

Joint Budget Committee of Executive Council

March 27, 2025

Zoom

Minutes

Present: Diane Jardine Bruce (chair), Gina Angulo, Thomas Brown, Susan Brown Snook, Patty Downing, M.E. Eccles, Jeff Fisher, Timothy Gee, Warren Hawk, Tess Judge, Brian Martinez, Eric Metoyer, Kurt Barnes, Patrick Haizel, Molly James, Rebecca Wilson
Support: Betsey Bell, Dinorah Padro, Gabriella DeCastro

The chair welcomed everyone and asked Eric Metoyer to open the meeting with prayer.

The chair called on Rebecca Wilson, Chief of Strategy, to provide remarks on behalf of the Presiding Bishop.

- The new Chief Financial Officer, Christopher Lacovara, will begin on April 14, 2025.
- We are looking to clarify the bylaws with help from the Joint Budget Committee and the Joint Standing Committee on Finance (FIN).
- The new budget will need to reflect the priorities and new staff structure.
- The organizational chart is in the works. It cannot be shared until retirements and some remaining staff position shifts are finalized, but an overview can be shared at any time, if that is helpful.

The chair asked committee members to introduce themselves as some are new to this committee, including the chair herself.

The chair asked the former chair of the Joint Budget Committee, Patty Downing, to review the process from the last triennium.

- The 79th General Convention overhauled the budget process creating a smaller committee than the Program, Budget and Finance Committee (PB&F).
- The 2025-27 budget was the first of the new process.
- Joint Budget Committee (JBC) presented the budget to the church in earlier stages seeking feedback along the way from staff, Executive Council and the wider church.
- JBC presented the Budget Draft to Executive Council and then to the wider church
- Once the final 2025-27 budget was adopted by Executive Council, it could not be changed until moved on the floor of General Convention.

- Once adopted by General Convention, JBC reconvened to review all General Convention resolutions with funding implications and adjusted the budget. The newly amended budget was presented to the Executive Council in November for their final approval.

Patty noted that there are some Canonical issues that need to be fixed now that the new process has been lived into for a cycle. She also noted that each time there is a change in Presiding Bishop, the structure of the budget changes. The current “Way of Love” budget will need updating to reflect the re-imagined staff structure and priorities of the Presiding Bishop.

Patty briefly reviewed the timeline for the 2025-27 budget, although the 2028-2030 budget timeline will differ as there is an extra year between General Conventions. However, the JBC will need to work with FIN to finalize the annual budgets. Each annual budget must be adopted by Executive Council at the fall meeting prior to the start of the budget.

The chair asked Timothy Gee to review the relationship between JBC, FIN, Executive Council and General Convention. He clarified that JBC is a committee of the Executive Council and not a sub-committee of FIN. The two groups will work closely together and have some overlapping members, but they are two different committees with different mandates. JBC reports to FIN at each meeting of Executive Council, and presents the proposed annual budget to FIN. Once approved by FIN, the chair of FIN will move it out of committee and present it to the full Council for adoption. The budget is an Executive Council Budget. JBC supports Executive Council with the preparation of the budget. The 2026 Annual Budget will need to be adopted at the fall 2025 meeting of Council. JBC will work with staff and FIN over the summer to finalize the updates for the 2026 budget, in order to have it finalized and translated in time for the fall meeting.

The chair introduced some committee norms. She will post them to the committee in Teams but hopes it will become a living documents with members contributing other norms. Her initial norms included being prepared, participation and attendance at meetings, honoring beginning and end times for meetings and participating wholistically in the budget process instead of only advocating for ministries members individually care about.

The chair reviewed committee support structures. She asked for two chaplains to open and close meetings. Jeff Fisher and M.E. Eccles volunteered. Patty Downing and Eric Metoyer will serve as vice chairs. Subcommittees will be created as the structure of the staff unfolds.

The chair asked Kurt Barnes to introduce members to the Teams Channel and the documents already filed for review. The chair created a spreadsheet to house budget questions for committee members to use as members review the current budget.

The committee discussed how often they should meet with some guidance from Patty Downing's experience last triennium. With more time before General Convention and some unknowns about staff structure, the committee agreed to two zoom meetings before the in-person meeting scheduled for July.

Kurt Barnes began to review the 2025-27 budget, but it was decided it would be more beneficial for members to review on their own and post questions in advance of the next meeting. Patty Downing reminded members they need to finalize income as well as expenses.

Prior to the next meeting, the chair asked members to review the 2024 Blue Book report, the narrative budget, and especially the budget itself, and add questions to the spreadsheet.

The next meeting will be **Tuesday, May 13 from 3-5pm ET.** (note date change). A poll will be circulated for a June meeting as the proposed date is a DFMS holiday. The first in-person meeting is scheduled for July 13 (travel day) meeting July 14, 15 16 until noon, at the Maritime Conference Center. Travel day to return home will either be the afternoon of July 16 or during the day July 17.

Jeff Fisher closed the meeting with prayer.