. The block grant supports all ministries. Bp. Beisner thanked the church for the healthcare increase in Navajoland Area Mission. Nearly all of grant money goes to clergy serving very poor communities in remote areas.

Diane Pollard – Retired member of EC and the Finance Committee, spoke positively about the budget as presented and the work involved. She supported the 15% Assessment. Thanked the JBC for its work.

Miriam McKenney – from the Racial Reconciliation task force appreciated the funding remaining for this work. The church must continue the work to dismantle racism.

Edwin Johnson – a priest and Chair of giving out Beloved Community grants was grateful for the ongoing funding for the grants. He talked about parts of the church that are under-represented that need assistance. He would like to reach \$500K for the triennium.

Dianna Trapani – Regarding the Creation Care Caucus said there is not enough money. She will support all the resolutions that will appear at GC.

Judy Fielder – from the Absalom Jones Center for Racial Healing noted D-16 in support. They have been funded by the churchwide budget and are in process of adding trainers to their force. Trained 1300+ people. Developed youth curriculum. Produced a documentary. Day of remembrance was begun.

Pamela Dolan – advocated for Creation Care and the green caucus and the need for funding for climate change. The goal of carbon neutrality by 2030 was the focus. Northern California has created a path for all parishes in her diocese to become carbon neutral. Shared resources and funding will aid climate change work.

Kirsten Spaulding – A CCSR member went over the committee’s resolutions to GC, none of which have funding requests. She described the work of the committee, illustrated the very little funding upon which they function, and asked for expanded trust expenditures and funding to meet in person once a year.

Miriam Casey – co-chair of the Creation Care Caucus spoke also about limited funding limiting the ability to make progress toward carbon neutrality. Additional funding is needed for spiritual formation, support to dioceses and congregations to work toward carbon neutrality.

Patty then reviewed again that the budget under discussion is THE BUDGET and cannot be changed until it is passed on the floor of GC. In September the JBC will reconcile it with the actions of GC. There will be a canonically required hearing at GC on June 22 from 11:00 AM to 12:00 PM.

At 4:54 Patty thanked all participants and closed the hearing.

Respectfully submitted,  
Nancy Caparulo  
Staff support to the committee