

Joint Budget Committee of Executive Council

January 12, 2026

Zoom

Minutes

Present: Patty Downing (vice chair), Eric Metoyer (vice chair), Julia Ayala Harris, Thomas Brown, Jeff Fisher, Timothy Gee, Deborah Jackson, Molly James, Tess Judge, Chris Lacovara, Rebecca Wilson

Support: Betsey Bell

Patty Downing welcomed everyone and asked Jeff Fisher to open the meeting with prayer before leading the committee in a check-in exercise.

The vice chair invited CFO Chris Lacovara to share his report. He posted three reports to the Teams channel in advance of the meeting. He began by reviewing the 2025 Year to Date through November 2025 report. The surplus of \$2.6 million will decrease as some mission grants were paid out in December, and CPG has a new payment system, and all 4th quarter pension payments were made in December. The trends remain the same with personnel and lower spending savings. The forecast is for a surplus of about \$1 million. Final year-end numbers will be available at the February meeting.

The 2026 Budget became live in January and is now in Sage Intact, a fully integrated general ledger system. Annual and triennial budgets moving forward will be done in Sage. All revenue and expenses are live in Sage as Chris spent his Christmas break moving all budget information from the old system to the new, ensuring every old account number has a new home. The non-budgetary items (Scholarships and UTO) are not live yet but will be soon. He clarified some members' questions on how things are captured and recorded, and overall, the committee was thrilled with the new reporting.

Chris also updated the committee on other changes in the finance area. He shared the changes in T&E and billing, which will all flow directly into Sage. Both Emburse (T&E) and Egencia (part of Bill.com) are now being used and information is being captured and reported. Also, all Trust Funds are being reviewed.

And finally, Chris shared a proposed timeline for the 2028-2030 Triennial Budget Process. He followed the Canons and By Laws including all the changes made in 2025 and then worked

backwards from General Convention to create the proposed timeline. The staff and Executive Council will be going through a strategic plan in 2026 which will impact the triennial budget. Blue Book reports are due December 1, 2026, and those with budget implications will be tracked. There will need to be a strategy for educating the church on the new formats and for promoting all hearings.

The vice chair called on Timothy Gee for an update from the Finance Committee (FIN). FIN will meet at the end of January and will be looking at ways to support diocese with immigrations support as well as the financial requests for Care of Creation (Ao21). Timothy shared that Bishop Rowe does not think this is the time to create Creation Care loans.

Patty Downing provided an update on the Waiver Process. The Assessment Review Committee (ARC) is recommending a change in the waiver process. There is confusion between ARC and what the staff is doing with diocesan sustainability and there is no feedback loop. Executive Council granted waivers to diocese ARC did not recommend, and the process is not as clear as it should be. The CFO will look at the list of Assessments and Pledges and confer the list of last waiver recipients. He reminded the committee that the waiver budget was increased to \$1 million.

With no further business, Eric Metoyer, was to share the chair's joke of the day, but due to connectivity issues, the joke could not be heard. The next meeting date will be confirmed and shared by the chair.